

DX News

Serving DX'ers since 1933



Volume 71, No. 21 - March 1, 2004 (ISSN 0737-1659)

Inside ...

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2 .. AM Switch | 8 .. DX'er's Notebook |
| 3 .. Farm Reporting Disappearing | 11 .. DDXA |
| 4 .. DDXD-East | 12 .. IDXA |
| 7 .. IDXD | 13 .. WILM Radio Tuned to News |
| | 15 .. Musings of the Members |

CPC Test Calendar

WRIB	RI	1220	daily	0255-0305
WTOP	DC	1500	March 14	0000-0100
WXHL	MD	1550	March 29	0001-0100

WXHL-1550 ... Elkton, MD will conduct a DX test from 12:01-1:00 am EST Monday, March 29. The test will consist of numerous voice ID's and forgotten '70's and 8'0's Top 40 music and a few test tones. Currently, the engineer is uncertain of just what power the test will be run at; the station is normally 1000/1 w U3. The engineer reports he is unable to respond to QSL requests or reception reports. (Arranged by Lynn Hollerman for the IRCA CPC.)

From the Publisher ... Eric Conchie passed away on February 1 at the age of 44, according to an e-mail received last week from Mrs. Marion Conchie, his mother. Eric had just assumed the duties of NRC Contest Manager; he was a former employee of Enbridge Gas of Toronto, Ontario, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Gateway Community Health Centre of Tweed, where he lived. Our sincerest condolences to his mother and family.

Mrs. Conchie enquired about disposition of the contest entries Eric had received, and I asked her to send them to me, so I should be easily able to formulate the tallies for December and January. Also, I'll take over the post of NRC Contest Manager temporarily only, so if you're interested in the position, please apply immediately, preferably by e-mail, as I already have heard from two individuals who are interested in taking over the program and will select the manager very soon.

NRC 2004 Convention ... Board of Directors Chairman Ken Chatterton is calling for comments about possibly shifting the date of this year's convention in the Rochester, NY area and future NRC conventions from the traditional Labor Day weekend to another date, with a week earlier being mentioned as a possible consideration. As convention host Scott Fybush is making a final hotel choice

and other preparations, those interested in voicing their opinions should e-mail him <<scott@fybush.com>> or call (585-442-5411, 11 AM-11 PM ET, prepaid only) no later than March 8. The scheduling of future conventions will be discussed at this year's convention, although a final decision will not be made until perhaps next October and after a call for comments is published in both DXN and DXAS. Chatterton said.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 71

Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date	Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date
22.	Feb. 27	Mar. 8	27.	June 4	June 14
23.	Mar. 12	Mar. 22	28.	July 2	July 12
24.	April 2	April 12	29.	Aug. 6	Aug. 16
25.	April 16	April 26	30.	Sept. 10	Sept. 20
26.	May 7	May 17			

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the February 27, 1954 DXN: Bernie Duffy, Staten Island, NY reported that R. Tangier International-1232 had sent him two cards in an envelope, one in French showing the transmitter, and the other a folder in English that verified his reception and explained that they carried French, Spanish, Arabic, and English programming.

25 years ago ... from the March 5, 1979 DXN: John Kromka's Contests column listed Mike Heppe as the overall leader with 31 points, followed by Larry Van Horn, 27; Dan Gradin, 26; Paul Mount, 24; Bryan Lee, 13, Harold Cox, 11, and Dan Lester, Bill Hardy, Dave Yocis, and Ron Schiller each with fewer than 10. Gradin managed to log WDMG-860, Douglas, GA, from his home in Oregon, to boost him to first place in the fifth contest - but ironically, fourth-place finisher Paul Mount was the winner of this contest, as Gradin, Van Horn, and Heppe had already won earlier contests.

10 years ago ... from the February 28, 1994 DXN: Receptions from 1020-Turks and Caicos dominated IDXD reports, with reception reported by Bill Townshend, DC; and Morris Sorensen, Scarborough, ON. At the time, the station was broadcasting from a ship which had been "busted" by the FCC in Charleston SC for running an illegal equipment test on 7415 kHz in December. An announcer said that the station would broadcast "legally" from Belize, but Jim Renfrew reported that his QSL came from Turks and Caicos Islands.

AM Switch

Bill Hale w_r_hale@sbcglobal.net
 6124 Roaring Springs Drive
 North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	Old call		New call
1260	WAMS	DE Newark	WNWK
1640	KMMZ	OK Enid	KFNY



GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

880	WCBS	NY	New York - Granted Auxiliary Facilities of U1 35000/26000 from a 300' tower it shares with WFAN-660.
1010	KIQN	UT	Tooele - Grant covers an increase in nighttime and critical power levels. When built, will be U8 50000/132 CH 30000 after constructing two new towers at a new site. The license is also modified from a commercial to noncommercial station.
1130	WQFX	MS	Gulfport - Granted CP to increase power to become D1 1000/0.
1400	KLIN	NE	Lincoln - CP covers an increase in power to become U1 1000/1000.

