

DX News

Serving DXers since 1933



Volume 69, No. 6 - November 12, 2001 (ISSN 0737-1659)

Inside . . .

2 .. AM Switch
3 .. DDXD
10 .. DXtip Notification Service
11 .. IDXD

16 .. Radio Shack Portables Performance
20 .. CCRadio Tuneup
22 .. Musings of the Members
23 .. Geomagnetic Indices
23 .. College Sports Networks

CPC Test Calendar

WPRI268 MA 1620 Dec. 2 0000-0100

From the Publisher ... We welcome Ginnie Lupi to the editorship of DDXD-East with this issue. And for all her contributors, we remind you to follow the format and report in ELT.

Annual Lower Deck GTG ... Ray and Arlene Arruda invite all DX'ers to their annual Thanksgiving time annual GTG. It will be in The Lower Deck on the Saturday before Thanksgiving on November 17, 2001 from noon to ???, at 47 Burt Street, Acushnet, MA.

Welcome to these new members ... Ray Totzke, Grafton, WI; Luis A. Franceschi-Seda, Ponce, PR.

And lacking any other witty material with which to fill up the front page this week, we'll turn the rest of it over to Glen Hauser!

World Of Radio, Continent Of Media, Mundo Radial Broadcast Schedule Effective October 28, 2001 ... It always pays to check all RFPI frequencies beyond their scheduled hours. Schedule shown is nominal, but it is not unusual for one transmitter to be down. For latest updates see our Anomaly alert page: <http://www.angelfire.com/ok/worldofradio/Anomaly.html>

Days and times here are strictly UT.

Thu 0030 WOR WBCQ 7415 [first airing of each edition] Thu 0515 WOR WBCQ 7415 Thu 2128 WOR WWCR 15685 Fri 1030 WOR WWCR 9475 Fri 1900 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Fri 1930 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Fri 2215 MR WWCR 9475 Fri 2330 WOR Studio X, Momigno, Italy 1584 87.35 96.55 105.55 Sat 0100 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 0130 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 0300 WOR WWCR 3215 Sat 0700 COM RFPI 15040 7445 Sat 0730 WOR RFPI 15040 7445 Sat 0900 WOR WRN1 to Europe, Australia, NZ, WorldSpace AfriStar, AsiaStar Sat 0955 WOR WNQM Nashville TN 1300 Sat 1230 WOR WWCR 5070 [new] Sat 1300 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 1330 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 1500 WOR WRN to North America, also C-SPAN Audio, WLIO-TV Lima OH SAP Sat 1730 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 1800 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sat 1928 WOR WPKN Bridgeport CT 89.5 (week delay) Sat 2330 COM

RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sun 0000 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Sun 0330 WOR WWCR 5070 Sun 0530 COM RFPI 15040 7445 Sun 0600 WOR RFPI 15040 7445 Sun 0728 WOR WWCR 3210 Sun 1130 COM RFPI 15040 Sun 1200 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Mon 0100 WOR WWCR 3215 Mon 0430 WOR WSUI Iowa City IA 910 (week delay) Mon 0600 WOR WWCR 3210 Tue 1200 WOR WWCR 15685 Tue 1900 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Tue 2000 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Wed 0100 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Wed 0200 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040 7445 Wed 0700 WOR RFPI 15040 7445 Wed 0800 COM RFPI 15040 7445 Wed 1300 WOR RFPI 21815-USB 15040 Wed 1400 COM RFPI 21815-USB 15040

Internet: see Our Current Audio page for availability: <http://www.worldofradio.com/audiomid.html>

Webcasts at times shown are available from all stations except WBCQ, WWCR, WNQM, Studio X.

<http://www.wrn.org/live.html> <http://www.boinklabs.com/ifpi.html> <http://www.wpkn.org> <http://wsui.uiowa.edu>

COM and MR are produced monthly but broadcast weekly. -Regards, Glenn Hauser

DX Time Machine

from the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the November 10, 1951 DXN: Editor Ernie Cooper reported a letter from Don Kerr, Program Director of WPAT, Paterson, NJ, stating that "WPAT will be happy to stand by on Tues. morning, November 13th, for the DX test by KGAL, Lebanon, Ore."

25 years ago ... from the November 15, 1976 DXN: The NJPC announced that the publication of *DX News* was to be taken over by the Louisville Area DX'ers in April, 1977 ... Wes Boyd's editorship of DDXD was also to be passed to Eric Rittenhouse, Berkeley, CA.

10 years ago ... from the November 11, 1991 DXN: Kermit and Charlotte Geary thanked all for commemorating their 50th anniversary with a chocolate cake presented to them at the NRC convention ... Jim Renfrew published an article entitled "Your First 25 Medium Wave Countries in English".

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

	Old call		New call
1050	WBNC NH Conway		WXMT*
1230	*New GA Waycross		WWGA
1230	*New ME Hermon		WNZT
1340	*New ME Veazie		WNZS
1400	*New ME Veazie		WWNZ
1430	WMYS IN Indianapolis		WXNT
1490	KVLL TX Woodville		KWUD
1590	KROY CA Victorville		KATJ

*Note WBNC/WXMT state was shown in error as NC last issue

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

1230 ME Hermon: 1000/600 U1

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

640 WVVG FL Wildwood: 930/860 U1
1380 WABH NY Bath: 5000/450 U4

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

560 WNSR TN Brentwood: 5000/118 U1
1000 CKBW NS Bridgewater: to 98.1 FM


OTHERNESS

590 KTHO CA South Lake Tahoe: was incorrectly shows as bring on 580 kHz last issue in Otherness
1340 WWNA PR Aguada: CP for 1000/820 U1 from this city of license is on (ex-Aguadilla)
1550 WRHC FL Coral Gables: silent station is ON THE AIR after returning to this frequency; their move to 1560 several years ago was made without final FCC authorization, thus the return to 1550 kHz. We are not certain what their power is here; their former 1550 authorization was for 10000/500 U4

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Shawn Axelrod and Les Johnson \ 73 and Good DX, Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Foonman

Jimmy & BKF

The NRC AM Radio Log, 22nd Edition, including cross-referenced listings from 530-1700 kHz., is compiled from both listeners' reports and official sources, making it the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available. Unbound, three-hole punched for standard binders. \$19.95 to U. S. members; \$25.95 to U. S. non-NRC members; to Canadian members, \$23.00 (\$29.00 to non-NRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: \$29.00. All others contact us for exact prices. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).



1360
At The Airport **kuik**
BEND & PEEL

NRC Publications Guide

Available online at <<<http://nrcdxas.org/articles/pubguide/index.html>>>, the Guide is a must-study for editors or anyone wishing to publish an article in *DX News* or write a longer publication for sale via NRC Publications. Can't get online? Send an SASE (#10 envelope, please) to the Publisher (address on the back cover) and request the hard copy. Save yourself time and effort: study the Guide before submitting! We who publish will appreciate it.

Domestic DX Digest

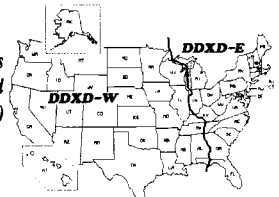
West: Bill Hale phantom2@eaze.net

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

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrcdxas.org

605 Walnut Dr. - Clifton Park, NY 12065-7310

(Division line is between East and Central time zones)



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

DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- Comments from out there: "On my drive through New Mexico (I-25 south to I-40, then I-40 west), not one NM TIS was noted on the air despite numerous 'Listen to New Mexico 530 AM' signs along the highway. Last time through NM a few years ago, they had many TIS's on with Ricardo Montalban reading the history of the various regions." - Mike Hawk; "Very good morning with 2 new ones! My goal of hitting logging #2000 by year 's end is close. I'm at #1996 now and hitting the dials when I can. Best times here are SRS. SSS doesn't pan out like it once did here, but still trying," and "Nothing new and UNID SS was noted on 590, 660, 930, 970 and 1360, so stuff was in. Overnight GY taping on 1450 got catches from OH, MI and WI. Getting better!" and "The next station logged will be #2000! At the beginning of the year I set #2000 as a yearend goal. Nice to set a goal and reach it! - John Rieger; "Amazing eastern opening on the early morning of the 25th. Only had one NY regional (WACK-1420) logged from Wisconsin before, now two more in one morning plus what would have been my first NJ non-X-band logging ever and an amazingly strong CJRC-1150 logging. Hard to imagine what might have been possible with a real antenna!" - Doug Smith; space reserved for you ...
- Deadlines are Thursdays ... get your DX in early! CU here in 7.

REPORTERS

- SA-MB Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg ICOM ICR-70 / Drake R8 / ICOM R-7000; 4' unamplified box loop / Quantum Loop, 145 foot outdoor wire / 100' indoor wire / discone / MFJ 1026 phasing unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
- MH-CO Michael Hawk near Trinidad VW Jetta car radio <thisisatest22@yahoo.com>
- BK-CA Bob Karchevski Sunnyvale DX-398 and internal antenna <karchev@worldnet.att.net>
- EL-IL Eric Loy Champaign Drake R8 and Quantum QX; TRF 12-655 <eloy@prodigy.net>
- BM-SD Bill Moser Fort Pierre GE Superadio II with built-in antenna <wcmfort@dakota2k.net>
- JJR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp or GE SR III with Terk AM 1000 loop <johnrieger@webtv.net>
- JTR-OK John Reed Ponca City Sylvania R1414/URR with 100' wire, homebrew ferrite loop, Quantum Phaser <jreed@ponca.net>
- KR-AZ Kevin Redding Mesa CCRadio barefoot; Kenwood R-1000 and 85" wire <amfmdvdx@qwest.net>
- DS-WI Doug Smith Menomonee Falls (suburban Milwaukee) barefoot Grundig YB-400PE <w9wi@w9wi.com>
- RT-CA Rich Toebe Davis Sony ICF-2010 <richtoebe@jps.net>
- JW-CO John Wilkins Wheat Ridge Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop
- Ed.-TX Editor North Richland Hills DX-398 barefoot

STATION NEWS & NOTES

- 980 CKCK?? SK Regina -10/27 0825 - Poor, in CBW splat, with country music // 620 CKRM Regina. Not sure if they flipped calls. (SA-MB)
- 1220 KZEE TX Weatherford - 10/30 - Format now brokered Oriental. Ex: Oldies. There goes another 'local' radio station! [Ed.-TX]
- 1090 UNID ?? - 10/27 1923-1938 - Very poor, in KAAY null. Hot AC songs played: *Eye of the Tiger, I Want You and Are You Going to Go My Way?* Who is Hot AC on AM or //FM? (JJR-WI)
- 1310 UNID ?? - 10/29 2121-2145 - Fair-to-good at times. Absolutely beautiful music. Mostly instrumentals. No talking evcr. Faded away. (JJR-WI)

TIS & OTHER STUFF

530 WPTD286 AZ Phoenix International Raceway - 10/28 0610 - With ID and information on how to get into and out of the raceway for the NASCAR race today. (KR-AZ)

1590 WPLX298 CO Trinidad - 10/13 1700 - Five-minute repeating loop primarily about the Santa Fe Trail. Never IDed. Also briefly mentioned Raton Pass, the history of the town of Trinidad, and the Purgatory River. (MH-CO)

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

580 WTCM MI Traverse City - 10/28 0430 - Poor, but alone and clear, with Dr. Laura promo on *News Talk 580 WTCM*. Nobody dominates 580 here. (JJR-WI)

600 WREC TN Memphis - 10/30 2300 - Legal ID, then Tennessee news. Fair with the group. (JW-CO)

640 WOI IA Ames - 10/25 2030 - NPR talk show, call ID. Weak, in phase null of strong WWLS. (JTR-OK)

700 KSEV TX Tomball - 11/1 0708 - Good, in WLW null, with talk program, local political ad, and *AM 700 KSEV*. (EL-IL)

720 KFIR? OR Sweet Home - 10/15 0920 - Noted under KDWN, with country music. Looped north, so not likely KUAL. No ID or slogan heard. Needed. (RT-CA)

730 KBSU ID Boise - 10/24 1058 - Strangely alone on channel, with good solid signal. Jazz music then *Idaho's Jazz Stations*, *KBSU Boise Jazz 730* and *KEZJ Twin Falls Jazz 1450*. Not needed, but not common. (RT-CA)

760 WURL AL Moody - 10/27 0737 - Fair, in XE- null, with gospel music, explanation of sign-on times. (EL-IL)

760 WMEN TN Knoxville - 10/27 1849-1955 - Fair signal, with what radio people know as *frantic-PSA-playing-backtiming-til-the-top-of-the-hour*. New, logging #950. (EL-IL)

780 KAZM AZ Sedona - 10/20 0006-0024 - KAZM still in and out with KOH. *The Chasm* slogan, with weather for Flagstaff and other cities. Ad for jewelry store in West Sedona. Had to null very loud KOH-NV. (BK-CA)

790 WQXI GA Atlanta - 10/27 0707 - Very loud, with *Atlanta's Sports Leader*. (EL-IL)

790 KSPD ID Boise - 10/24 1030 - On top of frequency, with end of REL program, *Family Inspiration Radio KSPD* ID. Usually KOOR/KABC dominant. (RT-CA)

800 KXIC IA Iowa City - 10/27 2030 - Weak and faking, in phase null of KQCV. Call ID heard. New here. (JTR-OK)

830 KFLT AZ Tucson - 10/16 0930 - Strong, in KNCO null, with talk about becoming a faith partner. Promo for *Insight For Living* program, numerous KFLT mentions. (RT-CA)

840 KTIC NE West Point - 10/29 0715 ELT - Faded in to excellent quality for a few minutes. Announcer was explaining that since now that we were back to standard time the sun comes up earlier and they can sign on earlier, etc., etc. Then he said it was 7:17 *Central Standard Time*, stutter, stutter, and into an Eddie Raven song. When he came back after the song, the time was magically 6:20, and the announcer went through the same spiel which he had just done about standard time. Since the October average sunrise time for West Point during October is 6:30 CST, I'd say this one was on a bit early. But it's a first-timer here. Thanks, pal. [Ed-TX]

860 KARS NM Belen - 10/26 2303 - Fair, with Belen High School football game and local spots. Pretty decent for 186 watts. (JW-CO)

880 KGHT AR Sheridan - 11/1 0700 - Fair-to-good and alone, with top-of-hour ID, mentions of *Sunshine 880*, and IDed with *Sheridan-Little Rock*. (EL-IL)

900 KFAL MO Fulton - 10/27 1945 - Fair, with CHML nulled. Steady, with *Big 900 KFAL*. . . Music was old C&W. (JJR-WI)

900 CKMO BC Victoria - 10/17 0000-0005 - Mandolin music, then VID: *AM 900 CKMO Victoria*, with two stations in background; both in Spanish. (BK-CA)

910 WFVA GA Valdosta - 10/29 1930 - Fair and clear, in null of others, with *Florida Travel Information Network*, ads, jingle. NEW! (JJR-WI)

930 WBEN NY Buffalo - 10/25 0647 - Well atop, with ads for Buffalo tourism at 852-0511, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, and *WBEN News time 6:51*. (DS-WI)

960 KIXW CA Apple Valley - 10/26 0859 - Legal ID: *High Desert Talk unrestricted is KIXW-AM Apple Valley and Victorville, a Clear Channel radio station*. A syndicated talk program followed at 0906. Fair signal; supposed to be a daytimer. [The Feds

KSLD
1140 am

say they are licensed for 20 watts nights. And they are licensed for 423 Watts PSRA. - Ed.] New here, California #104. (JW-CO)

960 KROF LA Abbeville - 10/28 2100 - Oldies with call ID. Weak signal not heard in several years. (JTR-OK)

960 KZIM MO Cape Girardeau - 10/28 0721- Poor, in WSBT null, with CLs into talk. (JJR-WI)

960 CFFX ON Kingston - 10/28 0433 - Fair, with calls and oldies. No WSBT. (JJR-WI)

970 KZTK CA Bakersfield - 10/23 2335 - Faded up with local ads, *Newstalk 970 KZTK* by same announcer that does KFBK IDs into *Online Tonight* with David Lawrence. New from Davis. KESP strangely muted this evening; jumble on channel. (RT-CA)

970 KNUU NV Las Vegas - 10/24 0030 - Faded up with ad for a station account executive wanted. Gave station address on Tropicana Avenue, Las Vegas. No calls heard, just *AM 970 ID*. (RT-CA)

980 WITY IL Danville - 10/28 0711 - Poor with local ads, in WCUB OC (satellite misfired). (JJR-WI)

1010 WFGW NC Black Mountain - 10/29 0738 - Poor, but alone, with calls out of song. (JJR-WI)

1020 KINF NM Roswell - 10/27 0523 - Faded up and alone, with song by Bread. ID . . . on your information station, 10-20 KINF. New Mexico #2 for me. No KDKA. (EL-IL)

1040 WWBA FL Pinellas Park - 11/1 0458 - Fair signal, but always under WHO, with news/talk programming and top-of-hour full call ID. (EL-IL)

1060 KBGN ID Caldwell - 10/24 1033 - The pipeline to Boise continues with this one: *Wherever you are in southwestern Idaho or eastern Oregon, KBGN, Your Companion For Grace*, into REL program. Alone and strong on channel. Usually CKMX is there early mornings. (RT-CA)

1070 KENR TX Houston - 10/29 2030 - Strong-to-weak, fading in phase null of strong KFDI. Religious talk with call ID. (JTR-OK)

1100 KFNX AZ Cave Creek - 10/29 2050 - Business talk with call ID. WTAM, normally dominant on this frequency, was not heard due to auroral conditions. (JTR-OK)

1130 KWKH LA Shreveport - 10/28 0600 - Very good, at 40/9, in local WISN null! Truckin' Bozo, ad, ID into Sunday morning public affairs programming. (JJR-WI)

1130 WDFN MI Detroit - one of these two, not sure which, under local WISN.

-or-

1130 KFAN MN Minneapolis - 10/25 0659 - Fox Sports, *The Fan* slogan. (DS-WI)

1140 WKWM MI Kentwood - 10/28 1815 - Good, with *Groovin' Oldies 1140 WKWM* alone. Forgot to flip switch? (JJR-WI)

1150 CJRC QC Gatineau - 10/25 0700 - LOUD in French. (DS-WI)

1160 WKCM KY Hawesville - 10/28 0400 - Poor, with clear, legal ID. No WYLL! NEW! (JJR-WI)

1160 WVNJp NJ Oakland - 10/25 0704 - Ads for Ridgefield, NJ and Middle River. Talk implying the station covers NYC. If WVNJ, would have been my only non-expanded-band NJ logging ever, either here or from Tennessee. (DS-WI)

1170 WLBH IL Mattoon - 10/29 1919 - Poor, with WWVA nulled. Calls at end of song. (JJR-WI)

1220 CHSC ON St. Catherines - 10/26 0717 - 1220 CHSC, award to Crystal Beach as *School System of the Week*. (DS-WI)

1260 KWSH OK Wewoka - 10/25 0100 - Fair, with ToH dual ID ending in . . . and *KWSH Wewoka*. Real Country format. (EL-IL)

1260 WDKN TN Dickson - 10/26 2050 - Very good, with high school football. ID in break. (EL-IL)

1260 WEKZ WI Monroe - 10/29 0608 - Fair, with *The Big EZ 93-7*. Never heard here at night! 19 Watts! (JJR-WI)

1270 KSCB KS Liberal - 10/29 0830-0834 - VID and local news. Good signal with some splash from 1260 KWYR. 505 air miles. Second attempt at verification. (BM-SD)

1270 WKZT KY Fulton - 10/29 1937 - Fair, over others, with long, detailed weather forecast, calls. C&W. New! (JJR-WI)

1270 CJTN ON Trenton - 10/28 0518 - Poor, though clear and alone, with 1270 *CJTN* and promo for midday show. AdCon. No WKBF! NEW! For 1270 #12. (JJR-WI)

1310	KZIP	TX	Amarillo - 10/25 0110 - Good-to-fair in fades, finally caught ID in jingle. SS music, young announcer mixing SS and EE together. (EL-IL)
1320	WMSR	TN	Manchester - 10/27 1919 - Fair, 'til WILS fade in. <i>Cruisin'</i> 1320, local ads. (JJR-WI)
1330	WNTA	IL	Rockford - 10/28 1844 - Fair, and alone, with <i>Groovin' Hits</i> 1330. <i>The Rhythm of Rockford</i> . Old R&B. (JJR-WI)
1360	KHNC	CO	Johnstown - 10/27 0505 - With "patriot" oriented program talking about financial matters. Sounded like an American Freedom Network program you hear on shortwave. In KPXQ null, and under/over (mostly under) KPOP. Log #600. (KR-AZ)
1360	WGFA	IL	Watseka - 10/29 0707 - Poor, with <i>Stardust</i> 1360 WGFA, in with WGEE. NOS. (JJR-WI)
1360	KTOF	IA	Cedar Rapids - 10/29 1903 - Fair, with <i>KW?? and KTOF</i> weather and Contemporary Christian music. (JJR-WI)
1370	WLLM	IL	Lincoln - 10/29 1932 - Poor but alone, with calls and NOS music. Good for 35 Watts! (JJR-WI)
1370	WGHN	MI	Grand Haven - 10/27 1907 - Poor, with calls. No usual WSPD, WCCN. Soft AC. (JJR-WI)
1370	KWRT	MO	Boonville - 10/29 2120 - Fair, over others, with calls and C&W. (JJR-WI)
1370	KXTL	MT	Butte - 10/25 0430 - With ID, then playing <i>Otis Redding's Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay</i> . Faded quickly to a station running <i>Christian News Hour</i> . First time heard. (KR-AZ)
1390	WMER	MS	Meridian - 10/24 2326 - Just caught ID in mess of WDWS slush. (EL-IL)
1430	KRGI	NE	Grand Island - 10/29 1959-2006 - Local ads, VID, ABC news and PSAs. Fair signal, with no sign of usually-dominant KEZW. 260 miles. Reception reported. (BM-SD)
1440	WPRS	IL	Paris - 10/26 1944 - Poor signal, with clear ID on the hour, in a mess of stations. (SA-MB)
1440	WJLL	NY	Niagara Falls - 10/25 -0710 - Ads for both Niagara Falls (NY and Ontario) and for Buffalo. Interesting east-west conditions this morning. (DS-WI)
1450	WAOV	IN	Vincennes - 10/29 2004 - Poor, though clear, with weather and <waovam.com> web address. <i>News Talk</i> 1450 WAOV. (JJR-WI)
1450	WHTC	MI	Holland - 10/27 2301 - Poor, with calls. Popped in and out, possibly running World Series. (JJR-WI)
1450	WCPZ	OH	Sandusky - 10/28 0309 - Poor, with jingle in mess. (JJR-WI)
1450	WHRY	WI	Hurley - 10/27 2242 - Poor-to-fair, in fade up, with jingle and Oldies. In over 90 minutes tonight! (JJR-WI)
1480	KDXX	TX	Dallas - 10/31 1945-1955 - Spanish "Amor" soft rock format. Fair signal from 825 miles away. E-mail verified by <u>David Stewart</u> , Director of Engineering, Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation. (BM-SD)
1480	KHQN	UT	Spanish Fork - 10/31 0857 - Area ads, all in SS. Legal ID at 0900, then back to Radio Unica. Fair at best, in the group. Haven't heard this one since they had the Hare Krishna format many years ago. (JW-CO)
1490	CJSN	SK	Shaunavon - 10/27 0835 - Good signal, with <i>Country Music Radio CJSN</i> 14-90 ID. (SA-MB)
1530	KNBO	TX	New Boston - 10/26 0358 - Fair-to-poor, in WSAI null, with top-of-hour multi-station ID as used by Texas Radio Network. (EL-IL)
1540	KEDA	TX	San Antonio - 10/5 0838 - Briefly fair with XE tunes, and <i>Radio Jalapeno</i> slogans. Haven't heard this for a while. (JW-CO)
1550	KWRN	CA	Apple Valley - 10/30 2302 - SS with ToH ID, and all old-style ranchera with male vocal. Sounds like 60s style ranchera. (KR-AZ)
1550	KAPE	MO	Cape Girardeau - 10/29 0722 - Fair, with Cape Radio, dominating with NOS. (JJR-WI)
1570	CKMW	MB	Winkler - 10/25 0852 - Very good signal over a puny KHPN with Centigrade weather, call IDs, ads. At 0855 guy says <i>Good Times and Great Country Favorites - Country</i> 1570 CKMW and into, what else, a C&W tune. KHPN must have forgotten to power up, making up for one of the many instances when they "forgot" to power down. (JW-CO)
1590	WONXp	IL	Evanston - 10/26 0731 - Presumed, LOUD with preacher in unID Oriental language. (DS-WI)
1600	KWOM	MN	Watertown - 10/27 0800 - Good signal, with funeral announcements and the

			<i>Saturday Morning Polka Show</i> . (SA-MB)
1620	WTAW	TX	College Station - 10/28 0659 - Good, in WHLY fade out, with promo and ID. (JJR-WI)
1660	KXTR	KS	Kansas City - 10/29 2100 - Fair, finally got an ID on this one. For 40 years, <i>Classical</i> 1660 KXTR Kansas City. NEW! (JJR-WI)

DDXD-East

Many thanks to everyone who welcomed me to my new position as DDXD-E editor! I look forward to working with contributors and the **DX News** team to continue Michael Shaw's fine work. I've been DXing for almost 30 years now, having been introduced to the hobby by a friend while in junior high. This is often a lonely hobby for a woman, and one of my intentions in taking this position is to encourage women to DX and report what they're hearing. So that's this week's challenge - let's prove I'm not the only woman DXing in North America!