CPs ON THE AIR

810	KSWV	NM	Santa Fe - Now on with U1 5000/10.
900	WFIA	KY	Louisville - Now on with U1 1000/164.
1080	KNDK	ND	Langdon - Now on with U1 1000/45.
1110	KAOI	HI	Kihei - Remains U1 5000/5000, but from a new location: N20-49-21 W156-27-15.

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1060	KNLV	NE	Ord - Applies to decrease day power and add night service. Would be U1 650/23.
------	------	----	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

APPLICATIONS DISMISSED

760	KCCV	KS	Overland Park - Wanted to add night service. Would have been U4 6000/200.
-----	------	----	---------------------------------------------------------------------------

ENGINEERING AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS SUBMITTED

840	KPMP	CA	Modesto - New station has a CP for U4 4000/10000. This amendment asks for U7 4000/5000 CH 4000.
860	KTRB	CA	Modesto - Station has a CP to move to San Francisco with U4 50000/40000. This amendment seeks U7 50000/50000 CH 50000.
1060	K	NV	Sparks - New station has a CP for U13 1000/750 CH 1000. This amendment asks for U12 24000/750 CH 24000.
1230	KYPA	CA	Los Angeles - Station is licensed for U1 1000/1000. They have a CP for U1 540/540 from a new site. This amendment bumps the powers back up to U1 900/1000 from another new site.

LICENSE RENEWALS GRANTED

1050	WROS	FL	Jacksonville	1410	WHBT	FL	Tallahassee
1220	WIBQ	FL	Sarasota	1560	WINT	FL	Melbourne
1340	KTMP	UT	Heber City	1580	WPJK	SC	Orangeburg

ODDS AND ENDS

- Back in Issue 18 we proclaimed that WLNR-1230 Kinston, North Carolina had gone silent. They may have, but not permanently. Transmitter problems??? Maybe. They were heard on February 13 at 1110 with Spanish-language programming, a female announcer, ranchera music. Also heard was a frequent 'ID' that sounded like 'Radio Local.' The signal was on/off, but fair, when on from Greenville, North Carolina, about 10 miles away. An open carrier was later noted while in Kinston at 1930, and off air/no signal later at 2230.
- We had previously reported that WVCC-720 was all-sports from Fox Sports Network. It turns out

they do have Fox Sports, but not full-time. They also have mainstream talk with Rush Limbaugh and Paul Harvey News and well as local and regional talk shows. Their slogan is "The Voice".

- Stations reported to be silent: WKJN-1440 Carbondale, Pennsylvania and WAZL-1490 Hazelton, Pennsylvania, both off pending overhauls by their new owners, and WNWK-1260 Dover, Delaware. And on a happier note, WDTM-1150 Selmer, Tennessee is reported to back on the air with a sports format and ESPN programming.
- Thanks go to: Mike Hardester, Wayne Heinen, Herb Newberry, and Dave Schmidt.

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

1230 kHz:							Miles		
WIKB	MI	Iron River	Les Rayburn	Helena, AL			889		
Totals:			1230	1240	1340	1400	1450	1490	Total
Les Rayburn	Helena, AL		14	10	12	9	10	7	62

Local farm reports disappear from radio

Omaha World-Herald - via Ernie Wesolowski

DES MOINES (AP)- The familiar and trusted voice of the local farm broadcaster is fading to a whisper - even in the heartland.

The demise of the family farmer, declines in agricultural advertising revenues and the consolidation of radio station ownership have quieted that voice, which for generations has been a daily staple for farmers.

Farm broadcasters who once covered local communities are now covering entire regions, and radio stations are using more syndicated farm programming. Local coverage, the kind farmers used to listen to in their tractors or during their midday meal, has all but disappeared.

In the past month, WGN-AM in Chicago and WCCO in Minneapolis both dumped long-running farm programs that have delivered weather and market news for farmers and other listeners.

At WGN, Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong will no longer have their show at the noon hour but will file reports through the day. WCCO's "Voice of Ag," Roger Strom, has been moved to a much smaller sister station.

"A local Paul Harvey is what you had when farm broadcasting was at its zenith. And that's what is fading away," said Ted Haller of Osborn & Barr Communications in St. Louis, a nationally known agricultural marketer.

Farmers are turning to the Internet for market quotes and using other technologies to get data and information, said Jim Evans, a retired professor of agricultural communications at the University of Illinois.

But farm broadcasting "has a personal dimension to it that other media can't match," he said.

Nowhere has the program cuts been more felt than in Iowa, which has had the highest number of listeners tuning in.

Media giant Clear Channel Communications Inc. has reduced the number of its farm broadcast-

ers in the state from nine to three - all in Des Moines - as it acquired stations.

Iowa is "one of the real fertile crescents of farm broadcasting," said Ken Root, executive director of the National Association of Farm Broadcasters. "But changes in ownership and revenue reductions in farm advertising has caused a number of stations to reduce their number of farm broadcasters or eliminate farm broadcasting locally."

Root has experienced the changes firsthand, starting 30 years ago at an Oklahoma City radio station that reached the whole state. When the station stopped carrying farm programming in 1980, he started a network of syndicated programming that served radio stations in Kansas.