			UNID, UNID HELP, PRESUMED AND CORRECTIONS
750	WAAT(p)	PA	Olyphant - 10/30 1742 - woman speaking of her father's depression and his bedside picture of Christ, someone's illness and recovery due to a statue of the Virgin Mary; reading a poem which included the line "why I love you Mary"; music with female singer; more religious talk. Heavy static began at 1751 and the station totally disappeared at 1753. Perhaps they powered down - they were on long after sunset and they're supposedly a day-timer. (GL-NY)
790	WUNK	—	_____ - 10/27 0234 - Heard these call letters through CIGM, but I don't know who it is! (JR-NY)
880	UNID	—	_____ - 10/25 2005 - Soul mx w/very soul M DJ. Gave 1-800-366-? phone #. Disappeared suddenly @0013 in mid-soul, so guess power drop rather than s/off. Fair challenging WCBS. (HF-MI)
1030	WGSF(p)	TN	Memphis - 10/24 1901 - Spanish pop music, "Radio Ambiente Caliente" slogan, ads in Spanish for a car dealer in Memphis, call letters in English at 1901. I may have the call letters wrong. (JR-NY)
1240	WCBY(p)	MI	Cheboygan - 10/13 2219 - Detroit Redwings game, the only network station on 1240, according to the Redwings web page. (JR-NY)
1280	WHVR(p)	PA	Hanover - 10/29 0050 - Nostalgia, "I'm Lori Chapin and here's what's happening on the WFEL (?) calendar" and event taking place at a gymnasium in Harrisburg, taking turns with WADO "Radio Wado Reloj". (BC-NH)
1460	—	PA	Harrisburg - 10/23 2319 - Promotional announcements for WHP-580. What are the correct call letters on this one? (JR-NY)
1570	WISP(p)	PA	Doylestown - 9/25 1651 - Station playing "Washington Post March" followed by "Taps" and then "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". Then Cardinal Bellalacqua came on looking for priests. Signal poor, station interfering with it whose host had a deep voice. I thought I heard "WISP, 1570, Holy Spirit Radio" come out of the mess! (MC-NJ1)
1630	—	—	_____ - 9/26 1825 - Sports show host said: "people will underestimate Michael Jordan... Abdul-Jabbar was MVP at 38... I hope Jordan doesn't get hurt... can play 40 minutes a game." "You're up with AB... on ABSportsline." Signal good with fading. (MC-NJ)
1650	WHKT(p)	VA	Portsmouth - 10/1 1140 - Good signal surprised me on the Garden State Parkway near Ocean City, around noontime! Heard "Yellow Submarine" and "You Can't Hurry Love" before signal disappeared at tollbooths near Exit 29. Coastal storm probably helped signal get up this far. No ID heard but this is the only station on 1650 on the East Coast. (MC-NJ)



STATION LOGGINGS

540	WWCS	PA	Canonsburg - 10/28 2320 - Good; "AM 540 Radio Disney" and pop music parallel WDDZ. (BC-NH)
600	WSJS	NC	Winston-Salem - 10/27 1835 - good briefly with Almance Co., Graham, and High Point football talk and mention of sister station WSML-1200. (DS-IN2)
620	WRJZ	TN	Knoxville - 10/28 2100 - Fair; out of Chuck Swendle promo into ID, "Joy 62 WRJZ Knoxville". (SC-IN)

- + 10/28 2300 – Good; Baptist church service, “Morning Magazine, weekday mornings 6:30 to 8, here on Joy 62, WRJZ Knoxville”, first time heard. (BC-NH)
- 630 WPRO RI Providence – 10/30 1726 – “We’ll be right back on news-talk radio WPRO”. Poor. (GL-NY)
- 640 WHLO OH Akron – 10/28 2310 – Good; “It’s the music that sets us apart, solid gospel music, Solid Gospel 640 AM” and music on the Solid Gospel network. (BC-NH)
- 650 WJLT MA Ashland - 10/23 0000 - Good; Talk Radio Network program, “AM 1470 WSRO Marlboro” ID and USA news, apparently someone forgot to turn off WJLT. 10/28 2315 - Noted again with talk over WSM. (BC-NH)
- 660 KSKY TX Balch Springs – 10/21 1947-2005 – “Life-Changing Ministry” program begins (as scheduled on the KSKY website), clear ID at 2000 as “KSKY Balch Springs, Dallas, Fort Worth”, then back to the preacher. I’ve sought this one for more than 30 years. (JR-NY)
- 790 WQSV TN Ashland City – 10/27 1930 – fair atop for a few minutes with local football talk and ads. Transmitter is eight miles from my home in Tennessee. (DS-IN3)
- WQXI GA Atlanta - 10/27 0107 - Call letters before returning to network sports program. (JR-NY)
- WSKO RI Providence – 9/28 1640 – Scott telling caller (Eric) that he will not admit that he is wrong; “Flush the caller” (sound of flushing toilet!). Ad for Providence Oktoberfest at Murphy’s. “This is Scott at Murphy’s Deli on Union Street in Providence.” At 1659, “Good Bless the Volunteers – WSKO, Providence.” Signal not clear, lots of background noise. (MC-NJ1)
- 830 KOTC MO Kennett - 10/21 1921 - following Real Country format, ID at sign-off, mentioning “Real Country/Cotton Country” and call letters. (JR-NY)
- 860 WWDB PA Philadelphia – 9/26 1657 – “Winning on Wall Street”, gives disclaimer, “... join the Wizard with the crystal ball, weekdays, 4 to 5 pm.” I.D.: “When money talks people listen to Money Talk Radio, WWDB, Philadelphia.” (MC-NJ)
- 870 WWL LA New Orleans – 10/24 0100 – Good; Newswatch religious program “From the heart of the Crescent City, this is WWL, New Orleans” and CBS news, over R. Reloj-Cuba and WHCU with WMTW nulled out. (BC-NH)
- 880 WMDB TN Nashville – 10/21 1915 – strong with s/off announcement, mentions 2.5 kW. (JR-NY)
- 950 WPEN PA Philadelphia – 9/25 1539 – ID done over “Stars and Stripes Forever”: “We are the station of the stars (and stripes), WPEN Philadelphia. A Greater Media station.” “You’re My Desire” followed by another ID: “Stereo 950 AM, “You’re My Desire” by Frankie Laine.” (MC-NJ1)
- 1040 WSGH NC Lewisville – 10/21 2100 – Good; “This is WSCH Lewisville, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, High Point. Que Pasa Radio 1040 AM, con diez mil wats de potencia...” and Mexican music. (BC-NH)
- WJHR NJ Flemington – 10/29 0602 - Fair with WHO in cardoid null. Out of news into weather, “Moneytalk newstime 6:02, Moneytalk Weathercenter - it’s 30 degrees in Dunellen, 31 degrees in Ewing”. Several mentions of Trenton and New Jersey and Hamilton Township where a “Postal employee tested positive for anthrax and is in the ? Memorial Hospital at Mt. Holly”. (SC-IN)
- 1060 WIXC FL Titusville – 10/28 0155 – good under KYW with Kenny Rogers’ “The Gambler” and top of hour ID. (DH-NJ)
- WKNG GA Tallapoosa - 10/24 1913 - C&W music, sudden sign-off at 1913 “WKNG concludes another day of broadcasting ... Georgia and Eastern Alabama”. Instrumental NA. (JR-NY)
- 1100 WHLI NY Hempstead – 9/25 1520 – Frank Sinatra doing “New York, New York”, followed by Willie Nelson doing “Help Me Make It Through the Night.” ID: “1100 and 740, WHLI... “It’s Not for Me to Say”, WHLI”. (MC-NJ1)
- 1110 WSWF NY Seneca Falls - 10/21 2035 - noted with ESPN Game Night, Flinger Lakes Network call letters and frequencies announced. Didn’t used to be on this late. (JR-NY)
- 1249.5 WKBR NH Manchester – 10/29 0035 – Good with Real Country, off frequency again producing a strong get against 1250 kHz. (BC-NH)

- 1320 WJGR FL Jacksonville - 10/23 0100 - Fair with ID,“??..?? Sports 1320 WJGR Jacksonville” and into ABC News. (SC-IN)
- 1360 WWOW OH Conneaut – 10/29 1807 - alone on frequency with promo slogans, Northeast Ohio’s radio giant with the 60s at six and “your good times great oldies station”, into “Dancin, in the Streets” by Martha and the Vandellas. (MKB-ON)
- 1400 WRKK PA Williamsport - 10/23 2159 - with ID for 1200 kHz station. (JR-NY)
- 1410 WRIS VA Roanoke - 10/17 0815 - noted in passing while driving, with call letters and boast that they’ve been on the air since 1953. (JR-NY)
- WENU NY South Glens Falls - 10/23 2223 - with NOS program, call letter ID. (JR-NY)
- 1420 WHBN KY Harrodsburg - 10/26 0604 - Weak; ID, “1420 WHBN Harrodsburg”. (SC-IN)
- 1430 WKDA TN Madison – 10/27 1823 – briefly good with “Newchannel 5 Radio”. (DS-IN1)
- 1450 WMAJ PA State College - 10/23 2154 - with local ads and announcements, call letters, “Magic” slogan. (JR-NY)
- 1470 WPAO PA Farrell - 10/24 0000 - caught tail end of sign-off announcement. (JR-NY)
- WMMW CT Meriden – 10/23 0005 – Fair; CNN news, “It’s the final hour of the Dr. Joy Brown program here on WMMW AM 1470, Meriden’s radio station,” with WSRO off. (BC-NH)
- 1510 WRNJ NJ Hackettstown – 10/24 0120 – Fair; “Oldies 1510 WRNJ, good times and great oldies” under WWZN open carrier. (BC-NH)
- 1540 CHIN ON Toronto – 10/24 0010 – Good; local news and weather, “Chin Radio, 1540 AM, 101.3 FM Toronto” in WPTR null. (BC-NH)
- 1570 WGSR FL Fernandina Beach – 10/29 1835 – “WGSR 15-70 AM”, soul tunes. Heard 3 IDs in 5 minutes! Poor. Not new but very rare visitor. (HF-MI)
- 1580 WDAB SC Travelers Rest – 10/29 1843 – LAM mx & long ad/promo breaks. “Radio Noticias” 2300-2306 then tent. “WDAB” call ID. All in SS. Poor before 2300 & fair after. Challenged by presumed WJVA//1620. (HF-MI)
- 1580 WGYM NJ Hammonton – 10/28 1800 – Good; “The perfect sports station for the perfect sports town, WGYM 1580 Hammonton, ESPN Sports Radio” and the NFL on ESPN. (BC-NH)
- 1590 WVNA AL Tusculumbia – 10/29 2325 – Relaying WJOX; “Sports-Talk 6-90 with Herb & Ben on Jox” & similar WJOX sports. Sports px; almost all AL & SEC related. Top Dog contest spot. Ad/REM Industries. TN Titans FB spot. WVNA IDs @ 2339 & 2400 then CNN Radio Nx. Poor before 2330 but well on top after 2400. QRM is mainly WAKR w/nostalgia mx. AL #19. (HF-MI)
- WONX IL Evanston - 10/10 0259 - NOS program, sign off at this time. (JR-NY)
- 1600 WMHG MI Muskegon - 10/10 0100 - “Magic 16” slogans, NOS. (JR-NY)
- 1700 KTBK TX Sherman – 10/29 2006 – “The Ticket” sports tx, Ads/Auto-flex Leasing, Miracle Auto Painting, Carter Eye Center, Toyota in Bueno, Superior Leasing. Dallas/I-35 tlc. Good on top. (HF-MI)