Through the 1990's he hosted a syndicated farm talk program that ran on 125 stations nationwide. Now he oversees the farm broadcasting association, which has seen membership dwindle from 217 in 1997 to 150 this year.

Dix Harper, the unofficial historian of farm broadcasting, remembered interviewing farmers in the 1940's when he worked at Cedar Rapids station WMT. He was shocked when the station gave up its farm programming in 2002 after being bought by Clear Channel.

The biggest factor, Haller said, has been the dramatic decline in agriculture advertising that began in 1999. He said the industry spent \$40 million that year, a figure that has been cut in half as agricultural chemical companies have merged and spent less on advertising.

While media conglomerates have cut the number of farm reporters, he said in some cases the programming has improved.

"Do farmers want to hear their local broadcasters in one of their neighbor's barns talking about yields! Absolutely," Haller said. "But what's more important than hearing that for the farmer is the daily markets and weather that he's got to get."

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

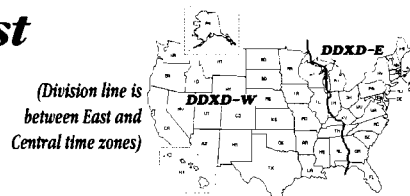
Domestic DX Digest

West: Harry Helms w7hlh1@cox.net

8725 Raindrop Canyon Ave. - Las Vegas, NV 89129-7667

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrcdxas.org

PO Box 4014 - Clifton Park, NY 12065-0850



(Division line is
between East and
Central time zones)

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

From Harry, in between unpacking boxes ... Since most DDXD-West contributors are on this list and submit loggings via e-mail. . . .

As noted in the previous *DX News*, my new mailing address is 8725 Raindrop Canyon Dr., Las Vegas, NV, 89129. However, I'm now beyond DSL range and am on cable modem, so my new e-mail effective immediately is w7hlh1@cox.net. My old ak6c@earthlink.net e-mail will remain active for a couple of more months before I close it down.

There is no DDXD-West this week, but at least I have two good reasons: 1) moving into my new home, and 2) getting remarried last Friday, to the former Dianna Berman! All loggings received for this week will be included in next week's column.

DDXD-East

DDXD-East Challenges!

Maine and Canadian Maritimes (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland) - Listen February 25 - March 9, due March 10
State/Province Capitals (must be City of License!) - Listen March 10 - 30, due March 31

REPORTERS

MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto - Grundig YB-400PE, Panasonic RF-2200.
PC-VA Perry Crabill, Winchester - Drake R8, Kiwa Loop, 100' wire.
MH-NC Mike Hardester, Jacksonville - ICOM R-70, and Radio West 22" Ferrite Loop.
MH*NC Mike Hardester, on various highways in Eastern NC - Car Radio.
DH-NJ Dave Hochfelder, Highland Park - Sony ICF-2010 with Quantum QX Pro Loop.
IEN-GA Ira Elbert New, III, Watkinville - 1996 Isuzu Rodeo Premium Audio System 8200.
IEN*GA Ira Elbert New, III, Watkinville - AIWA CSD-FD89.
HN-GA Herb Newberry, Milledgeville - Kenwood R-5000, Quantum Phaser, 2 Longwires, Quantum QX Pro Loop.
AO-FL Al Ogrizovich, Jacksonville - Crane Radio Plus, Justice Loop.
JV-NY John Vervoort, Bronx - Grundig YB-400PE, Sony ICF-7600GR.
JW-MD Jim Weber, Elkridge - Grundig S35Q.
JW*MD Jim Weber, On the Beltway in Maryland - Ford Focus Car Radio.
JW-PA Jim Weber, Lancaster - Ford Focus Car Radio.
JW-VA Jim Weber, Falls Church - Ford Focus Car Radio.

CLEAR CHANNEL CHALLENGE - 1200 kHz

1200 WKOX MA Framingham - 2/13 1700 - ID on the hour. (JW-PA)
WCHB MI Taylor - 2/13 0810 - hefty IBOC-enhanced pest with Black History Month promo, ad for Rowan's Pontiac-GMC, ID by female host: "and now back to Inside Detroit on AM 1200 WCHB", discussing why a proposed casino in Romulus is a bad idea. (MKB-ON)
WTLA NY North Syracuse - 2/12 1905 - a rarely heard surprise under WKST with "WTLA Central New York accu-weather" local weather, ad for 84 Lumber. (MKB-ON)
WSJS NC Winston-Salem - 2/11 1755 - Huge ID, "news for the triad". At 1814 announcement for NC wine festival. (JW-VA)
WRKK PA Hughesville - 2/11 1655 - over almost graveyard-like mess with dual ID: "news and talk on 1400 and 1200 AM WRKK", into Michael Medved show, talking about Iraq's WMDs (or lack of them!). (MKB-ON)
WKST PA New Castle - 2/11 1902 - over nulled WAGE with "Tri-county report" local news, ad for Jameson Chocolates on Wilmington Road and Route 18 in New

Castle, slogan "ESPN radio keeps you in the game... news radio 1200 WKST". (MKB-ON)

+ 2/13 1759 - PSA for New Castle Playhouse with "Annie, Get Your Gun". In the clear. (JW-PA)

WOAI TX San Antonio - 2/12 0003 - once heard almost nightly, now an occasional fair-to-poor at best with local weather "from the WOAI Weather Command", promo for woai.com web site, ad for Security Service Federal Credit Union. (MKB-ON)

+ 2/12 0500 - ID on the hour, in OK for a couple minutes. (JW*MD)

WAGE VA Leesburg - 2/11 1800 - ID, advertisement for Chandler & Sons automotive then ad for Children's Inn connected to National Institutes of Health. "In The Pits" racing radio program in well in Silver Spring at 1820. (JW*MD)
1200 AM WAGE THE SOUND CHOICE
+ 2/11 1913 - dominant with ID during time-out of Fordham v. George Washington University basketball game: "you're listening to Colonials basketball on the WAGE GWU radio network". (MKB-ON)

DX TESTS

1220 WRIB RI Providence - 2/15 0255 - Checked for DX Test, but noted only WHK dominating frequency. (MH-NC)
1520 WQMA MS Marks - 2/15 0102 - Code ID into classic rock DX test. (AO-FL)
+ 2/15 0125 - DX Test heard, poor with WWKB clobbering the frequency. UNID female vocals noted. Managed to copy segments of code at 3 different times, and will send report. 734.5 miles from my QTH. (MH-NC)

STATION NOTES

880 WRRZ NC Wallace - 2/13 1043 - "La Super Mexicana," slogan, with Spanish language programming, easy listening ballads, and "musica romantica" apparently for Valentines Day. Excellent signal - at approximately 20 miles from station. (MH*NC)
1230 WLNK NC Kinston - 2/13 1110 - Not silent, but possible transmitter problems. Noted with Spanish language programming, woman announcer, ranchera music, and fair signal. Frequent "ID" that sounded like "Radio Local." Signal on/off. Noted open carrier while driving through Kinston at 1930, and off air/no signal on return trip through Kinston at 2230. (MH*NC)

PRESUMED AND UNID

540 WFLP FL Pine Hills - 2/4 2200 - presumed with CBS News time pip at TOH followed by a medical infomercial. Moderate, steady signal with no trace of semi-local WLIE-NY. (JV-NY)
620 WHEN NY Syracuse - 2/4 2209 - presumed with Jim Bohannon, floating under local WSNR-NJ. (JV-NY)
630 CHLT PQ Sherbrooke - 2/4 2220 - presumed with FF talk. Moderate, steady signal and alone on frequency. // 730-CKAC. (JV-NY)
730 CKAC PQ Montreal - 2/4 2220 - presumed with FF talk. Moderate, steady signal and alone on frequency. // 630-CHLT. (JV-NY)
1390 UNID - 2/4 2240 - continuous country music. Mainly on top mixing with presumed WZHF-VA with SS. (JV-NY)
1580 WPGC MD Morningside - 1/31 1706 - 301 area code mentioned in phone number followed by a real estate program. Fair signal, very steady and alone. Most likely still on day facilities of 50,000 watts. (JV-NY)

STATION LOGGINGS

590 WROW NY Albany - 2/7 1734 - "On newstalk radio, AM five-ninety WROW", followed by "The ... Show" and a singing "WROW" ID. Fair signal, very steady atop NJ HAR WTFC979. Most likely on day facilities of 5,000 watts and a probable switch to night power of 1,000 watts at 1739, when station became barely audible and signal eventually lost. I've been trying to catch this station from the NYC area since 2000. (JV-NY)
620 WRJZ TN Knoxville - 02/14 2255 - Religious material buried in the slop, but a strong come-on at TOH ID. "Joy 62, WRJZ Knoxville." (IEN*GA)
790 WNIS VA Norfolk - 2/6 2034 - "news on the hour and on the half-hour on newsradio