TIS, HAR AND MISCELLANEOUS

- 1620 TIS NJ Ocean City – 9/28 1621 – “This is a test of the Ocean City, New Jersey information station, transmitting on a frequency of 1620 kHz.” Heard this ID being repeated over NOAA weather report: “4 pm Rio Grande, 63 degrees, NW wind at 6 MPH. Saturday chance of rain 50%.” (MC-NJ1)
- 1630 WQO684 NC Raleigh Area – 10/8 1500 – noted a “new” TIS along I-40 East near the Raleigh-Durham Intl Airport. Male announcer with promos for the Hurricanes and NC State Wolfpack. Mention of WRAL (Raleigh area TV station) and a phone number of 861-CARE (presumably a Raleigh exchange). Station refers to itself as “Entertainment and Sports Network.” Road signs for the station noted on both I-40 East and West. Good level. (MH-NC)

620 KTAR
DIAMOND
 THE ROCKIES

REPORTERS

- MKB-ON Mike Brooker Toronto – Panasonics RF-2200; RFB-45.
- MC-NJ Mike Clancy Cape May (Sunset Beach) – 1991 Buick Skylark Car Radio
- MC-NJ1 Mike Clancy Wildwood (Hereford Inlet) – 1991 Buick Skylark Car Radio
- BC-NH Bruce Conti Nashua – Lowe HF-225 Europa, MWDX-5, southwest 50/75/50 ft. Ewe, inverted-L with 100-fl sloping east
- HF-MI Harold Frodge Midland – Drake R8B +85’/215’ RW’s, 125 ft. single loop lcom R2 + ducky
- MH-NC Mike Hardester Raleigh area – 4Runner radio w/ fender antenna.
- DH-NJ David Hochfelder New Brunswick – Sony ICF2010 with Kiwa Pocket Loop

GL-NY Ginnie Lupi Clifton Park – Radio Shack DX398 and Select-A-Tenna
 JR-NY Jim Renfrew Byron – Drake R8, 500' longwire
 DS-IN1 Doug Smith Bloomington – 1998 Ford Car Radio
 DS-IN2 Doug Smith Nashville – 1998 Ford Car Radio
 DS-IN3 Doug Smith Columbus (Steak 'n Shake drive-through) – 1998 Ford Car Radio

The dxtip instant notification service

By Rick Kenneally

It is possible there are DXers out there with pagers that don't frequent the reflector, but would like to get in on the dxtip action. The NRC maintains several email lists including the heavily-used am@nrcdxas.org list for chatting about the hobby, the dxc@nrcdxas.org for DXchange items, and the dxtip@nrcdxas.org list for hot tips.

Several DXers have now linked the dxtip list to their pagers or email-capable cell phones or to other instant messaging devices. This has proven an invaluable notification mechanism when used correctly. It works like this: A DXer must investigate how to direct email messages to his/her pager - this happens in a variety of ways for a variety of services. For example, my pager is addressable via an email address in this format: 999999999@skytel.com. Following the instructions on the NRC website, I subscribed 999999999@skytel.com to the dxtip list. Now, when someone sends a message to dxtip@nrcdxas.org, I receive it on my pager.

More and more DXers are learning, when they hear a time-critical hot tip, to send a quick, terse email to dxtip@nrcdxas.org describing the event. Hot tips include: - daytime stations on after hours for testing or whatever - stations running daytime power/pattern after hours - large, annoying NSP stations off the air - unusual conditions, like inland TA/TP openings - other conditions allowing for unusual receptions Basically, for anything that you would telephone other DXers about, you can notify them through the dxtip list. Assuming their pagers are subscribed to the dxtip list, they'll get notified.

How has this list been used lately?

- Barry McLarnon notified list members that the following daytimers were on past their bedtimes: WLFJ-1070, WVAB-1550 and WVZN-1580.
- Russ Edmunds notified us that WURD-900 was off the air.
- David Hochfelder told us of Jamaica-720 making an appearance in NJ.
- Others have posted notifications when WCB5-880 and other blowtorches were off the air.
- Various people alerting us to TA openings.

It is important to note that only current, time-critical items should be sent to this list. Loggings after the fact, followups to prior postings like "I heard them too!", and any discussion should be directed to the discussion list at am@nrcdxas.org.

Remember, when you post to dxtip, lots of people get paged. But warnings aside, it is a great notification mechanism. It is also important to note that to receive notifications from the dxtip list, you must subscribe your pager (or cell phone, or whatever). But to post tips to the list, you must subscribe with your email account the same way you would subscribe to the am@nrcdxas.org list. I have both my email and pager subscribed to dxtip and also have my email account subscribed to am@nrcdxas.org and dxc@nrcdxas.org.

The more people that post such events to this list, the more exciting the hobby becomes. This helps make up (somewhat) for the dwindling number of late night equipment tests, CPC tests, frequency checks, etc. And it makes the hobby a more shared experience.

If you have questions about how to subscribe your pager or other device to this list, feel free to email me: Rick Kenneally Wilton, CT woodlandview@yahoo.com

NRC's Antenna Manuals

Now completely revised and up-to-date!

Beverage Antenna Design and Theory

\$7.95 (\$11.95 to Non-members)

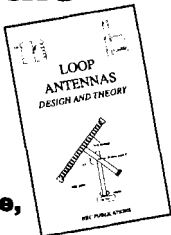
Antenna Reference Manuals, Vol. 1 and 2,

\$7.50 each (\$10.95 to non-members)

Loop Antenna Design & Theory,

\$8.50 (\$12.95 to non-members)

Order from NRC Publications - P. O. Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.



International DX Digest

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

Jim Renfrew renfrew@localnet.com
 6988 Bank Street Rd.
 Byron, NY 14422-9702

Please use <renfrew@localnet.com> for all IDXD reports. The address was incorrectly printed in the column header in a few recent issues, but look up there now and you'll see that Paul has corrected it. Paul may wish to apologize here: *My bad! -pls.*

Looking for help in submitting your reports? Are you format-challenged? Chris Knight found this item through John Bryant which may be of help to you in reporting to IDXD. It's called the "B-Log, A Simple Logging Utility for the Radio Hobbyist", authors Tom Lackamp and Guy Atkins, and it is free software. It looks like the web address is "http://.qslnet/ab9b". Christ sent me the specs for version 1.1 (October 2001), and in his words: "I love it so far." He points out that the design follows the IDXD preferred format, with the exception that call letters and locations are reversed (but I can live with that!). Thank you, Chris, for passing this along.

Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 567 IRELAND RTE R.1, Tullamore, OCT 20 0427 - uptempo Irish show band music; good. [Connelly-MA]
- 621 CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN RNE R.1 synchros, Santa Cruz de Tenerife et al., OCT 13 0340 - "Imagine" by John Lennon, then man with Spanish talk; fair. + OCT 24 0338 - man in Spanish, then pop music; best TA during tonight's moderate aurora. [Connelly-MA]
- 783 MAURETANIA(p) Nouakchott OCT 28 2325-2332 - fair with male Arab singing. Lost it at 2332, maybe because of signoff. I couldn't find a shortwave parallel after I lost the signal on 783, so I couldn't confirm this completely. I'm presuming this based on others' loggings. Also, WRTH 2001 doesn't list this on 783 but on 739, so I assume that the WRTH listing is wrong. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 1089 UNITED KINGDOM Talk Sport synchros, OCT 20 0419 - teletalk mentioned being a winner; poor. [Connelly-MA]
- 1206 FRANCE France Bleu, Bordeaux, OCT 14 0332 - "Upside Down" by Diana Ross; good. [Connelly-MA]
- 1215 SPAIN COPE synchros, OCT 15 0358 - echoey Spanish talk. [Connelly-MA]
- 1377 FRANCE France Bleu, Lille, OCT 20 0408 - 1974 disco hit "Boogie Down" by Eddie Kendricks; fair. [Connelly-MA]
- 1521 SAUDI ARABIA BSKSA, Doha, OCT 14 0335 - female Arabic vocal & violins; excellent. [Connelly-MA]
- 1530 SAO TOME E PRINCIPE VOA Relay, Pinheira, OCT 20 0350 - // 7290 with VOA news interview; poor to fair in WSAI null. [Connelly-MA]

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 530 TURKS & CAICOS R. Visión Cristiana Internacional, South Caicos, OCT 27 0403 - loud with reverberated Spanish ads for a church in New York City. [Connelly-MA] OCT 13 0503-0508+ - ID as "Radio Vision Cristiana Int'l", did not give the EE ID/address often heard. Church calendar for Caribbean but frequent mention of NY to 0507 then lite vocals with steel drums. All in SS. Good. [Frodge-MI]
- 550 CUBA(t) R. Rebelde, OCT 26 0400-0415 - excellent with lively music. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 550 VENEZUELA(t) Mundial, YVKE, Caracas, OCT 26 0400-0415 - fair. Under presumed Cuba with male announcer. I'll spend more time on this channel tonight to get a positive ID of the presumed Cuban and Venezuelan if conditions hold up. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 555 ST. KITTS & NEVIS (very tent) R. ZIZ, Basseterre, OCT 26 0350-0400 - poor. Faint audio of male announcer in what sounded like accented English. I'm regarding this as tentative because of heavy adjacent channel interference from the Cuban on 550. [Hochfelder-NJ] OCT 26 0730 - Good; BBC World Service world news brief and business news. [Conti-NH] OCT 24 0344 - calypso / reggae male vocal and rhythm section; to fair peak. [Connelly-MA]
- 570 CUBA Radio Reloj, OCT 13 0515 - Only "RR" at top-of-minute heard, no pips or audio under WKYX. [Frodge-MI]
- 620 CUBA Radio Rebelde, OCT 13 0006-0012+ - Commentaries on US/Mid-East to ID @0012 "Radio Rebelde desde Habana Cuba". Good //