- 820 **WXTR MD** Frederick - 2/17 2350 - Fair to very good at peaks with WNYC phased. Parallel to WTOP; IDs as WTOP. New. (DH-NJ)
- 900 **WLSI KY** Pikeville - 2/9 1734 - "Classic country WLSI" liners. (AO-FL)
- 990 **WNOX TN** Knoxville - 2/12 1756 - Sports Talk program and local Knoxville spots. (AO-FL)
- 1010 **WFGW NC** Black Mountain - 2/14 1808 - up quick with southern gospel mention of WFGW and fade out before local 1010 came back on air. (AO-FL)
- 1020 **WIBG NJ** Ocean City - 2/14 1655 - Good with Christian music and ID. New. (DH-NJ)
- 1100 **WHLI NY** Farmington - 2/14 1700 - Good with nostalgia music and ID. New. (DH-NJ)
- 1130 **WPYB NC** Benson - 2/13 0950 - with slogan as "The Big Y"; talk by male announcer; local spots and into SRN News at TOH. (MH-NC)
- 1160 **WBOB KY** Florence - 2/12 0608 - News "News talk 1160 WBOB" also a liner with mention of Cincinnati. (AO-FL)
- 1180 **WZQZ GA** Trion - 2/7 1615 - "music of your life" - type music. IDs at TOH only. Way in background, but listenable, behind WVLZ. (HN-GA)
- WVLZ TN** Knoxville - 2/7 1615 - fading in and out with ESPN college basketball show. New. (HN-GA)
- WHAM NY** Rochester - 2/7 1800 - fading in and out as LSS approached. Newscast, then "newsradio 1180, W-H-A-M." SS mixing in, VOA "Radio Marti". Nightly visitor. (HN-GA)
- VOA FL** Marathon - 2/7 1900 - busting in with 100 kw blockbuster signal. Contemporary SS:MEX music, along with some pro-American pro-liberty propaganda. Local-like signal, WHAM in background. (HN-GA)
- 1290 **WJBR DE** Wilmington - 2/14 1730 - Good. Fox Sports. Local ads for Cox Auto and Wilmington College. New. (DH-NJ)
- 1390 **WFBL NY** Syracuse - 2/7 2254 - "Central New York's talk and information station, AM thirteen-ninety WFBL Syracuse." Mainly on top of frequency over some UNIDs. (JV-NY)
- 1420 **WLIS CT** Old Saybrook - 2/14 1800 - Fair to good at peaks in jumble with slop from very local WCTC on 1450. House of Blues Radio Hour. ID. New. (DH-NJ)
- 1470 **WBTX VA** Broadway - 2/17 1700 - over WTKO/WKAP mix with top of hour ID: "this is WBTX Broadway-Timberville, your station for inspiration and your home for southern gospel music" into (well, duhhhh!) a southern gospel song. (MKB-ON)
- 1480 **WJFC TN** Jefferson City - 2/14 2228 - Fading in and out; called itself "The Voice of Southern Gospel"; ID'd with call letters only. Religious music, then later C&W with Dolly Parton, George Jones, and others. Daytimer after hours. (PC-VA)
- 1500 **WLQV MI** Detroit - 1/29 2204 - "right here on The Ministry Station, WLQV." WTOP signed off at 2200 for maintenance. Fair signal, very steady. Not bad for a 5,000 watt directional-north nighttime antenna pattern. (JV-NY)
- 1670 **WMWR GA** Warner Robins - 2/13 2125 - poked through with "1670 WMWR" ID into "Family Minute", presumably a Christian commentary, but was lost to noise and WTDY. (MKB-ON)
- 1690 **WSWK GA** Avondale Estates - 02/14 1610 - Country music. "1690 on your dial, WSWK Avondale Estates, on-air with equipment testing." Steady signal of low strength. (IEN-GA)
- 1700 **KQXX TX** Brownsville - 2/13 0535 - Oldies with "Oldies Radio" & Oldies 105.5" liners. (AO-FL)

TIS/HAR

- 1610 **WPAS** _____ - 2/13 0630 - This TIS continues to be heard on a somewhat regular basis, poor to fair level, with male announcer: "You have tuned in to WPAS (about 90% certain of letters), 16-10 AM, the emergency broadcast station... weather reports... this message will repeat." Loop is approximately 25 seconds in duration with a 5 second delay between announcements. I've also logged this at home with a NW/SE loop. (MH*NC)
- 1630 **WPQJ970 NJ** North Plainfield - 2/18 0020 - good with WTEL phased. North Plainfield Office of Emergency Management. New. (DH-NJ)

International DX Digest

Bruce Conti nrcidxd@aol.com
46 Ridgefield Drive
Nashua, NH 03062-1174

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

The mid-winter DX blues continue...

Transatlantic DX

- 549 **unIDs** FEB 20 2340 - Two hets against 550 WDEV / WDDZ mix. [Conti-NH]
- 567 **IRELAND** RTE Tullamore FEB 20 2320 - Strong signal, weak audio; folk music, interference from 570 R.Reloj Cuba RR code IDs and domestics. [Conti-NH]

Pan-American DX

- 670 **CUBA** CMBA R.Rebelde, Arroyo Arenas FEB 14 0145 - Excellent over Chicago. Auroral conditions. Political speechifying with applause. New. [Hochfelder-NJ]
- 1140 **MEXICO** XEMR Monterrey FEB 13 0500 - Fair to good at peaks. Religious talk; clear call ID with reverb at top of the hour. [Hochfelder-NJ]

Contributors

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; R8B, MWDX-5, 15/23/15-m Ewe antennas east/west and south.
David Hochfelder, Highland Park NJ; Sony ICF-2010 with Quantum QX Pro loop.
<david.hochfelder@rutgers.edu>