RADIO PRAGUE



www.radio.cz

- 5025 also good. All in SS. [Frodge-MI] OCT 26 0735 - Good; Rebelde IDs in telephone talk parallel 670 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 627.7 unID, OCT 31 0640 - Strong het on low side of 630 WPRO/WUNO/unID mix; reports on am@nrcdxas.org indicate that this is from R.Progreso-Cuba. [Conti-NH]
- 630 PUERTO RICO WUNO, San Juan, OCT 25 0330-0505 & OCT 26 0255-0310 - excellent; dominant at times. On Oct. 25 call-in show hosted by male announcer, also with musical programming. At 0430 on Oct. 25: back-to-back Spanish then English versions of "These Eyes" by Guess Who. News at tops of hour. On Oct. 26 call-in show with same male announcer. Callers and announcer all said "hello" when answering phone and frequent mentions of Puerto Rico. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 630 VENEZUELA Caracas, OCT 26 0255-0310 - good. ID'd at top of hour as "Radio Nacional, Venezuela" and "Caracas." Male announcer speaking rapid Spanish with very pronounced "r" rolling. Heard also Oct. 25 without a firm ID. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 640 CUBA R. Progreso, Guanabacoa / Las Tunas, OCT 27 0359 - R. Progreso ID, Spanish talk, and bits of classical music. [Connelly-MA] OCT 13 0013-0026+ - mand and woman in SS with Radio-TV awards program; Radio Arte taking lots of awards. The award may be called a "caracol" as each begins with "Primero Caracol...". Did not hear Rebelde or Reloj winning any award; Progreso did get a couple. Very good. [Frodge-MI]
- 660 MEXICO XEEY Aguascalientes, AGS Oct 31 0500 with call ID's, power (50 kW), "La Consentida" slogan, and the phrase "...cubriendo Aguascalientes, Zacatecas..." and several other states. Continued with a variety of XE music after the ID. Generally fair, with dominant XEACB off for the evening. New here, XE # 177 and FIRST log from state of Aguascalientes! Pleased. [Wilkins-CO] OCT 22 0404-0504+ - man and woman in SS with very wide variety of music, classical to campesino. Several mentions of Mexico & mentioned Aguascalientes twice @0433 & again @0458 then "La Consentida" ID spot. All talk 0430-0500 then Mexican music. Fair but mainly under WFAN. Mexico #16 [Frodge-MI] (This one appears to be in almost every night, making me wonder if they have upgraded their facility in some way - Jim)
- 660 MEXICO R.Candela 660, Mexico OCT 31 0635 - Tentative; sounded like Candela and Seis-Sesenta IDs with banda/nortena/Tex-Mex music through WFAN null. I've been working on this for weeks, but just too much interference even with WFAN nulled down to 3 dB. [Conti-NH]
- 670 CUBA Radio Redelde, OCT 13 0027 - game call involving Camaguey. Poor under WMAQ // 710 good & 5025 OCT 13 0121-0130 - SS game call; Republica Dominicana vs Cuba? // 5025. Fair mixing with WSCR. [Frodge-MI]
- 690 CUBA R.progreso, Jovellanos OCT 31 0710 - Fair; news about war in Afghanistan and political discussion parallel 640 over an unID Mexican music station in CINF null. [Conti-NH]
- 690 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC R.Guarachita, Sto Domingo OCT 31 0810 - "...a numero uno, Radio Guarachita" and bachata music bubbling over what had become a Latin American stew with CINF nulled out. [Conti-NH]
- 690 MEXICO XEMA Fresnillo, ZAC Oct 31 0300 with area ads; ID at 0302: "M-A, con la mejor para ti...690 AM, la estacion que...", then music. Noted earlier (around 0200) with looong ad string, 6-7 minutes or more. Heard often here lately with fair signal, lots of "M-A" partial ID's. [Wilkins-CO]
- 700 JAMAICA RJR, Montego Bay, OCT 26 0410-0420 - fair to good under WLW. Hard to get a sync. det. lock because of slop from co-channel WOR. Call-in show with male announcer in accented English. [Hochfelder-NJ] OCT 28 0510 - Good; RJR Super Soul promo, RJR Communications Group ad, R&B/soul music. [Conti-NH]
- 710 CUBA Radio Redelde, OCT 13 0028 - SS game call involving Camaguey. Good // 670 poor & 5025 [Frodge-MI]
- 720 JAMAICA RJR, Kingston, OCT 25 0300-0500 - poor to fair. Accented English, female announcer, sounded like call-in show. No ID but programming similar to confirmed logging in March 2001. Not heard on Oct. 26; Venezuela dominated. [Hochfelder-NJ] OCT 28 0515 - Fair; R&B/soul music parallel 700 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 720 VENEZUELA R. Oriente, Porlamar, OCT 26 0310-0335 - excellent; armchair copy. Some slop from WOR on 710. Two excited male announcers broadcasting a soccer game, possibly Venezuela vs. Nicaragua, with crowd noise. "Gooooo!" at 0320; ID'd as "Radio Nacional... Venezuela" at 0330. [Hochfelder-NJ] OCT 27 2325 - Good; salsa music, time check, "la senal de Venezuela" ID. [Conti-NH] OCT 27 0356 - Venezuelan anthem including a children's chorus; atop CHTN. [Connelly-MA]
- 730 MEXICO XEX Mexico OCT 26 0803 - Fair; "XEX 730 AM... de la ciudad de Mexico," ad string including promo for "Enamorada 940, el corazon de radio" and "XEX, la nueva X, joven como

- tu." [Conti-NH] OCT 14 0133-0300+ - Wide variety of SS music including Madonna & Abba sound-alikes. Finally, "La X" @0240. Poor mixing with several others. [Frodge-MI]
- 750 VENEZUELA RCR, YVKS, Caracas, OCT 24 0336 - RCR ID, talk about "beisbol"; fair to good, dominant. [Connelly-MA] OCT 31 0914 - Very good at times but never quite over WSB, had SS talk program with many "R-C-R" mentions. YV #2 for me. [Loy-IL]
- 760 COLOMBIA HJAJ RCN, Barranquilla, OCT 25 0145-0215 - excellent, very strong with good audio. Dominant at times. A relog. // 1000. (Thanks to Bruce Conti for pointing out that 760 and 1000 are parallel RCN outlets.) [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 780 VENEZUELA R.Coro, Coro OCT 25 0415 - Good; "Radio Coro 780, primer lugar de sintonia," time check, and salsa music. [Conti-NH] OCT 23 0305 - R. Coro ID, excited talk; only S-5 but over aurorally-weakened CFDR/WBBM. This station routinely hits S9+20 on Cape Cod, so the extra 90 miles up Route 3 equates to about 40 dB of attenuation! [Connelly-MA]
- 810 CUBA R.Progreso, Guantanamo OCT 28 0600 - Familiar theme song and "la onda de la alegria" ID through presumed CJVA in WGY null. [Conti-NH]
- 813.8 CUBA R.Reloj OCT 25 0420 - Good; woman with news items, R.Reloj IDs, and time checks. [Conti-NH]
- 820 ST. KITTS & NEVIS Trinity Broadcast Network, Charlestown, OCT 23 0308 - fervent preaching clearly // 7510. Was over/under WNYC. The move to 820 from 830 improves audibility of this in the metro-Boston area since, at least during aurora, interference from WNYC-820 is nowhere near as tough as that from WCRN-830. With the new arrangement, the slop from local WEEI-850 is also less of a problem. [Connelly-MA]
- 820 MEXICO XEMVS Mexicali BCN, OCT 26 0320-0405 - Music over KGO-810 slop. Brief talk by female "(two words) ocho veinte", probably 'nostalgia 8-20'. Two minutes of talk at 0330, ads? [Karchevski-CA]
- 830 CUBA Radio Reloj, OCT 13 2327 - SS commentary; pips & "RR" at top-of-minute. [Frodge-MI]
- 840 CUBA Dobleve, Santa Clara OCT 25 0435 - Good; presumed this with "la musica cubana" program over WHAS. [Conti-NH]
- 880 CUBA R.Progreso, Pinar del Rio OCT 31 0855 - Fair; Cuban big band music parallel 890 and 900, at even level with WCBS. [Conti-NH]
- 890 CUBA Radio Progreso, OCT 13 0129 - EZL SS vocals. Poor under WLS // 640. [Frodge-MI]
- 900 VENEZUELA Ritmo 900, Maracaibo OCT 31 0900 - National anthem heard through R.Progreso-Cuba and unID stations. [Conti-NH]
- 900 MEXICO XEW Mexico, DF Oct 27 0201 with legal ID, including address which didn't seem to match '00 WRTH. Also announced relay stations XEWA-540 in San Luis Potosi, XEWB-900 in Veracruz, and XEWA-540 in Monterrey, so the flagship station thinks that these are all operating. There has always been some doubt as to the existence of the 540 station in Monterrey. Visitors to Monterrey haven't even heard this station. And why would they have the same calls as the SLP station on the same freq? [Wilkins-CO]
- 910 UNID, OCT 31 1016 - SS station with very fast announcer, punctuated frequently by four descending tones. Thought I caught "R-C-N" more than once...was this HJMY? [Loy-IL] (YVRQ is very common, RCN has been reported from San Andres Island, and I also got a Dominican here once)
- 920 MEXICO XEHQ Hermosillo, SON Oct 27 0358 with banda music, fair signal. Nice ID at 0401: "XEHQ, La Mejor, 920 AM transmitiendo con 5000 wats de potencia desde Yani[?] No. 5, Colonia San Benito, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico...una estacion mas de MVS Radio..." then into ranchera vocal number. New slogan and new network. Still wonder if 590 is now XEBH, the former call on 920? [Wilkins-CO]
- 930 CUBA Radio Reloj, OCT 13 0133 - Only hear "RR" at top-of-minute, no audio under domestic. [Frodge-MI]
- 940 MEXICO XEW Mexico OCT 26 0705 - Fair; "XEW la Voz de la America Latina desde Mexico" and talk over R.Reloj-Cuba and an unID Latin American station. [Conti-NH]
- 1000 COLOMBIA HJAJ RCN, Cartagena, OCT 25 0145-0215 - good. Under WMVP and had to fight slop from nearby WINS. // 760. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 1070 VENEZUELA Mundial Zulia, Maracaibo OCT 25 0540 - Fair; Cadena Mundial mention and "Esta es Mundial" ID, salsa and merengue music, over unID Latin American stations. [Conti-NH]
- 1100 CUBA Habana, OCT 26 0325-0410 - good. Light ballads. ID'd at top of hour as "radio..., Habana." [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 1110 VENEZUELA R. Carupano, YVQT, Carupano, OCT 25



- 0202 - sports coverage, advertising for local Porlamar businesses; loud, over WBT. [Connelly-MA]
- 1120 MEXICO unID Nov 1 0100-0200+ with a variety of XE vocal music; after each song, the slogan(s) "Estéreo Mexicana AM, La Tropical Ranchera" and variations thereof. CST time chex. Looped due south. Nothing listed with this slogan(s). Not very strong, probably 1 kW or less. [Wilkins-CO]
- 1120 MEXICO XETR Cd. Valles, SLP Nov 1 0501 with ID, partially readable: "XETR, 1120 en la banda de amplitud modulada, transmite... mil wats de potenciagrupo ACIR, lider nacional en radio..." then more Big Band and soft ROM stuff. Rare here, from a rare state, only heard once before, in the Big Aurora of April 2001. [Wilkins-CO]
- 1270 MEXICO XERPL Leon OCT 30 0812 Several jingle "La Poderosa" IDs above mess of stations, including Spanish religious outlet. [Loy-IL]
- 1300 MEXICO XEXW MEXICO, Nogales, Sonora date? 0309 - with ranchera blaring very loud. Slogans given and ranchera was with accordion until KKSC Brawley, CA took over. [Redding-AZ]
- 1375.02 ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON RFO, St. Pierre, OCT 20 0410 - emotional female vocal; excellent. [Connelly-MA]
- 1420 MEXICO XEH Monterrey OCT 27 0835 Went chasing after this one, had SS music in and out of domestic mess until beautiful "X-E-H" ID at this time. New here. [Loy-IL]
- 1420 MEXICO XEXX(p) Tijuana, BCN Oct 31 1319 with PSA's, then "...Radio Mexicana, 14-20, Tijuana, Mexico..." so apparently a new slogan. No call ID heard. [Wilkins-CO]
- 1500 MEXICO XEDF(?) Mexico OCT 27 0755 SS music to nice "Cadena Radio Uno" ID. WRTH lists two different call signs for this. [Loy-IL]
- 1540 UNID OCT 25 0230 - poor. Accented English under WPTR and KXEL. Maybe Bahamas. I've heard this before, but only during auroral conditions. Could also be Toronto? [Hochfelder-NJ]

TA's IN BRAZIL

I don't know if it's the miraculous K9AY, the season or just my increased time devoted to listening, but the TA situation is getting better and better here in Rio de Janeiro. African stations have been pouring in right after my local sunset in these last days. It's a 30-40 minutes window, not much, before their sunrise or s/off time. Some examples: Mozambique on 873 and 1026, both s/off at 22,00. Angola on 1502, 1485,5 and 945. Mauritania on 783. I suspect the 28-30th October high magnetic activity has something to do with it, it has already occurred. But the real surprise was "Voice of Russia" on 1548, with a good signal on the 30th Oct from 04,10 to 04,40. News in English, in parallel with 7125 and 7180. The weird thing is that no other Euro channel was open, apart from a weak Norway on 1314. Jean Bunnell told me that Russia on this frequency is very uncommon in North America. Herman Boel's great list states that Grigoriopol tx beams at 245 degrees. Rio de Janeiro is a unlikely target for that 1.000 Kw transmitter... but it works... [Rocco Cotroneo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; <rcroto@uol.com.br>]

TIME TIPS

I saw John Wilkins question when Mexico changes their clocks back to Standard Time, and did a little web searching.