International News

AUSTRALIA: Melbourne's second 24-hour sports mediumwave station opened officially on Monday January 18, 2004; "1116 SEN on the AM dial," operated by the *Sports Entertainment Network*, using 1116 kHz. It replaces the failed talkback 3AK which had only 1.2% of Melbourne's listeners. It uses 2 kW from a site in the northern Melbourne suburb of Eltham. SEN has a three-year lease, commencing November 2003, on the former 3AK license for 3.55 million Australian dollars, from radio operator Data and Commerce limited. The primary target audience is males, aged 25 to 54, and it will compete directly with the radio-focused *Sport-927*, and with football-focused 3AW (1278 kHz) and *ABC Melbourne* (774 kHz). Melbourne now has 18 mediumwave stations, all operating 24 hours daily: 621 *ABC R.National*, 693 *R.Magic*, 774 *ABC Melbourne*, 855 *3CR Community Radio*, 927 *Sport-927*, 1026 *ABC Newsradio*, 1116 *SEN - Sports Entertainment Network*, 1179 *3RPH Radio for the Print Handicapped*, 1224 *Special Broadcasting Service* (Ethnic), 1278 *3AW R.Melbourne*, 1322 *Geelong* (ethnic Chinese), 1377 *3MP Easy Listening*, 1422 *3XY* (Greek), 1593 *3RG* (Italian), 1611 *3XX Western Suburbs*, 1620 *3GB Eastern Suburbs*, 1629 *R.Salsa* (ethnic multi-lingual), and 1638 *3ME* (ethnic - Arabic). The *ABC Newsradio* network relays the *R.Australia* Asia Pacific English service on Mondays to Fridays from 1000 to 1030 during the summer months, 1100-1130 during the winter. [Bob Padula, EDXP, via Steve Ponder N5WBI]

73 and Good DX!



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 **\$16.95** 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)

DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

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

More on the various issues of taping our DX...picking up from responses to Les Rayburn's notes on "Sound Forge 7.0" in our last column and other software issues, then back to more of the basics.

Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

I use 32 kHz, 32 kBits Stereo because that's the minimum needed to get Amazing Slow Downer to accept. (It would accept mono)

I'm also planning to query the folks at highcriteria.com about whether they make something which does what I want or if they know of something they'd recommend, because the money I spent on TR was the best value I think I've ever found in the hobby.

Charles Hutton <charlesh3@msn.com>

The ubiquitous CoolEdit will slow down recordings at - I think - from any recording rate. I haven't tried em all but everyone I have had the need to try has worked just fine.

And it sure is cheaper than buying an editor program, a slow-down program, etc.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

I believe that CoolEdit is now Adobe Audition, and that the going price is \$299 and it has a gazillion features I don't need, and is, from the accounts of most users I've heard from, not easy to learn.

Fortunately, a couple of the other suggestions I've received look promising.

Chuck Hutton <charlesh3@msn.com>

You're so right. I totally spaced that Syntrillium is no more. Erase my advice, please. It's such a shame that a nice package like CoolEdit got bought out and the price was more than tripled.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

The last time I checked out the most current version of CoolEdit before the acquisition - probably early last Summer - that was also the going price for it from Syntrillium. It might've been \$250 or so, but it was more than I had any intention of paying. That's why I opted for Amazing Slow Downer, not fully realizing how much I would want to be able to save changes and that ASD wouldn't do it.

Frederick R. Vobbe <fredv@nrcdxas.org>

I have to agree, Les (about Sound Forge 7.0). I use SF as well, along with Vegas Video and some of their other software. The only downside is the cost. However, you get what you pay for.

I'm not sure if Diamond Cut would do as good of a noise reduction as NR 2 in Sound Forge.

Brian Davis <brian@tophour.net>

That's right...CoolEdit was also \$299 before the sale from Syntrillium to Adobe. There was also a stripped down version of CE several years ago that sold for under \$100, but it was discontinued well before the sale to Adobe.

I don't know if anyone's mentioned it, but there's a nice little freeware program called Audacity...I used it on my home PC before I bought CoolEdit, and it works pretty well. Do a search for it at download.com and it should come right up.

Duane Whittingham <radiodude@logonix.net>

While its not the best, I also would mention Audacity, hey its free. It can edit wavs and mp3 files. I don't know a lot about it tho. <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>

Paul Smith, W4KNX, Sarasota, FL <paul@amtower.com>

There were two versions of Cool Edit. Cool Edit 2000 was the lower priced version that had optional plugins. IIRC, it was around \$100.00. This has been discontinued by Adobe.

If you have CE 2K, you can upgrade to the full Audition which is actually Cool Edit Pro. A very good value for about \$100.00.

The only thing still available is what used to be Cool Edit Pro, now called Audition.

I have the upgrade... works well.

Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

In looking over the website in some detail, I find nothing which suggests (audacity) has the Equalizer function, which is the feature I'm most interested in along with the ability to save the result.

Mike Westfall, N6KUY, Los Alamos, NM <mwdx@gentoo.net>

It has FFT filtering, which you can adjust graphically. It is a bit cumbersome though, and took me a while to figure it out.

Tom Kenny, NJ2DX <nj2dx@yahoo.com>

Russ, Maybe I'm missing something but for the programs that don't save a file couldn't you just use "Software" for the Recording source as opposed to Sound Board in Total Recorder to save it. Not sure that it would really be a digital to digital transformation but that might work for saving the cleaned up audio.

I've used it to convert Real Audio files into MP3 by playing the audio with Real Player and having TR recording into an MP3 format file with the audio source being from "software". However of course this has to be done in real time duration again as opposed to a digital to digital file converter. I've done the same thing for recording web casts for listening to at a later time. So it seems that any program that produces audio can be recorded via this means however I'm a newbie to this stuff so I might be mistaken. "Your mileage may vary:-)"

Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

That sure sounds like it's worth a try! I'd also thought of taking the output from the desktop PC and running it over to the laptop and recording the altered output there since I have TR on both machines.

Thanks!

Les Rayburn, N1LF <les@highnoonfilm.com>

Silent Bob is an audio recording software program that can be very helpful for recording during "live" sessions at the dials.

You determine the maximum file size, (I have mine set for about 5 megs) which works out to about 2 minutes in length. You start the software and it automatically "loops" on itself...recording the last two minutes over and over. If you hit the "save" button, it saves the last two minutes of received audio and then starts a new file. This is very useful on GY stations, where an ID may suddenly pop up. When I used a tape recorder, I'd often miss this while having to hit the "start button". Ditto for Total Recorder.

With Silent Bob, you don't have this problem. It appears that the professional version of Total Recorder V 4.4 may have added this feature, but I haven't had a check to play with it since upgrading today. Best of all, Silent Bob is free. You can download it at: <http://www.silent-bob.de/en/index.htm>

The software records 44khz, 16 bit Stereo files and the sample rate cannot be changed. Also it will not record MP3, OGG, or other compression codec. That is it's only fault...but by limiting the recording time to about two minutes, the file sizes are no problem.

My "live" time at the dials is very limited, but I always have Silent Bob running to make sure that rare one doesn't get away!

Charles Hutton <charlesh3@msn.com>

Les: You'll find that feature (pre-recording mode) in the standard edition too.

Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

I mentioned last week that I was planning to email the developers / distributors of TotalRecorder asking about equalization software.

I received an answer which says that they do indeed plan on incorporating that into a future release of TR. I can't say whether or not it will be the next release, but certainly it is in their game plan.

Steve McDonald, VE7SL <jsm@gulfislands.com>

I am setting up the digital timer to do some graveyard recording tonight. If you do this, I would be interested in which 2 or 3 minute segments you find to be the most beneficial.

Gerry Bishop, Niceville, FL <gerryb4991@cox.net>

Two minutes prior until seven minutes after the hour. This seems to be the best times for an ID to emerge, or a local commercial to appear. Nine minutes may seem like a lot, but for many stations, five of that will be network news.

Russ Edmunds, Blue Bell, PA <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>

I use :58 - :07. I rarely do BOH, but when I do I run :27 - :36

ever else looks interesting in Delaware.

It also plugs listeners into the world. Program director/anchor/reporter [and NRC member] Allan Loudell runs up huge phone bills calling seldom-quoted experts and on-the-spot witnesses (including, frequently, reporters for *The Sun*) for national and global news events. During the Iraq war, Loudell put a Baghdad hotel clerk on the air as bombs fell, and after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks he talked with Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir about his interview with terrorist Osama bin Laden.

This sort of coverage happens every day. Last Tuesday, the WILM Noon News Update, broadcast from an underground studio graced by dented acoustic tile, plywood desktops, and stained carpet, offered self-produced reports on a proposed slots parlor, affordable homes in Wilmington, and new accountants for New Castle County.

But it also included interviews with a *Newsweek* reporter about the CIA, with a Swiss journalist about the latest Middle East violence, and with an Arizona radio journalist and the U.S. correspondent for the *Irish Times* about the fatal hit-and-run traffic accident allegedly involving Phoenix Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas J. O'Brien.

Practically every wall in WILM's studios and offices is plastered with awards. This month, the station captured 11 prizes, including best newscast, best election coverage, best investigative journalism, best sports reporting, and best arts and culture reporting, at the meeting of the Philadelphia chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

"I've been here 15 years because I can do stuff that I couldn't do in Baltimore or Philadelphia," Loudell said.

Wilmington has no locally-based TV news team except a small public broadcasting operation. The city also has relatively few locally-based radio stations, which may help WILM survive as an independent.

"One of the great things about the Wilmington market is there are not a lot of radio stations in this market," said Pete Booker, president and chief executive of Delmarva Broadcasting, parent of WDEL, which has a news/talk format but a smaller

news operation than WILM's. "As a result the revenue pie doesn't get sliced that thinly."

Of WILM, Booker adds, "You're not going to find another station around that makes more efficient use of their resources than they have."

If "efficient" means profitable, it's the wrong word.

E.B. Hawkins, who runs WILM's day-to-day operations, declined to disclose financial details other than to say the station takes in "a couple million bucks" in revenue but "never enough. It is a constant struggle."

Asked about profitability, he says the station has "broken even for 50 years," since his late father, Ewing B. Hawkins, acquired it in 1948.

Fratrick, the media consultant, estimated WILM had \$1.9 million in revenue last year, which ranked it seventh out of 13 stations in the Wilmington market. In listenership, WILM ranks fourth, Fratrack said.

"This station does do decently in that market," Fratrack said, particularly for its size. But WILM's news and talk format "tends to be an expensive format to program."

WILM could boost profits by doing what hundreds of other stations have done: pare staff and pipe in cheap, syndicated programming. Alternatively, the Hawkinses could simply sell out to a corporate owner that would probably cut costs, but they show no signs of doing that.