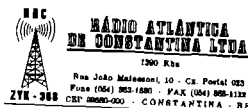
This year the switch was made in Mexico at 1 or 2 AM Sept 30. I also found a good website with most worldwide major city current times: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/full.html?sort=1>. If you click on the city, it will provide you info as to when they adjust for daylight savings time, etc. Example...Chihuahua: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/city.html?n=65>

Anyway, that may be of use to some members. [Mike Hawk-CO]

AN EPISTLE FROM MARK (a few IDXD-type tidbits excerpted from a longer post)

Central Americans: I'm surprised that so little gets reported considering all the good DXers in Florida (Bob Foxworth, Gerry Thomas, Terry Krueger, Dave Crawford, Russ Scotka, Ray Moore, Gerry Bishop, Tom Giella, Ron Gitschier, Lee Freshwater, and several others no doubt). And Neil Kazaross, you go down to Sanibel Island, FL every so often, right? Then there are Jay Novello's cruises from time to time. If any of you hear Central Americans, PLEASE report them to Jim Renfrew 3 or 4 times a year at least so the rest of us will have a clue! I'm convinced that the Spanish I heard on 620.28 at 1008 UTC on 24 AUG while at a Cape Cod receiving site is indeed the Nicaraguan YNN recently bagged by Barry McLarnon in Ontario.

To other Latin unID's: Fred Vobbe "Big het on 650. Sounded like 2kHz or so. No ID." Rick Kenneally "Had a het on the south side of 630 - about 2.5 kHz." I heard both the 627.5 and 652.5 signals on 24 AUG around 0823 UTC at East Harwich. Terry Krueger in south



Florida positively DF'ed the 652.5 to Cuba. I think that the 627.5 is also Cuba. Note that these frequencies are +/- 12.5 kHz of 640 kHz, so possibly these are parasitic sidebands of the big 640 kHz Havana-area Radio Progreso rig. It makes sense to me. Florida DXers should be able to sort this out in short order. We need some good intelligence gathering by, dare I say, "a Ron Schatz of the 21st century".

Regarding R. Paradise - St. Kitts now on 820, Steve Francis said "Wow, that's the fourth frequency for Radio Paradise, after 1265, 825, and 830. Also the third time a Caribbean station has quit 830 for another nearby frequency. In the 70's, CMCA in Havana moved to 820, and 4VEF in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, left for 840." And Fred Vobbe said "You wonder, Steve, why is 830 so unattractive? Perhaps WCCO is just skipping in at the right angle?" WCCO is a total non-player here in MA, left alone in the Caribbean. Usual 830 here is WCRN-MA over CFJR-ON. More likely the main interference in the Caribbean area is R. Sensacion, YVLT, in Caracas, Venezuela. Its 25 kW signal has pretty good clout on Cape Cod during auroral conditions, sometimes over WCRN. There are also Colombian and Dominican Republic stations on 830, as well as a R. Reloj Cuban. [Connelly-MA]

CONTRIBUTORS

Mark Connelly Billerica, MA; Drake R8A Antenna system: 30 m noise-reduced longwire, broadband loop, DXP-4 phasing unit <MarkWA1ION@excite.com>

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; Lowe HF-225 Europa, MWDX-5, 15/23/15-m southwest Ewe, inverted-L with 30-m sloping east. <BACONTI@aol.com>

Harold Frodge, Midland MI; Drake R8B + 85'/215' RW's, 125 ft. single loop Icom R2 + ducky. <yukon@tm.net>

David Hochfelder, New Brunswick NJ; Sony ICF2010 with Kiwa Pocket Loop. <hochfeld@rci.rutgers.edu>

Bob Karchevski, Sunnyvale CA; DX-398 with internal antenna. <karchev@worldnet.att.net>

Eric Loy, Champagne IL; Drake R8 and Quantum QX. <ecloy@netscape.net>

Kevin Redding, Mesa AZ; Kenwood R-1000 and 85' wire. <amfntvdx@qwest.net>

Jim Renfrew, Byron NY; Drake R8, 500' longwire. <renfrew@localnet.com>

John Wilkins, What Ridge CO; SuperRadio II, Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop. <peakbagger3@juno.com>

IRCA's Foreign Log, #10

NOW available, this updated edition contains ALL the 5DXM, DXWW-E, and DXWW-W tips from 9/96 to 7/99... almost three years of material, all collated and in frequency order by TA, PA and TP for each DXWW column. Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$10.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$11.00 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$11.50 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$12.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.00 to the above prices. Order your copy today, in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway, from IRCA Bookstore - 9705 Mary Ave. NW - Seattle, WA 98117-2334

A DX'er's Technical Guide

Now in its 3rd edition (published early 1998), this 155-page book answers questions on receiver and antenna theory (how to improve their performance), how audio filters and loop antennas can improve DX (and hints on their construction), how to build a Beverage and phasing unit, and much more. Only \$10.00 for IRCA/NRC members, \$12.00 for non-members (overseas airmail add \$2.50). Order your copy today, in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway, from IRCA Bookstore - 9705 Mary Ave. NW - Seattle, WA 98117-2334

IRCA Mexican Log, 7th Edition

The IRCA MEXICAN 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. 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 2000 edition and carefully cross-checked by several IRCA members. 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. Prices: IRCA/NRC members - \$9.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$10.00 (rest of the Americas airmail), \$10.50 (Europe/Asia airmail), \$11.00 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). Non-members: add \$2.50 to the above prices. Order your copy today, in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway, from IRCA Bookstore - 9705 Mary Ave. NW - Seattle, WA 98117-2334

Radio Shack's Current DX Portables Performance from a BCB DX Perspective

By Gerry Thomas

The recent spate of sales on Radio Shack's shortwave portables was too much for this DXer to walk away from. Yeah, I know that from a BCB DXer's viewpoint, Radio Shack's/Sangean's offerings in recent years haven't set the DX world aflame. Other than the DX-440/803A, the Radio Shack/Sangean portables have generally been decent for MW DX but nothing special (a notable exception being the Sangean-made CCRadio). So, it was with no high expectations that I bought one of each of the current multi-band portables offered by Radio Shack and put them through a MW DX shakedown. (While I was purchasing the radios, the first shipment of the new Radio Shack "Superadio" clone (12-903) arrived, so I bought one of those too...a quick look follows this review.)

The Line-Up

Radio Shack presently offers three digital read-out portables that appear to be relatively serious attempts at multi-band coverage (there are several other portables offered that cover SW and such but they are either analog read-out or appear to be less vigorous efforts). The three radios purchased were the DX-398, the DX-402, and the DX-396. I won't go into a lot of detail on the general specs of each; those details are available in Radio Shack's catalogs and from other review sources (e.g., *Passport to World Band Radio*, etc.). Rather, I'll highlight the features that I believe are of interest to BCB DXers and run some side-by-side tests among the radios and include some comparisons with some of the current best offerings from other manufacturers.

DX-398 — Also sold by other suppliers under the Sangean nameplate and the ATS-909 designation. This is the top of the line portable by both Radio Shack and Sangean and offers a raft of features of limited interest to BCB DXers but of potentially greater importance to listeners of other bands. List price of the radio is \$249 but it is often on sale at Radio Shack for \$149.

Of principal interest to this DXer was the presence of "true" SSB operation; that is, LSB and USB were provided instead of the usual BFO approach. Could these be effective in ECSS applications? The DX-398 also comes with two IF bandwidths, a highly desirable feature that, in theory, allows good fidelity as well as the option of tightening the passband to cut down on adjacent channel interference. Also, 1 kHz knob or slew tuning, a not-too-bad signal strength meter, battery strength indicator, and an RF gain control (knob)...all of these features I view as being desirable in a MW DX portable. The scan, RDS (for FM), memory pages, etc. are of little interest to this BCB DXer.

DX-402 — This is also known as the Sangean ATS-505 and sells, at Radio Shack, for \$149 (on sale sometimes for \$99) but better deals are often available from other SW equipment dealers. Unlike the usual graphite-gray cabinets of traditional multi-band portables, the DX-402 has joined the new SW portable "revolution" by going with the current champagne-colored cabinet...pretty, but as far as I can tell, doesn't help with DX at all. Much less feature-laden than the DX-398, the DX-402, nonetheless, still offers a couple of useful BCB DX features, namely 1 kHz knob or slew-button tuning, a BFO for potential ECSS use (I thought), three-position tone control, etc. Of course, it also has memory and scan features, a front-end DX/Local switch, a clock, etc.

DX-396 — This unit replaces the DX-375 as the entry-level digital radio for the budding DXer/SWler. Spartan in features, the DX-396's tuning is limited to slew buttons (in 10 kHz steps), it has DX/Local and tone switches, and that's about it. There's no provision for connecting an external antenna...after conducting the following tests, it became apparent why this feature was omitted. It does, however, use C-cell batteries (vice AA's) and, contrary to Radio Shack catalog implications, continuously covers the SW spectrum up to 21.5 MHz. The DX-396 retails for \$99 but can be had on sale for \$69.

In order to see how the Radio Shack portables measured up against some of the currently best portable competition, I also included the following portables in the tests:

Sony ICF-2010 — Generally acknowledged as the best of the currently available portables for BCB (and other) DX. Price: \$349.

CCRadio — Usually a close second to the 2010 in MW performance. Made by Sangean in conjunction with the C. Crane Co. Price: \$159.

Sony ICF-7600G — One of my favorite "pocket book-sized" portables for its performance on all bands and better than average performance on MW. Price: \$179

The Performance Tests

Although I have the equipment to perform laboratory tests on receivers, I've found that it is usually more useful, especially with portables in this price range, to simply submit them to some tough DX listening conditions. In addition, I've limited the testing to judgments of sensitivity and selectivity,

two of the more important DX criteria, with notes on the audio quality/readability of the signals and the utility of such features as ECSS effectiveness, etc.

All of the following tests were conducted around the hours of local noon on atmospherically quiet mid-October days. All tests were run on two consecutive days with the averages for the two days providing the final results.

Note also that the presented results for the Radio Shack portables are based on a sample size of one, with later, less formal verification with a second set of samples. Given the variability of low- to medium-cost portables, a sample you try may vary somewhat from the following results.

Sensitivity

First and foremost, a radio has to be sensitive enough to pull in DX. At night, when signals levels are high on the domestic channels, it is easy to hear distant stations on even your bedside clock radio. But the really good DX comes when your local pest has a silent period or when you are trying for a DX test from a "most wanted" state and you are trying to dig out that weak signal barely above the background noise. That's when sensitivity becomes important. Equally important is the "readability" of the signal. That is, not only must the radio be receiving the signal, it also has to be presenting it to your ears free of excessive distortions and gross audio imperfections. Thus, this "sensitivity" evaluation is really a combination of pure sensitivity and readability.

I've found that the best time to conduct these types of tests is during the mid-day hours of an atmospherically quiet day. This despite the fact that an overly sensitive radio can sometimes have its sensitivity sabotaged by distortion products created by the high signal levels at night.

About a dozen stations were evaluated in the sensitivity tests and were chosen primarily on the basis of their relatively weak strength and their freedom from interference from local stations. I'll present the results for a low-end, mid-band, and high-end station for each of the radios and include a late afternoon logging of Radio Visión Christiana, Turks and Caicos Islands as an ultimate measure of low-end sensitivity.