"We're really not a big money-making concern," said Sally Hawkins. "I mean, I've got 40 people on my payroll at a 1,000-watt AM, for God's sake. It gets to be a cause, you know. I hate to say it. I never thought I'd get so carried away. Nobody else does what we do."

Radio-station brokers representing potential corporate buyers keep calling.

"What they really want is the cash flow so that they're in a better position to go public or to produce a return to shareholders," E.B. Hawkins said. "They certainly don't have an interest in the news. None."

"The brokers say, I'm not sure you understand how much they'll pay. And I say, I'm not sure you understand how much I'll turn down."

Musings

of the Members

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.

Here is the NRC column which has become the Timex of all the columns; we just take a lickin' and keep on tickin'! When sending your items along (yes, you CAN send them via regular mail or e-mail), please keep them radio related, something you think would be of interest to the others. Here we go:

Doug Beard (KF0VF) - 604th 7th Street - Springfield, IA 52336

This will miss Dave's January target for central states reports. I was born a week late and never caught up. At least Dave got me to write! But to further demonstrate my devotion to procrastination, I'm going to borrow from a MUSING I didn't finish 5 years ago. This portion may still be of interest to club members. "A suggestion in DX NEWS #8 that KXEL-1540 had new towers led me into an interesting conversation with engineer Stan Siems (WB0EMJ). The two towers have not moved from their Dysart site. The move was on paper; the geographical coordinates were off about 500 feet, and Stan corrected them. This was in conjunction with new guy wires and a new Harris solid state transmitter. KXEL's output power had been low for 4 or 5 years. The old transmitter wouldn't hold up when fully loaded. Each tower is 280 feet high, nearly one-half wavelength, and is aided by top loading that consists of 30 feet of each guy wire plus a wire connecting the guys at their insulators. Stan's 1999 goal is to rebuild the ground system. About half of it is bad, due to years of cattle tearing up the field." Back to 2004. Stan evidently completed the ground system work. At my location 45 miles E of the towers, KXEL pushes the S meter many more dB than they used to, and the rapid selective fading that was prominent several nights per year is virtually gone. I see AM switch editor BILL HALE is doubting the FCC when it reports "DA-2" when the field ratios, passing, etc. say "U-3." I checked KMMZ-1640 on AM Query. The only difference I see between day and night DA specs is the RMS field strength, which is explained by the power change. It sure looks U3, not U4, to me. The FCC has even invented something called "ND2 - Non directional antenna, different constants day and night". Check out KKWY-1630 and KCJJ. Bill is also suspicious about how WVOA-720 got a CP for night operation despite being within WGN's protected nighttime contour. I plugged the coordinates of WGN and WVOA into www.indo.com/distance and the result was 631 miles. WHAT is going on here? We vacationed in Grand Marais, MN for the 2nd year last June and met several area hams and DXers par excellence Paul LaFreniere. This is the guy who has logged such exotica as CHTM-610, CFAR-590 and even CJAR-1240. During both visits, I could hear CBW. He consoles me by blaming the sunspots. A side trip to Beardmore, ON allowed me to see a regulation LPRT before they all move to FM. CBLE-1240 is located one block E on Highway 11 at the end of Douglas Avenue. An inverted L-wire antenna up 60-70 feet is supported by two utility poles roughly 150 feet apart. The poles are about 90 feet high. On the top of the N pole is an 11 element FM antenna that receives CBC Radio One from, I suspect, Nipigon or Thunder Bay. Near the bottom of the same pole is a small shack that houses the electronics. .5 mv/m coverage extends out about 9 miles W, at lake Nipigon and about 15 miles S. The set up looks rather primitive, but I'd sure like to have it for 160 meters. Personal info: I'm 57, retired last August after 30 years at Rockwell Collins, and have belonged to the NRC since 1977. My daughter's amateur call is KB0WHJ. I have no record of any broadcast station using the WHJ calls. According to THOMAS WHITE's great site, <http://earlyradiohistory.us>, it was used by the steamship Sierra in 1912 & 1913 (and likely later). Is anyone aware of any other use - broadcast, maritime, or other - of WHJ? Thanks. (Welcome back to the fold Doug; great report, and we hope you'll check in with us from time to time-DWS)

Dave Schmidt - P O Box 3111 - Scranton, PA 18505-0111

In my travels into central NY, WYFJ-1450 Rome NY was again noted back on the air, religious programming, on 3/20. Locally, both WKJN-1440 and WAZL-1490 are silent, both pending overhauls by new management that recently took over. They also got WNAK-730 in the deal, as well as the 94.3 in Carbondale, PA, which is now WNAK-FM and a full simulcast of the 730. WEMR-1460 is now owned by WCOZ Laporte, PA "Cozy 103", the FM on 107.7 has also gone with that deal. It was said to learn that WSNJ Bridgeton NJ went off in February. This was a station that never changed formats in the 50 some years that its been around, including the staff! This has to do with moving their FM closer to Philadelphia and changing the FM frequency to 107.9. I don't know if this affected the AM on 1240 "Broadcasting from Carl's Corner".

And that's it for this week; send along your "How I Got Started In DXing" reports! 73

The **NRC AM Radio Log, 24th 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).