Target stations

WVMI-570 A 5 kWer located in Biloxi, MS, about 75 miles west of Pensacola and always surprisingly weak for its listed power.

WJBO-1150 A 5 kWer in Baton Rouge, LA, about 200 miles west of Pensacola.

KLEB-1600 Also 5 kW in Golden Meadows, LA, about 170 miles west of Pensacola. Great zydeco music if that's your thing.

Radio Vision Christiana-530 Listed as 100kW in Turks and Caicos Islands, 1200 miles east of Pensacola; noted late afternoon (2.5 hours before local sunset).

Ratings

5	Local-like (all background noise "quieted")
4	Arm chair copy but not local-like
3	Readable with effort
2	Intermittently readable
1	Present but not readable
0	Nil/undetected signal

Results

	DX-398	DX-402	DX-396	CCR	2010	7600G
WVMI-570	3.0	2.5	3.0	4.0	4.5	3.2
WJBO-1150	1.0	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	1.5
KLEB-1600	3.0	1.0	0*	3.8	4.2	3.5
RVC-530	0**	0	0	1.0	1.5	0**

*Masked by "birdie"

**Rated 1.5 with Q-Stick booster

Note: No ECSS or synchro was used to derive these ratings.

As in previous tests, the Sony 2010 led the way in the sensitivity tests with the CCRadio not far behind. The DX-398 and Sony 7600G were in the same class together with the DX-398 having perhaps a hair more raw sensitivity but it was hampered by its less readable, somewhat muffled audio. The DX-396's sensitivity was good on the low-end and on the middle of the band but got progressively worse as the frequency increased. Its principal drawback, however, was the presence of several "birdies" on the MW band. The DX-402 lagged behind the others even though its audio was more readable than the DX-398.

Note again that these target stations were chosen because of their generally low signal levels. The somewhat muddy audio on the DX-398 (all tests were in the IF Wide position) became more listenable as the strength of stations's signals increased but even on locals, the audio of the DX-398 sounded "darker" than the others. This "muddiness" can be remedied to some extent by off-tuning a kHz or two but on the very weak stations that constitute DX and were the targets of this evaluation, if you off-tune too much, you lose the signal. An external communications speaker was tried with the DX-398 and some minor improvement was noted but was still judged to be less crisp than the others. Apparently this is the fault of the audio stage circuitry and not the internal speaker.

In terms of using the ECSS technique to improve readability, invoking the LSB or USB modes in the DX-398 generally resulted in a 1-2 point *reduction* in readability; not only was it not a help at all, it actually lowered signal levels to, in some instances, unreadability. The BFO on the DX-402, it turns out, doesn't even work on MW, only on SW (where it was, in opinion, substandard, especially when compared to the 7600G's excellent SSB performance on SW). Both Sangeans need to increase the level of their carrier injection voltages (or maybe my samples were just lemons...check before you buy). Conversely, utilizing either manual ECSS (SSB) or automated ECSS (synchro) on the two Sony's almost always improved readability. The ECSS and synchro capability of the 7600G would therefore give it a pretty hefty nod over the DX-398 in terms of producing a readable weak signal. The CCRadio and the DX-396, of course, do not have SSB capabilities.

Selectivity

The ability to log a station next to or near a stronger station is an important quality in a DXer's radio. Of the radios tested, only two, the 2010 and the DX-398, offered a choice of IF bandwidths. Because my modified 2010 has the original narrow filter in the wide position, I used only this "wide" filter in the following tests. With the DX-398, evaluations were made in both the wide and narrow modes. Both the CCRadio and the 7600G have "compromise" IF filters in that they are midway between the usual wide and narrow filters and they generally do a commendable job. Little was known about the IF filtration in the DX-402 and the DX-396.

Target stations

All of the target stations were chosen so that they were adjacent to a local pest and were in-line (i.e., un-nullable) with the local.

WVOG-600 This 1 kWer is located in New Orleans, about 180 miles west of Pensacola. It is bothered mercilessly by local WVTJ-610.

CMKO-1100 This is a weak Cuban of unknown power. It is next to very sloppy WNVY-1090 located to the north of my location.

WZEP-1460 Located in DeFuniak Springs, FL to the east of me; bothered by local WBSR-1450 to the west.

Ratings

5	Clear
4	Minor sideband splash
3	Significant splash but target still readable
2	Major splash; target sometimes readable
1	Target never readable; splash intelligible
0	Target not detectable under splash

	DX-398		Results				
	W	N	DX-402	DX-396	CCR	2010	7600G
WVOG-600	3.0	4.2	3.0	3.5	4.2	4.5	4.0
CMKO-1100	.5	1.5	0	.5	1.0	2.0	.5
WZEP-1460	3.0	4.0	1.5	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.5

Note: No ECSS or synchro was used to derive these ratings and all stations were tuned to the stations' center frequencies.

Again, the Sony 2010 proved best in these tests, although the 7600G, the CCR, and the DX-398 (in the narrow position) were close behind. In fact, the DX-398 was a bit better than the CCRadio when it was in its narrow mode and very close to the 2010. If the filter quality of the DX-398 had been a bit better (i.e., better deep skirt and ultimate selectivity), it probably would have won the selectivity competition. In many instances, however, the two Sony's with their sideband selectable synchro as well as their true SSB (i.e., LSB/USB) capabilities enabled about a .5-1.0 improvement in the preceding ratings.

The DX-396 fared surprisingly well while the DX-402 brought up the rear. The bottom line, however, is that the two Sony's generally were more effective in the selectivity department...their ECSS capabilities making the difference. Improvement in all of the radios (that had 1 kHz tuning capabilities), however, could be had by tuning away from the interfering station a few kHz (assuming that the target station was strong enough to allow off-tuning without disappearing).

Random Notes

DX-398

- Connecting an external antenna to the DX-398's external antenna jack disconnects the internal antenna(s).
- The SSB function fine tunes in 40 Hz steps; good enough if the circuit was decent.
- Eats batteries; the AA batteries last about a dozen hours (according to the owner's manual).
- Made in Taiwan.

DX-402

- Connecting an external antenna does not disconnect internal antenna(s).
- BFO inoperative on MW band; mediocre on SW.
- Signal strength LED (single) only lights on locals.
- Also eats batteries; the AA batteries last about 12 hours (according to the manual).
- Made in China.

DX-396

- No external antenna connector (which is probably good; overloading a potential problem).
- Uses C-cells; 60+ hours per set.
- Birdies a real problem especially on SW (five "new" stations were present between 2.5 Hz and 3.0 MHz...images from MW).
- Made in China.

Conclusions

Of the three current Radio Shack offerings as potential BCB DX machines, the only one that is worth considering is the DX-398. It's principal shortcoming (in my mind) is the shape of its audio passband. While its somewhat dark audio sounds pretty good on FM and on medium to strong AM stations, this turns into a sense of "muffled murkiness" on weak AM stations, making voice IDs a challenge. Again, this is most problematical when trying to dig out an ID on tough DX; under less challenging conditions, the audio would probably be okay, even though not ideal, for most people. This "muddiness" really becomes apparent when compared side-by-side with a radio like the CCRadio (whose audio is shaped for voice communications). If you can live with the audio, the DX-398 fared pretty well in the sensitivity tests and very well in the selectivity measures, making it one of the better MW DX radios currently available. Of course, there's always the short battery life to deal with...

The DX-402 and DX-396 are okay for night time DXing of not-too-difficult domestics but fall short for DX that is a little more challenging. Either should suffice for local/clear channel listening or for listening to the easier SW broadcasters.

It's good that Radio Shack has a 30-day return policy. You can decide for yourself whether any of the current offerings meet your needs

The Latest Radio Shack "Superadio" Clone

Every time that Radio Shack comes out with another Superadio imitation, I get suckered into buying one...I just can't seem to resist the "extended AM range" and the "even picks up distant AM stations" in the ad copy. And every time I buy a new model, I swear I'll never fall for the hype again (I feel like Charlie Brown, and Radio Shack is Lucy holding the football urging me to try just one more time). So, alas, when the salesman walked in from the backroom holding one of the new models (the 12-903; replacing the horrid 12-603), I whipped out my credit card, swearing under my breath at my weakness.

I was comforted not at all by the salesman's assurances that this was a brand new, improved model, much better than the older one...Sigh, I guess I'm just a radio junkie.

So, how did it perform? **Arrrrrrgh!** They did it to me again! The new model failed to show any sign at all of the stations used in the sensitivity tests above. Between my local stations, there was mostly silence, only the strongest out-of-town stations making a whispery appearance. I didn't even bother with the selectivity tests. Within 10 minutes, the new 12-903 was in its box and on its way back to Radio Shack. Please Radio Shack, fire whichever engineer is responsible for this series of abysmal radios and give Bob Crane and his staff a call...

Gerry Thomas is can be reached at radioplus@pcola.gulf.net or via his website: <http://www.dx-tools.com>

CCRadio Tune-UP

by Gerry Thomas

I've been reading with interest over the past many months the complaints of some DXers regarding the CCRadio. Reports of worse than expected sensitivity, mediocre selectivity, poor strong signal handling, images of strong locals on adjacent channels, etc. have all shown up in the DX press. Every time I read one of these complaints, I think to myself, "Unless Sangean and C. Crane have made some circuit changes, that guy's radio is out of whack." I've had my CCRadio for going on two years now and, as it turns out, the CCRadio does need "tweaking" from time to time.

The critical adjustment components in the CCRadio aren't cemented in place with wax or Lock-tite so either through rough handling (during ownership or shipping), or perhaps just over time, there are a couple of adjustments that need to be made every so often. So after the last time I dropped the radio (that "handle" needs some work!), I decided to take some notes on what has become a relatively routine maintenance procedure I follow to keep my CCRadio operating in top form.

As it turns out, the CCRadio is quite easy to get back into alignment; much easier than earlier technology radios that required oscillator tracking adjustments and multi-stage IF tweaking. In fact, there is only one RF adjustment to make and two IF adjustments. All you'll need to do the tune-up is a Phillips head screw driver (to remove the cabinet and PCB screws) and an alignment tool (an insulated-handle jewelers flat-blade screwdriver will do).

The Tune-up

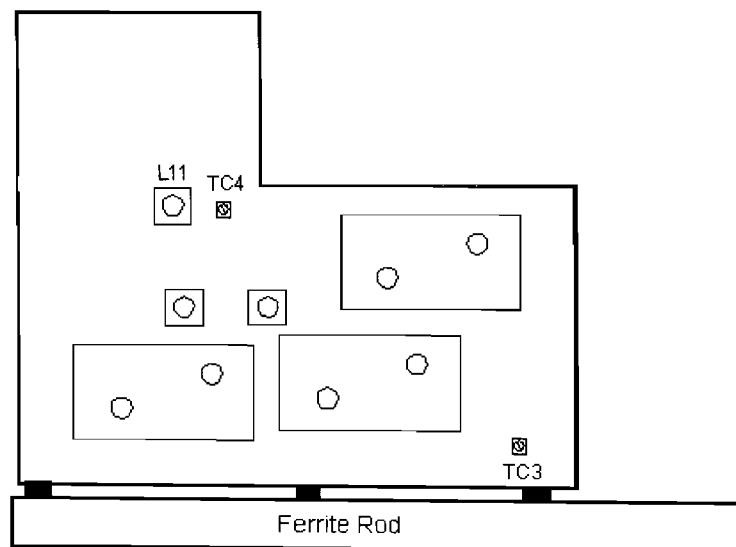
1. **Remove back of cabinet** — Six screws (four on the corners and one each in the battery compartment and handle crease). With the radio face-down and the base towards you, carefully lift the back and rotate the top towards you, being careful not to rip out the wires attached to the back....there should be just enough slack so that you can lay the back down.

2. **Unscrew main circuit board** — You should now be looking down into the guts of the radio. Locate the two screws holding down the main board (the one nearest you) and remove the screws.

3. **Remove the volume control knob** — Pull straight off the knob that controls the volume.

4. **Lift out main circuit board** — Carefully lift the main circuit board up and out of the cabinet (don't forget about the volume control shaft!) gently rotating the top of the board towards you. There are a slew of wires attached to the board, but you'll find that you can get the board component-side up with a little care.

What you should now be looking at is something like the following illustration:



5. **Locate TC3, TC4, and L11 (they are labeled on the PCB)** — Trimmer capacitor 3 (TC3) tweaks the RF input section, and trimmer capacitor 4 (TC4) and inductor 11 (L11) centers and "shapes" the IF passband (at least that's what they appear to do; I don't have a schematic).

6. **Plug AC cord into AC jack** — Be careful not to mess around the AC side of the radio. That is, stay away from the jack and the transformer circuitry...you know why.

7. **Turn on the radio and tune to a weak to medium strength station on the low end of the band and let the radio warm up for about 10 minutes.**

8. **Peak TC3** — Using your alignment tool or insulated mini-screwdriver, slowly rotate TC3 back and forth a few degrees listening for an increase in signal strength. Set TC3 to the point of greatest signal strength. Repeat the process on a high-end station to verify setting. You're now done with the RF tune-up.

9. **Center the IF passband** — Tune back to a weak to medium strength station below about 600 kHz and first adjust L11 for maximum signal, then adjust TC4 for maximum signal. (L11 and TC4 (along with a varactor diode) tune the IF stage and they interact so you have to go back and forth between them; you might want to mark or make a mental note of the original settings so that you can always return to them if you screw up.) Both of these adjustments are MINOR (<45 degrees). If your radio is working at all, you shouldn't have to adjust these components more than 20-30 degrees—don't over-adjust. Repeat the procedure on a station above 1500 kHz. Re-check the low-end station. Repeat the process until you get the best signal on both ends of the band (actually, where on the band you adjust shouldn't matter; this just gives you two spots to tweak and some compromise is generally required). Note that you will hear a "darkening" of the signal as you move the IF passband across the stations' center frequency...this is good, you want "dark and strong."

10. **Check for passband symmetry** — With the settings for TC4 and L11 you arrived at in Step 9, check a number of stations throughout the band for passband symmetry. Do this by tuning to the (center) frequency of a station, rotate the tuning knob 1 kHz above and below the center frequency listening for a slight "brightening" (a faint "hiss") as you tune a kHz or two above and below the station's true frequency (the station's center frequency should be the least bright). Ideally, this "brightening" should be about the same on either side of the center frequency. Further verify passband symmetry by continuing to tune away from the station's frequency until you lose intelligibility; it should be about the same distance (in frequency; about 5 kHz or less, depending on signal strength) above and below the station's center frequency. If you are real lucky, things will be fine and you'll be finished. I generally have to go back and forth between Steps 9 and 10 until I get the passband as close to perfect as I can. With a single-tuned LC circuit, you will never have perfect symmetry but do the best you can.

11. **Re-install the main circuit board (don't forget about the volume control shaft).**

12. **Re-assemble cabinet.**

Note: When you re-check your work the next day (or after a cold start-up), realize that it takes a few minutes for the circuit to warm up...don't panic (or swear) if the passband isn't perfect on start-up.

There you have it. After I perform the preceding tune-up, my CCRadio is really a world-class performer. I generally do the tune-up twice a year (more often when I drop it, hi) and it always comes back a great performer. My benchmark for when to perform the tune-up is a check on channels next to my super-pest, WRNE-980, a 10 kW'er directly across the bay from me that puts a S-9+50 dB signal into my Drake R-8. In the daytime, when my CCRadio needs a tune-up, I can't DX closer than 30 kHz away from 980. After a tune-up, 960 and 1000 kHz are easy and 970 and 990 kHz are audible between the rap songs. The CCRadio is a hot little radio (yeah, a bit overpriced) that is great for domestic DX; split frequency performance would benefit greatly by a narrow filter option. If your CCRadio isn't as hot as you feel it should be, try the preceding tune-up, you might be surprised.

One other tip — If your display starts acting up and the reset button won't fix it completely, remove all power to the radio for a day or two and try the reset again. This has always worked for me.

Questions are welcomed at either: radioplus@pcola.gulf.net or via my website at <http://www.dx-tools.com>

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

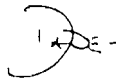
IRCA TIS LIST (2000)

COMPLETELY REVISED BY IRCA'S BILL HARMS TO 9/00, THE IRCA "TIS/HAR LIST" INCLUDES AM/FM AND TV LISTS FROM THE US AND CANADA. THIS 28 PAGE "DX AID" CAN BE YOURS FOR ONLY \$5.00. NON-IRCA/NRC MEMBERS... ADD \$1.00. OVERSEAS... ADD \$0.50. Order your copy today, in US funds payable to Phil Bytheway, from

IRCA Bookstore - 9705 Mary Ave. NW - Seattle, WA 98117-2334

Musings

of the Members



Dave Schmidt NRCMusings@aol.com
P. O. Box 3111
Scranton, PA 18505-0111

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

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

Michael Hawk - Tempe, AZ (thisisat22@yahoo.com)

Hello! I find myself in a new location yet again, having just completed a move from Boulder, CO to Tempe, AZ. As a quick re-intro, I'm 25 years old, work in the telecom/computer networking field, and have been an NRC member for about 11 years (except for a very brief lapse). I'm an Advanced class amateur radio operator, and DX mainly FM and AM, with occasional longwave as locations permit. In the last 5 years, I've lived/DX'ed from Nebraska, metro Washington DC, the San Francisco bay area, Boulder, CO, and now Tempe, AZ. The book is now closed on my Boulder log with 370 heard in about 5 months of off/on DX'ing. Despite a few mixing products and high-splatter locals, Boulder was an excellent MW DX location. I'm still using the Drake R8B with a Kiwa loop, but am now unfortunately living in an apartment. I've been lucky enough to avoid apartments my whole life until now, and I feel for those other DX'ers living in apartments. The noise here is terrible, making daytime DX and early sunset skip very difficult. I guess I had it good in Boulder. There must be hundreds of light timers in the carpools and walkways around the complex that buzz all the time. But I find myself quickly adapting to these new DX challenges and still having a good time. The other challenge for me in the new location will be re-sharpening by Spanish skills. It's been 5 years since my last Spanish classes in school, so it's getting tougher to comprehend those stations. And with so many frequencies having 2 or more mixing Mexicans, it really tests those skills. Anyway, I also had the pleasure of attending the WTFDA convention this last summer in Boise, ID as part of a 6000 mile roadtrip. It was nice to chat with several NRC members who were there, including Tom Bryant, Doug Smith, Rick Lucas, and Paul Swearingen. And switching topics again, I read in a recent "DX'ers Notebook" column a lot of complaints about the performance of the Icom R70. I've owned one for about 5 years, and am pretty happy with it. I upgraded to the R70 from a Kenwood R1000, and definitely considered it a better performer than the R1000. Of course, as has been reported before, the audio is pretty poor, but most of the other base R70 problems are easily overcome by a few simple mods. My view may be a little skewed, too, since I'm trying to sell mine, haha. The Drake R8B beats it audio-wise, and I like the Drake's RS232 connection for computer control of the receiver. Other than that, I think the R70 is a worthy DX machine. 73's

Gerry Thomas - 3635 Chastain Way - Pensacola, FL 32504 <<radioplus@pcola.gulf.net>>

Haven't contributed to this column for a while so I figured it was high time. I just finished running some tests on the current Radio Shack portables (see p. 16)). The only worthy contender in the competition was the DX-398, a pretty darn good little portable for the money (especially if you can get it on sale for \$149). Its two principal drawbacks, in my mind, were its appetite for batteries and its less than optimal audio. Regarding the latter, the audio sounds fine on medium to strong AM stations but its bass-biased passband is counterproductive when trying to dig out an ID on a weak, noise-masked station, a condition that becomes very apparent when comparing it side-by-side with, for example, the CCRadio with its voice-optimized passband. Speaking of the CCRadio (see p. 20), I have been using it for the past year and a half or so for at least 3-4 hours a day and have noticed a couple of peculiarities that have cropped up in the past couple of months. First, the LCD display is getting a bit cantankerous. Initially, segments of the LCD numerals would activate/deactivate, making frequency determination difficult. At first, this could be remedied by simply pressing the reset button recessed in the base of the radio. Now, I've found that I have to take the batteries out of the radio overnight and then hit the reset button to correct the situation. I'm having to do this more and more frequently, so I don't know what's going on. The second thing about the CCRadio is that the recessed grip on the back of the radio that serves as a handle has never provided me with a secure feeling when I've had to move the radio. As a result, I've dropped the darn thing about 4 times since I've had it, the last drop apparently messing up the IF section (I'm getting some feed-through to adjacent channels from my locals) so I guess I'm going to have to go inside and re-align the IF stage. Nonetheless, the CCRadio remains among the very best BCB DX portables around, in my mind, especially for digging out IDs on tough domestic DX. As long as I'm talking about radios (one of my favorite subjects), I've noticed the noise floor on my Drake R-8 has risen a bit in recent months. Anybody have any ideas (before I go inside and start probing around)? As a result, the Palstar R-30 and JRC NRD-535D have taken front and center for DXing. In closing, I

finally got the Radio Plus+ website up and running (it's at <http://www.dx-tools.com>...don't forget the hyphen). After months of wrestling with Frontpage 2000, I gave up on my initial fancy design and went plain-Jane. I've noticed that on some computers the website looks pretty good; on others (that apparently don't support esoteric fonts) it looks crappy. As soon as I get some time, I'll try to fix it up. In the meantime, if you want details about Quantum Loops, a MW phaser, Q-Stick, etc., check out the website. Club members get a 10% discount. 73...GT

Geomagnetic Summary

Phil Bytheway phil-bytheway@teknologic.net
9705 Mary NW
Seattle, WA 98117-2334

High "A" values indicate possible auroral condittons

Geomagnetic Summary October 10 2001 through October 21 2001

GEO - Geomagnetic activity
maf - major flare
mas - major storm
mis - minor storm
pca - polar cap absorption
SA - Solar Activity
spe - satellite proton event
ss - severe storm

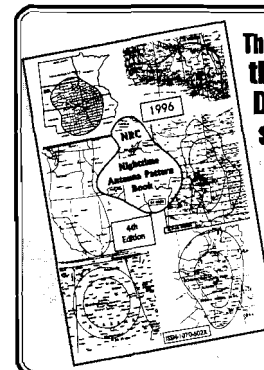
Date	FLUX	A	K	SA	GEO	OTHER
10/10	176	16	1	low-moderate	quiet-active	3
11	179	10	2	low-moderate	quiet-active	7
12	175	17	5	low-moderate	unsettled-mas	7
13	179	29	3	low-moderate	unsettled-active	5
14	180	12	2	low-moderate	quiet-unsettled	3
15	192	8	3	low-moderate	quiet-unsettled	5
16	207	8	2	low-moderate	quiet-unsettled	6
17	217	5	1	low-moderate	quiet-unsettled	3
18	229	6	0	moderate-high	quiet-unsettled	2 maf 0105
19	248	8	2	moderate-high	quiet-unsettled	5 maf 1630/spe
20	245	13	2	moderate-high	quiet-mis	6
10/21	224	33	6	moderate-high	active-mas	7 geo storm 1645

College Sports Networks

Dave Braun dcbraun@delanet.com
863 Allabands Mill Rd.
Camden Wyoming DE 19934-2132

Network listings for college team sports stations

One more listing ...
MISSISSIPPI STATE
(<http://www.msstateathletics.com> 1,5604,1_27_0_663,00.html)
570 WVMI-MS



The NRC Nighttime Antenna Pattern Book, 5th Edition is the perfect mate to the NRC AM Log, as the NPB provides DX'ers with up-to-date maps of all (except Class IV) stations with nighttime operations. Convenient to use: 3-hole punched for standard binders. Still only \$18.95 to U. S. and Canadian members; \$22.95 to U. S. and Canadian non-NRC members. Airmail to members in Europe (except Italy): \$29.00. All others, please contact us for exact pricing.
Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax)