

DX News

Serving DXers since 1933



Volume 69, No. 7 - November 19, 2001 (ISSN 0737-1659)

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CPC Test Calendar

WPRI268 MA 1620 Dec. 2 0000-0100

From the Publisher ... With this rather undistinguished issue of *DX News*, one which I've whacked together in a couple of hours, I've reached a certain milestone ... but first, I need to congratulate my colleague, Fred Vobbe, for reaching a similar milestone, his 200th copy of the "DX Audio Service" program, on cassette tapes.

This issue of DXN is my 400th, coincidentally, but as they say in the awards programs, "I couldn't have done it without ..." a slew of fine folks over the years, since July of 1988, from the NRC Board of Directors through each contributing editor, some who have been contributing columns to DXN since before I joined the NRC in March, 1975, to each individual member who has sent in articles, Musings, loggings, and unpublished suggestions for improvements along the way. With the cooperation of many who realize that this magazine is not a one-man stand but a culmination of dozens of individual contributions, we've built DXN into one of the most effective DX magazines in the world. Thank you, all.

It used to be that DXN had to be produced by a crew who had to assemble it while hoping that it would all fit and that they wouldn't pass out from breathing too many fumes from the spirit duplicator that it was run off on.

Then, the change to offset printing allowed the crew to assemble DXN from items printed on paper, including some photos and cartoons (remember Captain Glotz?), but still breathing fumes from rubber cement.

I still have about a half-quart of rubber cement left somewhere in the back of a closet from my days of pasting down masters, but as computer technology advanced and became inexpensive enough for almost anyone to use computers as desktop publishing machines, the CRT took the place of all that paper, rubber cement, spirit masters, glue sticks, and itty-bitty pieces of paper used for corrections, page numbers, and the like. E-mail took the place of snail mail, and suddenly someone's DX catch could see print within 10 days or even

less. And layout time could be reduced from most of a day to just a few hours, plus a few hours more for label printing and mailout prep.

New columns appeared in DXN to keep pace with the need for information: Target DX, Confirmed DX'er, DX'er's Notebook, and others ... and we're still working on more new columns.

Over the past 13+ years that I've served as publisher, I've seen the NRC enter an age of unprecedented stability, too, while other clubs faltered and disappeared. Like every other DX club, our membership level has dropped somewhat - from a high of 820 five years ago to its present level, which has run for several years now at between 685 and 705, but it's never dropped to a point which we'd consider as "dangerously low", even when we had to raise membership dues this year (for the first time in about 14 years). We survived a leadership crisis in the early '90's which could have devastated the club had not our formerly-moribund Board of Directors taken swift action. And in spite of regular predictions that AM DX'ing is "almost" dead in the face of computers, electronic gaming machines, other leisure-time hobbies, and now the real threat of terrorism inside our borders, our hobby, and our club, continue to endure and flourish.

Another 400? Sure - I'm having fun here! -pls.

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the November 17, 1951 DXN: The members were challenged with DX programs on November 25 from CFAR-590, Flin Flon, Man., and KFAR-660, Fairbanks, AK, along with KJWW-1540 and WBNL-1540 on the same date.

25 years ago ... from the November 22, 1976 DXN: Two loop articles, one from Mike Maloney, the other from James V. Hagan, dominated this issue.

10 years ago ... from the November 18, 1991 DXN: Jerry Starr noted that the freeze on acceptance by the FCC for new AM stations, or for major changes in existing AM stations, was expected to be ended in January, with 361 AM stations already having filed letters expressing an interest in moving to the proposed expanded band of 1605-1705 kHz.

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

	<u>Old call</u>			<u>New call</u>
1580	WJVA	IN	South Bend	WHLY
1620	WHLY	IN	South Bend	WDND

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

None

GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

1610 PQ Montreal: 1000/1000 U1 (Canada's first X bander)

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1270 KAJO OR Grants Pass: 10000/48 U1
 1300 WOOD MI Grant Rapids: 20000/20000 U4

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

550 WASG AL Atmore: relocate transmitter

OTHERNESS:

900 WURD PA Philadelphia: silent station has been ON THE AIR testing
 1050 KGTO OK Tulsa: CP for 1000/22 U1 is on
 1100 KZKL NM Milan: CH power is 250, not 2500 as shown in Issue #5
 1240 WHFA WI Poynette: station is SILENT
 1510 WJKN MI Jackson: silent station is ON THE AIR
 1570 WGRS FL Fernandina Beach: silent station is ON THE AIR
 1600 KAKK MN Walker: monitoring reports indicate this station has moved to 1570 kHz but we can not find any record that they were authorized to do so

THANKS: Bill Hale, Ed Krejny, Dave Schmidt, Wayne Heinen, Shawn Axelrod and MSJ

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



Domestic DX Digest

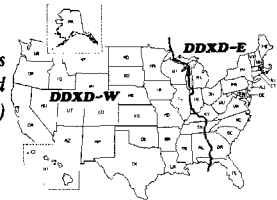
West: Bill Hale phantom 2@eaze.net

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-br. ELT

DDXD-West

MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- A splendid turnout, as mild temperatures cover the lower 2/3rds of North America. Yet the chilly nights prove to be welcome for DXING.
- Mostly truths from the gang: "Got #2000 & 2001 today. I set #2000 as a goal for 2001. When I got it, I felt like 'huh, it's over.' I'll continue now that the goal was met. Some years I haven't been this lucky!" - JJR-WI; "Interesting conditions with the aurora this week... didn't have much time to DX seriously but did log a few new Mexicans in addition to the new ones..." - BW-OK;
- Deadlines remain Thursdays. CUN7.

REPORTERS

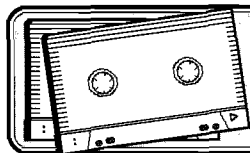
- FA-ID Frank Aden Boise FRG-7 with 4ft box loop <n7sok@aol.com>
 GJ-CA Gary Jackson Sacramento FRG-8800 + Kiwa Loop
 DKK-CA Don Kaskey San Francisco Drake R8A + Kiwa Airloop <kaskeyfamily@yahoo.com>
 EL-IL Eric Loy Champaign IL <ecloy@netscape.net>
 BM-SD Bill Moser Fort Pierre GE Superadio II with built-in antenna <wcmfort@dakota2k.net>
 CR-IL Christos Rigas Wood Dale Kenwood R-2000, Sony ICF-2010 + Quantum QX Pro Loop, Kowalski Loop <crigas@birinc.com>
 JJR-WI John J. Rieger South Milwaukee Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp or GE SR III w/Terk AM 1000 loop <johnrieger@webtv.net>
 JTR-OK John Reed Ponca City Sylvia R1414/URR with 100' wire, homebrew ferrite loop, Quantum Phaser <jreed@ponca.net>
 MS-MB Morris Sorensen Winnipeg Drake R8 + Quantum QX Pro loop; Realistic DX-392 + stock antenna <SMosor@aol.com>
 BW-OK Bruce Winkelman, AA5CO Tulsa Drake R8, Quantum Phaser, 2-50 ft slopers, Ten-Tec Jupiter, Bitternut HF6V, 40 M inv-vee <bdwink@home.com>
 JW-CO John Wilkins Wheat Ridge Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop <peakbagger3@juno.com>
 SA-MB Shawn Axelrod Winnipeg Icom ICR-70 & Drake R8 + 4-Foot unamplified box Loop/Quantum Loop, 145' outdoor wire, 100' indoor wire, MFJ 1026 Phasing Unit <saxelrod@mb.sympatico.ca>
 Ed-TX Editor North Richland Hills

STATION NEWS & NOTES

- 860 KTRB CA Modesto - 10/29 - Now on their 50,000 Watt rig. I can really notice the difference, as used to barely hear them, but now they are real strong. (GJ-CA)
 1560 WGLB WI Elm Grove - 11/6 0544 - Good, with calls and urban gospel. 24 hours? (JJR-WI)
 1570 WKBH WI Holmen - 11/2 - Now // sister WFBZ 105.5 Trempealeau/La Crosse with sports format. Listen for the slogan ESPN 1-0-5-5. (Upper Midwest Broadcasting)
 1620 WHLY IN South Bend - Now IDing as ESPN Radio 16-20, WDND followed by legal ID. Watch for a CL change here soon. (?) The ND goes along with Notre Dame University being located there. [Ed-TX]

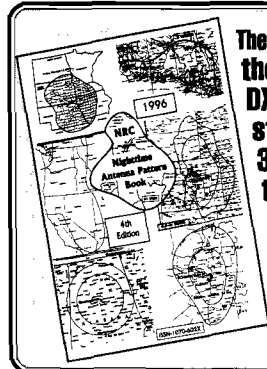
UNIDs and UNID HELP

- 960 UNID ?? - 10/30 0403 - Fair-to-good, with satellite NOS. KRS 960 AM or very close. Clear, no fading. Nothing jibes: KRLS 92.1 is in Iowa; weird NOT to have news on the hour on a NOS station. No WSBT. (JJR-WI)
 1470 UNID ?? - 10/13 0312 - Spanish-language format, with Radio Unica ID noted. Is this KUTY? (DKK-CA)
 1448.83 UNID ?? - 11/4 0821 and daily - Think it was a SPT program than I heard, looping



DXAS back issues on audio cassettes:

\$3.00 each; specify month and year. Order from NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661. NY orders, please add sales tax.



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)



ESE. Poor, but separable on LSB from the jumble. (JW-CO)

DX AND EQUIPMENT TESTS

1230 WODI- VA Brookneal - 11/4 0100-0200 - Nothing heard in the mess that sounded like a test. (FA-ID)

MIDNIGHT TO MIDNIGHT ELT

580 KFXD ID Nampa - 11/6 0813 - Amazingly all alone on the frequency with AM 580 KFXD and into song *Saginaw, Michigan*. (JW-CO)

720 KUAI HI Eleele - 10/15 0315-0335 - Again noted with KDWN off on Monday morning. Hawaiian music mixing with WGN. Both weak. (DKK-CA)

830 KPLS CA Orange - 11/4 0800 - Legal ID, then area news. Good signal, equal to WCCO. Forgot to go to U2, maybe. This is pls's favorite station, isn't it? (JW-CO)(Yeah, I listen EVERY night, hi -pls.)

870 KAIM HI Honolulu - 10/13 1010-1020 - With Christian music, atop for about seven minutes. Fading down at 1017; gone by 1020. (DKK-CA)

870 WWL LA New Orleans - 10/18 0350-0400 - Atop nicely, with talk. KRLA looped out. (DKK-CA)

880 KHAC NM Te Bonito - 11/7 1856-1902 - SRN News, weather and VID, then *Family Life Today* program. Fair signal, with KRVN nearly silenced by auroral activity. 755 miles on day power. Reception reported. (BM-SD)

870 KFLD WA Pasco - 10/20 0600 - With ID after ESPN Radio. (DKK-CA)

920 KYST TX Texas City - 11/6 1957-2001- End of program in Spanish. VID in Spanish. Start of next program also in Spanish. Very strong signal in auroral conditions. 1070 air miles. Reception reported. (BM-SD)

920 KXLY WA Spokane - 10/24 2105 - ID after ABC News. Atop nicely, with minimal KNEW-910 splatter. (DKK-CA)

940 KNNZ UT Cedar City - 10/31 1940-2030+ - Mixing with KWRU and KICE, with C&W music. Local show. News and weather from 2000-2005, with forecast for Cedar City. Supposed to cut power at 2000 but apparently didn't. Utah stations are good at that. (DKK-CA)

960 KROF LA Abbeville - 10/30 0403 - Fair-to-good, with satellite NOS and KROF 960 AM. Clear-no fading. NEW! Thanks to Eric Berger for his help on the former unID! Time to clean the ear wax! :) (JJR-WI) [Save it, you may need a candle some day, hi - Ed.]

960 CFAC AB Calgary - 10/25 0255 - Under KABL, with *Sports Radio* and ID. (DKK-CA)

970 WGTK KY Louisville - 10/28 2113 - Good signal with call ID. Last time I heard this station it was using the call WLKY. (JTR-OK)

970 KIXL TX Del Valle - 11/7 0715 - Morning Magazine program with weather, news and ads. *Kickse* slogans. Fair, with XEJ. (JW-CO)

980 KRTX TX Rosenberg - 11/7 0723 - Tropical music, *Tropical 9-80* slogans. Gave phone number 281-238-4900. All in SS, of course. Fair, in QRM. (JW-CO)

980 CKCK SK Regina - 10/16 2149 - With ID atop QRM. Is this CKCK or still CKRM? ID was for CKRM-620. C&W music, ads after ID. IDs noted at 2157 and ToH 2200.30. All for CKRM-620. Was there an actual call change? (DKK-CA)

1010 KIND KS Independence - 11/4 0712 - Poor, but clear, with *All New K-I-N-D 10-10*, over others. WW1 NOS. New! (JJR-WI)

1060 KKVV NV Las Vegas - 11/1 2003 - Call ID punching thru QRM. Program note for Healthy, Wealthy and Wise. New catch, for Nevada #20. (JW-CO)

1090 KYCW WA Seattle - 10/18 0405 - With *Sporting News Radio* then ID. Mixing with KBOZ, in XEPRS null. Both just ending news. (DKK-CA)

1140 KCLE TX Cleburne - 11/7 2258-2304 - *Country Gold* music format with VID at ToH. Good signal at 850 miles in auroral conditions. First time heard; reception reported. (BM-SD)

1140 WRVA VA Richmond - 11/2 2105 - Weak and fading, in phase null of SS signal. Call ID and talk. (JTR-OK)

1160 WAMB TN Donelson - 11/3 2010 - NOS music with call ID. Good signal in phase null of KSL. (JTR-OK)

1170 KVOO OK Tulsa - 10/25 0245 - ID: KVOO *Weather Channel* coming in right thru KLOK. Heard 10/29 also. (DKK-CA)

1190 WOWO IN Fort Wayne - 11/3 2025 - Sports news and hockey game with call ID *wo-wo*.

(JTR-OK)

1200 KOQI CA Soquel - 10/13 1000 - On regular schedule (finally) with Animal Planet Radio and Biz radio shows from 0930-1000. ID at 1000: KSRK and KSRK-FM Carmel Valley - *The Shark*. (DKK-CA)

1200 KYAA CA Soquel - 10/19 0200 - ToH ID: KSRK 540 Carmel Valley and KYAA 1200 Soquel. Talk programs and into CBS News after ID. Business Talk Radio. (DKK-CA)

1200 KSRK CA Soquel - 10/24 1000 - With latest call change. ID: KSRK 1200 and KYAA 540. Verified again 11/1 1900. Same ID. (DKK-CA)

1200 WSML NC Graham - 11/3 2030 - North Carolina State sports game. Good signal in phase null of strong WOAI. New here. (JTR-OK)

1210 WPHT PA Philadelphia - 11/3 2040 - World Series game and call ID. Weak and fading, in phase null of QRM. (JTR-OK)

1230 KLWT MO Lebanon - 11/4 1900 - Kansas City Chiefs football coverage. Break for legal ID at 1700: *You're listening to the Kansas City Chiefs on KLWT-AM 1230 Lebanon*, then back to the game and faded out. New here, for Missouri #48. (JW-CO)

1230 KOTS NM Deming - 11/7 2032 - Mexican music, call ID, then more ranchera tunes. Heard later, at 2052, with ads in SS and a sports program note in EE. (JW-CO)

1260 KVSF NM Santa Fe - 11/4 2158-2200 - Country tune and VID. Poor signal, only because semi-local KWYR was off the air briefly. 670 miles in auroral conditions. Previously verified. (BM-SD)

1260 KWYR SD Winner - 11/4 2045 - C&W (*Willie Nelson*) with call ID. Good signal on fade ins. (JTR-OK)

1310 KBTK NM Corrales - 11/4 1857-1901 - Dr. Joy Brown's talk show, VID and promo, CBS News. Fair signal at 715 miles in auroral conditions. Reception reported. (BM-SD)

1310 KXTN TX San Antonio - 11/5 2025 - Call ID, then signal faded and lost in QRM. New here. (JTR-OK)

1330 CJYM SK Rosetown - 10/20 2032 - Fair-to-good, with adult contemporary music, mention of Saskatoon, weather with 1210 and 1330 *Five Day Forecast*. Mentions of *The leader community* and *The Voice of Farm Information*. NEW! (MS-MB)

1340 KTMM CO Grand Junction - 11/2 0759-0801 - Sports talk show preceding and following this VID: *This is the sports voice of the western slope, sports talk 1340, KTMM Grand Junction*. Poor signal at top of heap. 560 miles with 1000 watts. Reception reported. (BM-SD)

1340 KHLB TX Burnet - 11/5 2050 - *Nat King Cole* recording, call ID, then faded into graveyard jumble. New here. (JTR-OK)

1360 KRKK WY Rock Springs - 10/16 2225 - Atop, with local ads, over KKMO. (DKK-CA)

1380 KMUS OK Muskogee - 11/4 0629 - Poor, though clear, with calls, with 3-4 others. NEW, for #2000. (JJR-WI)

1410 CFUN BC Vancouver - 11/03 0043 - Fair-to-poor and fading, with talk show with female host, many mentions of *C-Fun*. CKWX also in like a champ tonight! New here, for British Columbia #2!! (EL-IL)

1420 CKPT ON Peterborough - 10/31 2000 - Poor-to-fair, with *Sports Radio-The Team* into sports update called *The Zone* // local CFST-1290. Not new, but my first reception since format change back in May. (MS-MB)

1420 KITI WA Centralia - 10/16 2234 - With ID atop. Oldies format. (DKK-CA)

1430 KCOH TX Houston - 11/5 1900-1906 - Paid political program, an ad, and *I'll Be Around*. Good signal; first time heard; auroral conditions. 1045 miles; reception reported. (BM-SD)

1450 WMIQ MI Iron Mountain - 10/30 0358 - Poor, with calls and *Talk 1450* slogan. Sporting News. (JJR-WI)

1470 KNXNp AZ Sierra Vista - 11/6 0900 - ID: *This is AM 1240 KJAA Globe, AM 930 KAPR Douglas*, then into choral music, apparently a REL program. No mention of 1470 in ID. KNXN recently switched from SS (Unica) to REL. (JW-CO)

1490 CJSN SK Shaunavon - 10/20 2058 - Poor-to-fair, with country music, call letter ID and mention of *Today's Best Country*. First time this season. (MS-MB)

1530 KQNK KS Norton - 11/6 2004 - Noted with ad for *Pizza Hut on Highway 36 in Norton*. KTNJ-FM 106.7 promo (not sure on the call) and slogan *The Music Everyone Can Agree On*. Soon faded into mush with Sser. Full ID at 2100 recheck, on top into news. U1 1000/58 CP on? Unusual to hear a low power station

KWRT 1370
AM
HomeTown Radio
Boonville, Missouri

- 1540 KGBC TX Galveston - 11/6 2000 - On top, with quick KGBC Galveston into ESPN sports news, no KXEL in auroral conditions, KXOJ-1550 splatter phased out. Log sex 250 watts. (BW-OK)
- 1550 KLFJ MO Springfield - 11/4 0600 - Fair, with KLFJ Springfield and KTOZ-AM 1060.com on the worldwide web. (JJR-WI)
- 1550 KLFJ MO Springfield - 11/5 1854-1857 - Branson-oriented ad cluster. Poor signal at 620 miles. Reception reported. (BM-SD)
- 1580 KWYD CO Colorado Springs - 10/20 2000 - Fair with IDs for all stations on Radio Colorado Network and mention of A Radio Colorado Station into ABC News. NEW! (MS-MB)
- 1620 WTAW TX College Station - 11/6 1842 - Good, with local TIS nulled. Local news and weather forecast. (CR-IL)
- 1630 KCJJ IA Iowa City - 11/1 1928-1935 - Ad cluster of eight messages, VID and morning program promo, recorded music. Best night signal heard from them. 485 miles with 1000 watts. All DXers are asked to report reception to Tom Suder, General Manager. E-mail address: kcjjam@aol.com. Tom verified my reception via reply e-mail. Or phone 319-354-1242. (BM-SD)
- 1650 KWHN AR Ft. Smith - 11/6 1835 - Good and alone on frequency (semi pest KCZN missing), with Newstalk 16-50 slogan and mentions of Ft. Smith. (CR-IL)
- 1680 KYEA LA Monroe - 11/6 1838 - Good, with the Michigan pest missing. Gospel music. (CR-IL)

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

1230 kHz:				Miles
KLWT	MO	Lebanon	John Wilkins	Wheat Ridge, CO 685
1450 kHz:				
KYNT	SD	Yankton	Morris Sorensen	Winnipeg, MB (Tie) 469

DDXD-East

Many thanks this column to our "snail mail" contributors, William McGuire and Herb Newberry, who have been extremely busy! Although my hands are tired from typing, I'm happy to read so many loggings, and I hope you will be, too.

One note for all DDXD-East contributors - please make sure you're submitting things in the proper format, particularly now as we come into prime DX season. Whether I'm copying and pasting your email or directly typing your loggings, log format makes a huge difference. Also, please try to organize your reports in the same order as things are listed in the column. Thank you!!

STATION NEWS

- 900 WURD PA Philadelphia UNID, UNID HELP, PRESUMED AND CORRECTIONS
- 570 WKBNp OH Youngstown - 11/4 0930 - 2-man polka show. Welcome message to the "McDonald boys" the "state" champs. Ad for CD of sports tournament. (FV-MI)
- 670 WSCRp IL Chicago - 11/2 1853 - WSCR in background, almost completely covered up by CMQ "La Habana" (Cuba). CMQ equally strong on both N/S and E/W wires. 10 over 59 at its peak. (HN-GA)
- 680 WPTFp NC Raleigh - 11/2 1857 - 10 over 59 with flutter. Clark Howard show in progress (WSB/Cox Radio Network). WCNN buried way in background. (HN-GA)
- 830 KOTCp MO Kennett - 10/30 1815 - C & W music; "Cotton Country". (WM-MD)
- 730 WVENp MI East Lansing - 11/4 0940 - ESPN sport radio. Ad for ITT Tech Institute, Sears. (Church service under them, could not ID. Looped E/W). (FV-MI)
- 770 UNID - 11/4 0940 - Spanish under WJR slop, unknown direction but WJR was looped out and they were to the south. (FV-MI)
- 920 KARNp AR Little Rock - 11/2 1945 - in 920 slop heard Michael Reagan going to a break "the Michael Reagan show." Also a promo for Rush. NRC Log lists KARN

- as the only TLK format station with both shows. Slow fades, S9 at best, then quickly back into slop. Equal on both wires. (HN-GA)
- 1030 UNID - 11/8 0531 - Huge unmodulated carrier, taking out WBZ. Listened from 5:31 to 5:40 and heard no modulation. Approx 5 Hz off WBZ. (FV-OH)
- 1120 UNID - 10/31 1750 - Bluegrass music; "your home for American music". (WM-MD)
- 1160 WYLLp IL Chicago - 10/25 0618 - REL talk, local anncts, Chicago area wx. (RJE-PA)
- 1260 WWMKp OH Cleveland - 11/4 1006 - Radio Disney program. (FV-MI)
- 1280 WYVEp VA Wytheville - 10/30 1840 - C & W music; political ad mentioning Virginia. (WM-MD)
- 1300 WFYCp MI Alma - 11/4 1017 - Sports programs (in WXYT slop). (FV-MI)
- WEREp OH Cleveland - 11/4 1021 - Polka type music. Ad for "Issue 1 in Cuyahoga County", into Slavic speaking female voice. (FV-MI)
- 1480 UNID - 11/5 1815 - Oldies station with music of Chicago, and other. Was being hammered by contemp C&W station. No WHBC (Canton OH). (FV-OH)
- 1540 UNID - 11/5 1835 - Tremendous het on top of KXEL. Probably Bahamas based on music, but no spoken word. (FV-OH)
- 1640 WKShp WI Sussex - 11/2 2114 - Religious music program (Salem), choral in nature. Only religious format East of Mississippi and not Catholic (EWTN), so it's not KDIA or KPBC. Good 20 over S9 signal on E/W wire. Steady, good. (HN-GA)
- 1690 WPTXp MD Lexington Park - 11/2 2214 - Sporting News Network talk show, host is a big Red Sox fan, wonders why anyone would consider getting married on a home game day. 10 over S9, steady on E/W wire. Some slop from adjacent WTIR 1680. (HN-GA)
- 1700 KQXXp TX Brownsville - 11/2 2221 - Song "Last Date" by Floyd Cramer. Only format listed in NRC Log to fit is KQXX with an OLD format. Signals in background of at least two other stations. S7 to S9 at its peak, best on N/S wire. Heard best using SSB filter. (HN-GA)
- 1700 WAFNp FL Miami Springs - 11/2 2225 - In background, heard SS music, ended with "hallelujah, hallelujah" so suspect SS:REL and WAFN. 2230 male speaking in auditorium in SS, sounds like preaching. S9 at best with KTBK. (HN-GA)



STATION LOGGINGS

- 540 WFLF FL Pine Hills - 11/2 1800 - Local news headlines, then "Newsradio 540 WFLF", into CBS news at TOH. No sign of WDAK. Signal S-7 to S-8, very slight flutter. Best on N/S wire. (HN-GA)
- 550 WAYR FL Orange Park - 11/2 1804 - Religious music selections by choir. Better on N/S wire, S-9. On E/W wire, battle with WDUN simulcasting WSB-TV2 Atlanta 6 PM newscast. (HN-GA)
- WGR NY Buffalo - 11/4 0927 - Promo by Jim Cutler "Sports Talk 55, WGR". Into sport talk show from the "Tinderbox". (FV-MI)
- 570 KLIF TX Dallas - 11/2 0234 - Weak; ID, "?..? weekday afternoons 3-7 on the new talkradio 570 KLIF." (SC-IN)
- WNAX SD Yankton - 11/2 0532 - Trucker show with fair signal. ID: "You're listening to the Midnight Cowboy on 570 WNAX AM and WNAX 104.1 FM." (SC-IN)
- 580 WDBO FL Orlando - 11/2 1817 - Out of sports talk into local news update, traffic report "troubles on I-4". ID "AM 580, WDBO" into weather, then back to sports talk at 1820, 10 over S-9 on both wires. (HN-GA)
- 600 WSJS NC Winston-Salem - 11/2 1824 - HS football show discussing records of various teams in the area so far this season, and interviews with coaches and players. At 1825, faded into background of WBWL (female with "Jacksonville"), then back strong at 1826. (HN-GA)
- 620 WTMT KY Louisville - 10/27 2202 - ID heard in mess. (WM-MD)
- 660 WDLT AL Fairhope - 11/1 1900 - Good; now with CNN Headline News. ID: "AM 660 WDLT Fairhope/Mobile/Pensacola; there's a new source of news when it appears around the world 24 hours a day." (SC-IN)
- 740 CHWO ON Toronto - 11/2 1916 - New one for me, mixing in with KTRH, my usual 50-kwatter. Mention of a housing subdivision in Milton, just west of Toronto. KTRH with sports talk, CHWO providing "background music." AC/NOS format. Also a third station with Clark Howard, suspect KRMG, Tulsa, OK.

- 20 over 59, "wall of sound." (HN-GA)
- 770 WLWL NC **Rockingham** - 11/2 1750 - "Rhythm and Beach Music Countdown" show with a "different" mix of music, from oldies re-makes to country rock to shag. Signal S7 at best on top of WABC at times, then down into WABC background. Better on N/S wire. Slogan is "Big Wave 77." (HN-GA)
- 790 KGHM MT **Billings** - 10/16 0612 - Very poor signal out of country song into ID, "Great Country Classics AM 790 KGHM". Don't need but usually a positive indicator when this one starts rolling in. (SC-IN)
- KXXX KS **Colby** - 10/16 0654 - Weak; out of commercial into weather report. "K-Triple-X; Tri-state radar weather; frost advisory around 3 o'clock this morning". (SC-IN)
- WQSV TN **Ashland City** - 10/17 0555 - Weak with sign-on, "Good morning, this is radio station WQSV, 790 on your AM dial in Ashland City, Tennessee beginning our broadcast day." No SSB. (SC-IN)
- WMC TN **Memphis** - 10/17 0706 - Very weak; ID only, "Sports Call 790 WMC, Memphis, new sports leader". (SC-IN)
- WSGW MI **Saginaw** - 11/4 0950 - Ad for Debbie Reynolds, law firm of Nicola-Nicola. WSGW jingle, and into "Outdoor Magazine". (FV-MI)
- WTNY NY **Watertown** - 11/03 0726 - fair in CIGM null with ID "WTNY news time is 7:26", local weather, into talk about avoiding deer-car accidents during deer hunting season. (MKB-ON)
- 800 CKLW ON **Windsor** - 11/2 1926 - Several mentions of Ontario and very distinct ID "AM 800 C-K-L-W." 10 over S9 on both wires. Community calendar of events in the Windsor area. Back to hockey pre-game show at 1928. (HN-GA)
- 860 WDMG GA **Douglas** - 10/24 0634 - religious/country music, then rural-sounding DJ w/wx & ID. (RJE-PA)
- WLBG SC **Laurens** - 11/2 1722+ - w/OLD, ad for Greenville Furniture, mention of "Friday night before football" then wx, ID. (RJE-PA)
- WAMO PA **Mill Vale** - 11/2 1755 - Soul Oldies (Motown and on) and garbled ID. (RJE-PA)
- CJBC ON **Toronto** - 11/2 1934 - Heard rarely in the past, but now good nightly visitor. 10 over S9 on E/W wire. Group of speakers, male and female in FF, with occasional mention of Toronto. Signal has very slight flutter. (HN-GA)
- 890 WKNV VA **Fairlawn** - 11/2 1728 - Caught sign-off; ID; "tune in tomorrow for today's southern gospel music." (WM-MD)
- 900 CHML ON **Hamilton** - 11/4 0959 - promo "hometown radio 900, CHML", ad for Professional Dog Trainers, MS Society of Canada, into "Michelle" by the Beatles. (FV-MI)
- 910 WLAT CT **New Britain** - 11/03 1740 - SS hot hits and slogan "La mega, nueve diez". Good signal but disappeared suddenly at 1745, likely due to nighttime pattern change. (MKB-ON)
- 910 KVIS OK **Miami** - 11/8 0640 - Southern gosp MX, into liner "24 hours, 7 days a week, 9-10 KVIS." (FV-OH)
- 920 KYFR IA **Shenandoah** - 11/3 0529 - Under soft jazz music on WBAA with ID: "KYFR Shenandoah." (SC-IN)
- 940 WMAC GA **Macon** - 11/2 1742 - Weather forecast; "Newstalk 940"; ID. (WM-MD)
- 950 WGOV GA **Valdosta** - 11/2 1954 - Up and down from slop with quick fades. HS football from Lowndes County (Valdosta). Ad for restaurant "just off Exit 5, 1-75" (which runs through Valdosta. Back to game for introduction of line-ups. Audio had a "coffee can" quality. 10 over S9 at peaks. NRC shows 5000/63 U1, suspect running daytime power for football (common practice, I think, hi). (HN-GA)
- 970 WESO MA **Southbridge** - 11/6 0100 - Good; "Working for Auburn, Oxford, and Worcester, WESO Southbridge," AP network news, "Country 970" IDs, C&W music, 21 watts enhanced by strong aurora. (BC-NH)
- 990 WVOX TN **Knoxville** - 11/2 2008 - Local sports show "Scoreboard" with HS football highlights and scores. Ad for deli chain for food platters for "whenever the Vols (U-Tenn team) are on the road." Up and down in the slop, 10 over S9 at peaks with flutter. Better on E/W wire. (HN-GA)
- 1060 WIXC FL **Titusville** - 11/2 2021 - End of NOS selection, mention of "the new WIX-C, WIXC" and mention of the "space coast" (i.e., Titusville). Good for 5000 might



- power. KYW in background. Slightly better on N/S wire (strange, as Florida is south - should be better on E/W wire? hi). 10 over S9 level, (HN-GA)
- 1070 WFLI TN **Lookout Mountain** - 10/27 1830 - Southern gospel music; ID; promo for gospel program. (WM-MD)
- CHOK ON **Sarnia** - 10/31 1913 - After 5th Dimension song: "Information Radio"; ID. (WM-MD)
- 1080 KRLD TX **Dallas** - 11/8 0625 - Interview with politician, promo, and time check of "5:31 at KRLD." (FV-OH)
- 1150 CKOC ON **Hamilton** - 11/4 1004 - "Lady Madonna" by Beatles; "more music, less talk on your oldies station CHML", into "Hitchin' a Ride". (FV-MI)
- 1160 WBOB KY **Florence** - 10/29 2145 - Good; ad string, "It's Mike, Monday morning at six on ESPN 1160 Bob" in WMVI null, first time heard. (BC-NH)
- 1200 WRKK PA **Hughesville** - 10/30 1730 - ID heard in mix. (WM-MD)
- WCHB MI **Taylor** - 10/31 1835 - Gospel music; ID. (WM-MD)
- WSML NC **Graham** - 11/2 1715 - Talk and ID: "WSJS 600 & 1200" ID. (RJE-PA)
- 1220 WHK OH **Cleveland** - 10/29 2200 - Fair; "1220 WHK Cleveland, 1440 WHKW Warren, Youngstown," and SRN news, through CJUL and UNID stations. (BC-NH)
- 1230 WSKY NC **Asheville** - 10/31 1845 - spoken ID by male. (WM-MD)
- 1280 WFBS PA **Berwick** - 10/23 1828 - Doo-Wop Oldies, jingle, ID. (RJE-PA)
- WEIM MA **Fitchburg** - 10/31 0405 - Good; sign on with national anthem by Whitney Houston, "Good morning and welcome to our broadcast day. WEIM Fitchburg, Leominster, 762 Water Street, Fitchburg 01420," into network talk in progress. (BC-NH)
- 1290 WKNE NH **Keene** - 11/6 0055 - Good; "The biggest hits of the '80s, '90s, and now, WKNE-FM Keene, Brattleboro, Fairmont... New England's big hit station KNE-FM 103.7," as aurora produced daytime-like conditions, almost never heard at night. (BC-NH)
- 1320 WARL MA **Attleboro** - 11/6 0130 - Good; "WARL 1320 AM is looking for qualified account executives... 401-521-5945," and an eclectic mix of oldies and blues music. (BC-NH)
- 1330 WTRX MI **Flint** - 11/4 1025 - Sports programming into ID "Sports Extra 1330 Flint". (FV-MI)
- 1350 WTOU OH **Akron** - 11/4 1025 - remote with Brian Derse at the Chapel Hill Mall, ad for Dave Cowell Cadillac, into Fox Sports update. (FV-MI)
- 1370 WHEE VA **Martinsville** - 10/30 1735 - Local obituaries; PSA; ID; country gospel music. (WM-MD)
- WSPD OH **Toledo** - 11/4 1058 - end of the Tabernacle Hour from a church in Toledo. ID "13-70 WSPD." (FV-MI)
- 1380 WKJV NC **Asheville** - 11/2 1705 - Religious promo; ID into local news. (WM-MD)
- 1390 WKDR VT **Burlington** - 11/03 0715 - good with ID "News talk radio 1390 WKDR" into sports. Fairly consistently heard here on sunrise/sunset skip; may be best bet for Vermont in southern Ontario or western New York. (MKB-ON)
- 1400 WABY NY **Albany** - 11/1 1755 - News report; ID. (WM-MD)
- WRCC MI **Battle Creek** - 11/1 2000 - Nostalgia music; ID; ABC News. (WM-MD)
- WSAM MI **Saginaw** - 11/4 1104 - out of ABC news into ID jingle, then "Ain't That a Shame" (in null of WQBH-Detroit). (FV-MI)
- WSTC CT **Stamford** - 11/6 0045 - good; these are my first loggings on this channel which is usually a bunch of mush. Talk format with local ads giving telephone area code as 203 and ID'd as // WNLK 1350. (DH-NJ)
- WEST PA **Easton** - 11/6 0045 - good. Oldies/nostalgia format; played Bobby Darrin. Ads for local businesses, a shoe store and appliance store, on Main St. in Phillipsburg. ID'd as "WEST, Easton-Phillipsburg" at top of hour then into ABC news. (DH-NJ)
- 1410 CKSL ON **London** - 11/4 1106 - "Oldies 14-10" ID, into "Ain't Seen Nothing Yet" by BTO, then promo with jingle "CKSL, Oldies 14-10". (FV-MI)
- 1420 WEMB TN **Erwin** - 10/30 1745 - Country music promo; ID. (WM-MD)
- 1490 WBCB PA **Levittown** - 11/6 0033 - excellent; this is my first logging on this channel as it's usually a chaotic jumble. Oldies format; played "Return to Sender". ID'd with call letters and "Bucks County's Best." (DH-NJ)
- 1500 WBRI IN **Indianapolis** - 11/02 1729 - surprisingly over WTOP with tail-end of gospel program, giving 317 area code phone number (317 is area code for India-

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- napolis), announcement "tune in to Hope for the Harvest, weekday mornings at 6:45 on WBRI", then disappeared at 1730. (MKB-ON)
- 1560 WQEW NY New York - 11/2 2052 - Signal being covered by what sounds like a moderate tone het that occasionally becomes more of an OC. ID'd by its unique Radio Disney KID format. ID "Radio Disney New York" by young male. S9 level at peak on top of the het. Best on E/W wire. Re-checked at 2057, no het. (HN-GA)
- WPAD KY Paducah - 11/5 0630 - News and weather, "on SW Kentucky's news leader." Great signal. No NYC this morning. (FV-OH)
- 1580 WEAM GA Columbus - 10/18 0400 - Very weak; with ID: "To the glory of God, the new 1580 WEAM." (SC-IN)
- WTTN WI Watertown - 11/2 1951 - Very weak; call letters and Milwaukee mentioned. (SC-IN)
- 1590 WCAM SC Camden - 10/24 0640 - NOS & ID & wx. (RJE-PA)
- 1600 WZZW WV Milton - 10/24 0645 - REL talk, "Joy Radio" non-ID, promo for "NewsTalk Radio 800 WHVU" (Huntington). (RJE-PA)
- WXMY VA Saltville - 10/30 1755 - C & W music; ID; full sign-off at 1805: "please tune in tomorrow for more classic country"; USA radio news and nostalgia music. (WM-MD)
- 1620 WTAW TX College Station - 11/2 2100 - CBS Network news at TOH. At 2106, promo for Rush on "Newstalk 1620 WTAW", then back to Michael Reagan, very strong signal! Audio clipped at times (like powerful SW blowtorches). Best on N/S wire. Listed as 10000/1000, but if it's running 1000, it's the best 1000 signal I've heard in 20+ years of DXing! 30 to 40 over S9. (HN-GA)
- 1630 WTEL GA Augusta - 11/2 2110 - Break in football game, ad for Bobby Jones Ford in Augusta. Then back to football on "Newstalk 1630, WTEL." 20 over S9 signal, equal on both wires. During rare fades, KCJJ could be heard with a talk show. (HN-GA)
- 1660 WMIB FL Marco Island - 11/2 2130 - Noted with new News/Talk format, AP Network News at TOH. Legal ID at TOH with "The News Station" and "1660 WMIB." Sports talk in background, ESPN Network. Suspect WQSN. (HN-GA)
- 1670 WRNC GA Warner Robins - 11/2 2201 - My X-Band daytimer also good at night even with nighttime conditions. Best on E/W wire 20 over S9 with slight flutter. Distinctive sound effect given at times, a growling wildcat or some sort of critter. Simulcasting their //FM 96.5 "New Country 96." (HN-GA)
- 1680 WTIR FL Winter Garden - 11/2 2206 - Moderately good to strong most nights. Interview with Hooters Restaurant waitress from Orlando, then a report on bridge work over I-4 from Florida DOT spokesperson. Occasional clipped audio and slight distortion. Programming is in 10 minute blocks: road condition report; weather forecast; traveler-oriented as; then another road and weather report. Equal on both wires. (HN-GA)
- 1700 KTBK TX Sherman - 11/2 2225 - Sports talk, then went to commercial with "more after this on The Ticket." Station //KTCK 1300 "The Ticket." Best on N/S wire S9 level at best. (HN-GA)

TIS, HAR AND MISCELLANEOUS

- 1620 WPRI268 MA Leominster - 11/6 0145 - Good; "You're tuned to travelers information station WPRI268. Welcome to Leominster...", a brief history, and invite to Johnny Applesseed visitor center, repeated at intervals with NOAA weather radio between announcements. (BC-NH)

REPORTERS

- MKB-ON Mike Brooker Toronto - Panasonic RF-2200; RFB-35
- SC-IN Steve Chappell McCordsville - Bearcat DX-1000; 3 terminated loops
- BC-NH Bruce Conti Nashua - Lowe HF-225 Europa. MWDX-5 50/75/50-FT southwest Ewe, inverted-L with 100 ft. sloping east
- RJE-PA Russ Edmunds Blue Bell - car radio and whip
- DH-NJ David Hochfelder New Brunswick - SONY ICF-2010 with Kiwa Pocket Loop
- WM-MD William McGuire Cheverly - Radio Shack DX-398
- HN-GA Herbert Newberry, Jr. Newborn - Kenwood R-5000, 150' LW N/S, 150' LW E/W
- FV-MI Frederick Vobbe Almont - SONY ICF-2010 with CCA DA-5 loop
- FV-OH Frederick Vobbe Lima - SONY ICF-2010 with CCA DA-5 loop

International DX Digest

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

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

A visible aurora was reported by DX'ers north, south, east and west on Monday night, NOV 5. It was great how the clouds broke so I could see it.

This one goes out early this week, as I have a lot of work to get ready for the weekend. The next column will be in TWO weeks. Jim

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 153 ALGERIA Chaîne 1 Bechar, SEP 30 0309 - Loud signal following 5 time pips and higher last pip (0300) Arabic string music with choir // 198, 549, 891, mostly poor. OCT 4 2100 - Rapid delivery Arabic news mentioned terrorists. Loudest TA signal ~ one hour plus before sunset. OCT 5 0514 - Religious a cappella vocal, loud // 198 weak (TIW beacon above). [Stromsted-MA]
- 153 GERMANY Deutschlandfunk Donebach, OCT 19 0503 - Male German talk, Algeria under/over Good signal. [Stromsted-MA]
- 153 NORWAY NRK Ingay, NOV 3 0650 - Two Norwegian men in discussion, Algeria under. Some Norwegian words heard included OG (and), vensklea (sp?) (difficult), at 0700, mentioned Amerikansk (American), seemed to be an outside reporter on site as part of this segment. The signal was poor to good in a slow signal peak and fade with Algeria under and no German signal. However there was a slight burr detectable which might be Romania (under), Norway was zero beat with Algeria. NRK was not evident on 1314 MW. After the news segment, a Norwegian folk song heard with female vocal and guitar which sounded vaguely similar to Scottish music. This was followed at 0719 by classic American dance favorites with trombone lead for "As time goes by" in a Jazz rendition with piano as announced by the host in English. At 0732, a classical composition featuring again a trombone with orchestra. This was a good signal! First time positively heard. [Stromsted-MA]
- 162 FRANCE RFI Alouis OCT 17 2054 - FF male discussion (long before sunset). OCT 19 0521 - // 1375 St Pierre, both good. NOV 3 0651 - Two male FF in discussion (good) // 1375 St Pierre (much louder than adjacent US stations). NOV 3 0740 - Two FF females in discussion, good // 1375 St Pierre (very loud). [Stromsted-MA]
- 171 MOROCCO R Medi-1 Nadar, OCT 17 2055 - Traditional Arabic music, male vocal, drums, bass, violin. Fair signal and no static. OCT 22 0633 - International news in French, male and female newscasters re Talaban, Kabul mentioned. -[Stromsted-MA]
- 189 ICELAND Rikisutvarpid, Gufuskalar, OCT 22 0634 - Classical chamber music, good signal. OCT 25 0756 - Female Icelandic speaker, appeared to be sermon, then 3 note time signal into news followed by two men in discussion. Good signal with unID under. OCT 26 0807 - Male/Female news team. Signal up and down, only TA at this hour with some beacon interference. NOV 3 0722 - Male and Female Icelandic speakers evidently discussing fisheries issues with mentions of fisk and fiska (fish and fish-plural). At 0734, a classical number, possibly Benjamin Briton or maybe Bach-with trumpets, bassoon, flutes, violins etc, just like a local station! [Stromsted-MA]
- 189 UNID, Another station heard under Iceland before 0800 but not after. I can only guess Asiatic Russia? As too late for other European signals. Did not check SW outlets. Any ideas? [Stromsted-MA]
- 197 ENGLAND BBC Radio 4 Synchros, OCT 19 0514 - War review, London Times, discussion re bombing. Good signal, Some DIW beacon interference. [Stromsted-MA]
- 207 MOROCCO RTM A Azilal, no time or date - High pitched male Koranic recitation with string accompaniment followed by stringed instruments. Poor signal, massive "MJ" beacon interference, must be a new transmitter, used IF selective filter to notch this out. [Stromsted-MA]
- 216 FRANCE Radio Monte Carlo, OCT 19 0514 - French talk, Lux effect (phantom signal) in background. Good signal. [Stromsted-MA]
- 252 IRELAND New Atlantic 252 Clarkestown, SEP 28 2241 - Early dusk, usual rock, heavy beat, good signal. OCT 19 0517 - Male EE DJ into a Rock Blues piece, good. [Stromsted-MA]
- 783 MAURETANIA Nouakchatt, NOV 4 0006 - Good with Mauretanian music, stringed inst. etc., man and woman in AA. They also seem to carry a teletalk program around this time of night, but their sign-off time is somewhat irregular, // to 4845, sometimes louder. [Dangerfield-Pa]



Erik speaks: "The last several months have been unbelievably poor for most TA DX. It seems to me there were solar storms almost continuously with major impact on the high LW and MW signals. Oddly unusual openings occurred on the LW stations below 200 KHz. I have lengthened my long wire by adding another 200 m of #12 Home Depot copper wire. This follows along a tree line along a stone wall separating my farmer neighbor's fields. This seems to have made an improvement (when the band is open). I also added a few more ground rods at both ends which appeared to essentially eliminate local noise sources."

Ben speaks: "The usual TAs haven't been making it here recently, and when they do, with very weak signals. Only Mauretania-783 seems to be a regular, and their signal leaves a lot to be desired. On this side, the LAs until last night have been just so-so, the regular stations. Last night, as others also report, was extremely auroral. Unfortunately, I didn't get to my radio until late in the evening, so probably missed some good stuff. From what I heard, a lot of frequencies were just nulls, many of the rest had LAs, and most of the big stations to the north, west and northeast were blanks. There was also an increasing buzz sound. Bahamas on 810 and 1540 were big, I found a never-before-heard SS on 1520 which turned out to be Bogotá, Colombia, and Venezuelans seemed to be everywhere. I wish I had more time to tune. Let's hope that you who are going to Newfoundland will have at least one or two nights with similar conditions."

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 535 GRENADA, NOV 2 0243 - Woman in EE but very weak signal, so it seems as if this station is still on 535 but with reduced power. Still a question here. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 810 BAHAMAS ZNS3 Freeport, NOV 6 0418 - Good, and over others on this frequency with man and woman in EE giving hurricane news, and // to 1540. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 870 CUBA R.Rejoi, Sancti Spiritus NOV 6 0250 - Minute markers and code IDs through unID stations. [Conti-NH]
- 880 t CUBA Radio Progreso, 26 0022-0125+ - man and woman in SS. Possible "Aray-Pay" at 0028. Mention Habana. Possibly carrying classical music from about 0058 with female host. Not // 5025 & 640 not up to check //. Poor but fair peaks over WCBS before 0100 but not after. [Frodge-MI]
- 900 VENEZUELA Ritmo 900, Maracaibo NOV 6 0230 - Fair; horoscopes, "hora Venezuela" time check, over an unID gospel music station. [Conti-NH]
- 910 VENEZUELA RQ-910 Caracas NOV 6 0226 - Good; "La hora en tu AM Center, diez veinte seis minutos" and music by Los Melodicos. [Conti-NH]
- 970 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HIUP La Vega, AUG 5 0223-0330 - sounded like a live concert, very lively AL music, sign off at 0330, a few mentions of La Vega, poor to fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 990 MEXICO XEID, Radio Cañon, Alamo, Ver. NOV 7 0258-0402 - Signals from at least three and maybe four XEs were weaving in and out, and the only one on which I could get even a slogan was the Radio Can-on I'd first noted last spring. At 0258, I noted what appeared to be closing announcements for a telephone talk show, hosted by a woman, with mention of "Monterrey," pointing to XET, whose signal virtually disappears here at pattern change. It may have been one of the three music stations after 0300. For the next hour, the frequency was like a Mexican graveyard channel, but - defying the usual laws of DX - one station came atop at 0358:30 and stayed there. Production ID included laser beam shooting sounds, call letters mentioned twice, and telephone numbers given with double-ring phone sound bit. At first I thought the call was XEIT but the second call sounded like it had five letters. Monitoring the tape, it turned out to be XEID both times, the second time saying "XEID es Radio Cañon." One of the phone numbers I transcribed - 49406 - is shown as a phone number for XEID in the CIRT list which now shows XEID on 990 with 10 kW. The SCT list and Fred Cantu still show this one on 1070. Very short announcement by different man followed the production ID, then a very old marching band version of the Mexican national anthem, after which the carrier was cut. Last spring, I had thought the call was either XEIE or XEII. Now I know! [Callarman-TX]
- 1000 COLOMBIA RCN Cartagena NOV 6 0320 - Good; "Nurma RCN, la ultima en noticias", futbol promo, "RCN la radio de Colombia" jingle. [Conti-NH]
- 1000 VENEZUELA R.Caribena, Moron NOV 6 0403 - "Radio Caribena, la señal del Caribe" and classic salsa fading in and out of RCN Colombia. [Conti-NH]
- 1050 MEXICO XEQOO, Radio Pirata, Cancun, QR, NOV 7 0136-0150 - Usually impenetrable XEG nulls sufficiently to get some program notes on this one. Frequent canned announcements by deep-voiced man mentioning "Radio Pirata," chatty woman with lots of live patter between songs; did not discern call letters or location (though I have some tape to monitor more closely) but did hear mention of "noventa punto siete," which lists as Radio Pirata's FM affiliate. New state for me. [Callarman-TX]

- 1070 COLOMBIA Emisora Atlántico, Barranquilla NOV 6 0446 - Emisora Atlántico jingle, "Once cuarenta seis, once cuarenta seis minutos" time check and salsa music mostly under Mundial Zulia-Venezuela. [Conti-NH]
- 1070 VENEZUELA Mundial Zulia, Maracaibo NOV 6 0445 - Fair; jingles, Mundial and Zulia mentions, tropical music, in a battle with unID stations. [Conti-NH]
- 1070 unID NOV 6 0415 - "Onda dos equis" jingle heard over Latin American jumble. [Conti-NH]
- 1090 VENEZUELA Unión Radio, Caracas, NOV 6 0505 - Fair; "Unió Radio noticias" news over an unID Latin American station, no sign of CKKW or WBAL. [Conti-NH]
- 1120 MEXICO XETVH Villahermosa, TAB Nov 2 0147. Heard "En Tabasco, Estéreo Mexicana, La Tropical Ranchera", then ranchera tunes, with variations of the same slogan after each song. Auroral conditions, KMOX not a factor. Heard later at 0507 UTC with this ID: "XETVH en el mil doscientos treinta [1230] desde Villahermosa, Tabasco, Mexico", with no mention of 1120. The FLA boys logged this a couple of years ago, with the same situation. I guess the possibilities are twofold: (1) that XETVH is simulcasting on 2 frequencies, or (2) XETQE is relaying XETVH on 1120. IRCA Mexican Log lists XETQE in Tenosique, Tabasco, but not XETVH. Vice versa with WRTH. At any rate, this is my first logging from Tabasco, and my furthest XE logging ever! [Wilkins-CO] (a very saucy report! - Jim)
- 1120 MEXICO XETQE, Tenosique, TAB, NOV 7 0122-0155 - off and on as I tune around; music appeared to be segued by twos; woman would give time checks; man would give production announcements. At 0152, man slowly, clearly, strongly enunciated call letters XETVH and on the tape I pulled "Tabasco" out of the material that followed. KMOX signal partially nulled but I was not able to pull as much from the standard announcement as John Wilkins did on Nov 2, but I suspect, since both stations are owned by the government of the state of Tabasco and Villahermosa is the capital, XETVH is relayed by XETQE. SCT list shows XETVH on 1230 with 20,000 watts day, 1000 watts night, and XETQE on 1120 with 5,000 watts day, 500 watts night. CIRT list, which I think is more up-to-date than SCT (but does not list non-member, non-commercial stations) shows neither. [Callarman-TX]
- 1140 MEXICO XESOS, Radio Uno, Agua Prieta, SON, NOV 3 0356-0448 - tried for good, clear tape of this one in XEMR null, but could only pull out bits and pieces. When I've heard the call letters, it sounds more like XEFOF. "Radio Uno slogan heard often. At 0426 mentioned "noventa nueve punto nueve" which corresponds, according to CIRT list, to XESOS's FM affiliate, shown in the SCT list as licensed to Nacozeni, though listed in CIRT as Agua Prieta. [Callarman-TX]
- 1180 CUBA Radio Rebelde, 25/26 2352-2404+ - Impassioned speech by man (not Fidel) to 2357 then alternating man and woman. No ID at top of hour, commentary continued. All in SS. Fair over/under WHAM, // 5025. [Frodge-MI]
- 1190 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HIAG Santiago, AUG 0140-0200 - LA pop music, "Dominica" mentioned, fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1200 EL SALVADOR YSMM San Salvador, AUG 30 0142-0209 - LA pop music, ID as "Fiesta de Música", fair over WOAI. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1420 MEXICO XEWF Cuernavaca, AUG 18 0140-0223 - talk, LA pop music, ID as "Radio Mexicana", poor. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1440 NICARAGUA YNRM Managua, JUL 23 0144-0205 - call-in talk show, ID as "Radio Maranatha", fair, interference from KITA. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1480 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HIAH San Domingo, JUL 20 0229-0250 - LA pop music, clear ID as "HIAH Radio Ven", fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1500 MEXICO ZESM Mexico City, AUG 13 0208-0249 - LA pop music, ranchera type, over/under WTOP, ID as "Radio Vida", fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1500 PUERTO RICO WMNT Manati, AUG 6 0400-0410 - old LA pop music, partial ID as "en Manti, Puerto Rico", fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1520 COLOMBIA Ecos de Palmar Bogota, NOV 6 0400 - All alone on frequency with man in SS and ID. Seemed to be News. Not heard previously. No sign of WWKB. [Dangerfield-PA]
- 1520 COLOMBIA HJLQ Barranquilla, AUG 8 0154-0203 - LA pop music, ID as "Radio Minuto", fair. [Trelford-JAM]
- 1540 BAHAMAS ZNS Nassau, NOV 6 0400 - Big signal and alone on frequency. Man and woman in developments on Hurricane Michelle, // to 810. [Dangerfield-PA] NOV 6 0150 - Fair with telephone talk about hurricane; a woman called to report water up to the hood of her car, the host said the airports were underwater, then the airport director was on the phone with info about when Bahama Air was expected to be back in operation. [Conti-NH] NOV 6 0450-0502 - fair to good. Alone on channel; no trace of WPTR or KXEL, which are usual here. Signal strength was good, but atmospheric noise and fading made this tough copy at times. Hurricane information, including weather and reports of 8-ft seas; advice on boiling drinking water; at

- 0500 what sounded like "God Save the Queen." (No, not the Sex Pistols.) [Hochfelder-NJ]
 1550 COLOMBIA HJCB Barranquilla, AUG 8 0145-0150 - LA pop music, ID as "Radio EL Sol", fair. [Trelford-JAM]
 1550 MEXICO XENU Nuevo Laredo, AUG 11 0430-0507 - LA pop music, mix of country and ranchera. [Trelford-JAM]

John speaks: "I missed the November 5-6 auroral night, but found some lingering southerly reception early November 7 UTC. I was much surprised by the identities of the stations I found in XEG-1050 and KMOX-1120 nulls. By those two new states in the log, Quintan Roo and Tabasco respectively, I was encouraged to consider the possibility that my previously unidentified Radio Cañon on 990 might have been slogan change for XETG, Chiapas, or frequency change for XEIT-1230 Campeche, but 'twas neither."

HELPFUL LINKS

Perhaps a review of the Internet links I use for Mexican station information might be in order:

SCT: <<http://www.sct.gob.mx/satelital/am/index.html>>. Click on desired state on map. CIRT: <<http://www.cirt.com.mx/directorional.htm>>. Fred Cantu: <<http://www.fredcantu.com/mexicoradiotv.htm>>. TV Radio World: <<http://www.tvradioworld.com/region1/mex/default.asp?n=tvloc>>. [Callarman-TX]

SEEING RED

I don't recall who submitted the DXTip about the Bahamas on 1540, but I sure do appreciate it! I flew back in from seeing a home Packers game late last night, and the pilot pointed out the visible aurora to the north. First time I've ever seen it. Very cool. As far as Rick Kenneally's logging of Ecos de Palmar on 1520, I heard nothing on that channel. As a matter of fact, it seemed like a near total skywave blackout here, except for the Bahamas on 1540, Cleveland on 1220, and Chicago on 1000 and 890. So I worked on several graveyard channels which contained much less mush than usual and got some loggings on groundwave. [Hochfelder-NJ]

At 5:00 pm EDT NOV 5 while driving I noticed that reception was very poor, and there was a lot of noise on non-local channels, including what I would generally call "power line buzz". Instead of thinking aurora, I wondered what was wrong with the radio. During the period of 5:15-6:00 PM I tried DX'ing, but many channels were filled with noise. My thought then was that a neighbor has started collecting chain saws for fun. However, I did get reception of WZZJ 1580 from Mississippi around 2245 UTC. Thanks to e-mail alerts I observed the red aurora. It was a deep red color, something I've never seen before. The only auroral stations noted were Venezuela 780 and 910, and Cuba 890. Mexican stations which have been received well this season were absent. Local stations were largely interference free. Noteworthy were excellent quality regional graveyard stations that are normally destroyed at night. The TIS stations on 1610 and 1630 from Buffalo and Niagara were unusually strong. I didn't hear anything unusual on FM or TV. After 1:00 AM (0600 UTC) the red color was absent but there were pale thin streaks of white light, mostly to the northwest. After this time I started getting some new stations: WHBK 1460 North Carolina, WZNZ 1460 Florida. [Renfrew-NJ]

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It may not be perfect ...

but the NRC AM Log is, simply, the best there is because of your contributions. Why not make the next edition even better? Send all corrections and changes to Wayne Heinen - 4131 S. Andes Way - Aurora, CO 80013-3831, or nrclog@aol.com. Thanks!

Target DX

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

Welcome to another edition of Target DX! This time, we have questions on a variety of topics, along with some websites to add.

Q - What (aside from noise-reduction or reduction of unwanted signal pickup) does using a coax line for a longwire do for me if my receiver doesn't have a coaxial antenna input?

A - Nothing. Using coax if you do have a coax input on your receiver does not automatically reduce noise in some magical way, either. If you can, you should bury your coax, preferably in sealed PVC pipe to reduce noise. Common mode currents can and often do carry noise through the coax mixed with the signal. A high impedance isolation transformer reduces or eliminates common mode noise. Another benefit is the reduction of unwanted signal pickup by the line from the antenna to the receiver.

Q - If a receiver does have a coax antenna input and also the typical terminal strip, is it given that the two are wired differently inside the rx to take advantage of the differing impedances?

A - It's a 50/50 chance. It would be necessary to determine this from either the schematic diagram if you have one, or actual physical inspection of the circuit.

Q - If I have a simple longwire, and I 'tune' it using an L-C network or two, am I really impedance-matching or am I tuning it?

A - You are impedance matching. You are stepping down the feedpoint impedance of a high impedance longwire to a low impedance receiver input but the opposite can be done also.

Q - How does one go about estimating the impedance of a random wire antenna when one has no instruments?

A - In theory, an end fed 1/8 wave wire will have a feedpoint impedance of approximately 18 ohms, an end fed 1/4 wave wire approximately 36 ohms, an end fed 3/8 wave wire approximately 300 ohms, an end fed 1/2 wave wire approximately 10,000 ohms. Height above ground, surrounding objects and ground conductivity can change feedpoint impedance from theoretical values. With end fed wires feedpoint impedance and radiation resistance is the same thing. Feed the 10,000 ohm end fed 1/2 wave wire in the middle and it becomes 72 ohms (two waves).

Q - Could you explain more about what is meant by "feedpoint impedance?" If my end-fed 100 ft. wires (which would be 1/8 wave or less across the medium wave band) have an impedance of 18 ohms in theory, then why do they work best with a 4:1 RF matching transformer, high impedance windings to the antenna and low impedance windings to the coax lead-in? Can the theoretical impedance actually be as far off as an order of magnitude from reality?

A - The prior discussion of feedpoint impedance is theoretical in which feedpoint impedance was treated as a pure resistance. In reality, except at exact natural resonance, all antennas have reactance (opposition to flow of current). A long antenna compared to receive frequency has inductive reactance and needs a series capacitor to tune out reactance and gain a purely resistive feedpoint impedance. A short antenna is just the opposite, it has capacitive reactance and needs a series inductor. An impedance transformer works both ways, a 4:1 impedance transfer can mean 50 ohm coax/receiver and 200 ohm antenna impedance feedpoint or 50 ohm coax/receiver and 12.5 ohm antenna impedance feedpoint. Your 100 foot antenna (in theory) should work better attached to the low impedance side of the impedance transformer, BUT if your 100 foot long wire is inductively coupling to other nearby antennas and metal objects, the antenna may actually be electrically longer than 100 feet and work better attached to the high impedance of the matching transformer. Also as far as the coax feedline, if it doesn't have a coax choke balun at the antenna feedpoint, it's acting like part of the 100 foot antenna and is picking up noise and radio signals. The coax choke balun kills common mode currents and stops or reduces noise and signal pickup on the coax. One can use toroidal impedance transformers and coaxial choke baluns. 30 feet of RG-8X on a PVC pipe form with a 3 inch diameter and 8 inch length, usually works on the broadcast band but it is a trial and error thing.

Another explanation could be the isolation from the matching transformer. One DX'er has used RG58, RG59, RG6, and finds no difference in the feedline as far as signal-to-noise ratio, etc. The matching transformer

NEWS PLUS 790

isolates your feedline, so it is as if you moved your receiver out to where your antenna connects. For experiments he has taken the receiver out and connected the antennas directly to it, bypassing the 75 feet of coax, with no difference from what is heard in the house in terms of either directivity or the S/N or the S Meter readings during daytime. The loss at 1 MHz for even inexpensive coax RG 58/59 is so small, under 1 DB, that you can't tell any difference.

Q - As you make an antenna longer, when does it go from being an electrically long 1/4 wave to an electronically short 1/2 wave? Just wondering, as I've got a longer longwire.

A - Basically at 3/8's wavelength. The formula for a 3/8's wave is 356 divided by frequency. A 3/8's wave has a theoretical end feedpoint impedance of 300 ohms, so a 4:1 impedance transformer would work well.

Q - What is the advantage to connecting the coaxial cable from the antenna to the 50 ohm input as opposed to the 500 ohm one?

A - Coaxial cable is 50-75 ohms, so using the 50 input on the receiver allows for maximum signal transfer from antenna to receiver.

Q - Re the coaxial choke balun, any particular value associated with it, and, how is it connected relative to the transformer?

A - I don't know the exact amount of inductance needed in the choke balun for the broadcast band, but 30-33 turns of RG-8X does the trick, wound on a PVC form with a 3 inch diameter and 8 inch length. You don't want to just coil up some coax like you see on beam antennas, that doesn't work correctly. Place the coax choke after the impedance transformer on the receiver side.

Q - Which is better to hear distant stations under local stations - a phasing unit using 2 loops, or using a loop and a sloper, or 2 slopers facing opposite directions?

A - A phasing unit with two opposite facing slopers. This antenna has best front to back with and without a phasing unit and captures more low angle distant stations, as they are outside.

Q - I have one further question based on the prior answer. Where would 2 slopers at right angles to one another fit in in terms of performance (realizing that configuration is sometimes dictated by where the DX'er is relative to where the stations are - a domestic DX'er located in Florida would be best served by 2 at right angles roughly north and west, whereas a TA-only DX'er might want NE & SE, etc.)

A - I'd say that two slopers at right angles would be down some in performance, as the receive beamwidths would overlap. However you should still see useful performance when using a phasing device like the MFJ-1026. Really, the bottom line is how many other antennas that you have up in the near vicinity, because they will all interact with one another in unpredictable ways.

The editor would like to thank the following members for their comments, answers and discussion on the NRC/DXAS Email list which were used in the preparation of this column: Thomas Giella; Mark Durenberger; Patrick Martin.

Please remember to keep sending me your questions or your suggestions for future topic-oriented columns to me either via the NRCDXAS listservs, by off-line email or by regular mail!

The NRC AM Radio Log, 22nd Edition,
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DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

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We'll start this time with another installment of the best bet to hear certain areas, this time working on the Maritime provinces of Canada. We'll also have some more on the Xband stations, and begin a discussion of the current status of QSLing. Any comments you have on these subjects? Send them to me, they'll get fit in somewhere down the line.

PROVINCES

Rick Kenneally <woodlandview@yahoo.com>: Which NF station have Eastern DXers heard most? I've yet to hear any NF station from any DX location. And, based on the note below, I'd like to hear one before they're gone.

Bob Klinger <Rklinger97@aol.com>: Rick: In regards to your question, I am in the same boat as you.

Bob Galerstein <bgwb2vgd@nac.net>: Rick, Best bet is 740 Marystown, especially at sunset. I've heard it through the former CBL at times.

Bruce Conti <BACONTI@aol.com>: The following are received here most nights:

640 CBN St. John's - CBC Radio One

740 CHCM Marystown - relaying VOXM

750 CBY Bonavista Bay - CBC Radio One

540 CBT Grand Falls is rare, as CBEF and CBGA1 dominate the frequency.

600 CBNA St. Anthony is extremely rare.

Mike Brooker <caum108@direct.com>: In 25 years of DXing from Toronto, I have logged only two Newfoundlanders:

CBT-540 (1979)

CBMN-740 (1984), at that time they were // CBN-640, not relaying VOXM.

Benjamin Dangerfield <ben-dangerfield@worldnet.att.net>: No one has yet mentioned the station on 1210. Last summer, when I was DXing at Rockport with Bruce and Mark, this one was nicely picked up with WPHT phased. I would think that WPHT could be phased once clear of the Philly metropolitan area.

Brent Taylor, VE1JH <btaylor@nbnet.nb.ca>: Here in NB the best bet has historically been 740, Marystown. It was audible in the daytime from the Northern Shore of Prince Edward Island....

Phil Greenspan <PGreen1950@aol.com>: One advantage of being on the coast is Canadian DX. From Marshfield, MA we've heard:

540 CBT

590 VOXM

680 CKXG

740 CHCM

930 CJYQ

1210 VOAR

by far 740 CHCM is the most prevalent.

Bruce Conti <BACONTI@aol.com>: 1210 is easy on the shore, but once inland it's extremely rare. I'll typically hear Venezuela with WPHT nulled. 640, 740, and 750 are definitely easier catches.

Jim <Klygg@aol.com>: Rick, the Newfoundland station on 740 was getting into Springfield, MA. pretty well last winter, it very good copy on it on my car radio one evening around 8 PM.

Rick Kenneally <woodlandview@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: [NRC-am] Best bets for Newfoundland?

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2001 12:29 PM

A great big thanks to Bruce, Bob, Mike, Ben, Brent, Phil and Jim for your responses to this question. Got some time off coming up, and I'm looking forward to camping on 740 at sunset trying for Marystown.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: On the subject on "Best Bets". I still need PEI and NS. Any idea on those from the West Coast? The only thought for PEI is probably 720, which I have tried for when KDWN has been off. So far no luck on 720. I did log and QSL CBT-540 from AK in the 60s and CBY-990 in the 90s from OR for NFD.

Bruce Conti <BACONTI@aol.com>: Definitely 720 CHTN Charlottetown for PEI, received here with a solid signal on any given night. My best signals from Nova Scotia are 920 CJCH Halifax, 960



CHNS Halifax, and 1000 CKBW Bridgewater.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: 920,960, or 1000 are real toughies with the QRM. Any others?

Rick Kenneally <woodlandview@yahoo.com>: Patrick, I've heard:

720 CHTN PEI
780 CFDR NS
920 CJCH NS
1000 CKBW NS
1320 CKEC NS

720, 920, 1000 are most regular.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: 720 & 780 are possible and 1000, if KOMO is off.

Doug Smith W9WI <w9wi@w9wi.com>: Catch 1000 fast, it has a permit to move to FM.

Doug Smith, W9WI <w9wi@w9wi.com>: Isn't CHTN the only AM left on PEI?

Barry McLarnon <bm@lynx.ve3jf.ampr.org>: Nope, CFCY-630 is still on - I hear them fairly frequently with C&W programming, though they have much more competition than CHTN does on 720. PEI is the only province I can claim to have completed.:-)

I concur with Bruce's observations re NS. CKBW is the one most frequently heard here. Their daytime 10 kW ND should be a good sunset target. They have a very deep nighttime null to the west to protect WMVP, but despite that, I sometimes hear them well at night, so maybe they occasionally "forget". This is a good one for the DX tipsters to keep an eye on... maybe they'll become more lax in the days before they shut down their AM transmitter for good.

XBAND

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: Per a follow up phone call to engineering at KOMO-1630-CA, there is a good chance they will not use 1630 as in new tests the 5 kW 790 covers better. So another one we can scratch.

Powell E. Way III <powell@conterra.com>: Well, if they give it up, someone else will apply. I also wonder about the unbuil or "not on the air" allocations....1660 was allocated to Charlotte. They were going to do a petition for 1610...the current station is on 1600. I don't know what the deal is....maybe I should call...

Patrick Griffith, N0NNK/ WPE9HVW <AM-DXer@webtv.net>: *"And you'll notice that Elizabeth NJ-1530 and Vallejo-CA-1190 are still alive and well, over five years after their X-banders began broadcasting."* I don't know if this is the case with these examples but there seems to be a big loophole in the expanded band rules. You do have to surrender one of the licenses by the end of the 5 year period. However you can immediately reapply for that license after surrendering it. Of course you would be in competition with anyone else who might want to apply for that license. But it appears to me that if you do reapply and get the license back that you just surrendered, there seems to be no limitation on how long you can continue to operate both it AND the expanded band station. It seems apparent to me that the intent of the expanded band was not to lessen channel loading in the existing AM band but was instead simply to accommodate an increase in the overall number of AM stations capable of being supported within the entire AM band. Read carefully the following excerpts from the FCC web site.

"Once my expanded band facility is built, may I surrender my existing band license and then apply to use my old existing band frequency?"

Yes. An expanded band licensee may surrender its existing band license for cancellation once the expanded band station is licensed. The new station application specifying the "old" existing band frequency must satisfy current existing band allocations criteria. The FCC Form 301 application would be subject to competing applications and petitions to deny.

"I understand that the expanded band license will be for a five year term. Will my existing band license expire automatically at the end of this license period?"

No. Five years after the issuance of an expanded band construction permit, one of the two authorizations must be surrendered. The choice is solely at the licensee's discretion.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrcdxas.org>: Do we know for certain that the prior owners didn't simply sell the old facilities to a slightly or somewhat different ownership group in these cases? The rules don't prohibit that either.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: I was talking with a CE in Texas a while back about the X Band. He told me "Why wouldn't a station want to have an X Band frequency? You get two stations that way". When I asked him about the 5 year limit, he laughed at that, saying stations should not be worried. There are ways around it.

John Tudenham <w0jrp@earthlink.net>: I think some stations are having 2nd thoughts about the X band. If they already have a low frequency even with less power their daytime groundwave coverage may be better than the 10 kW at 1600. They may do somewhat better at night with 1 kW and a non DA



Antenna on the X band however.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: That is what the CE stated at KOOR-790. They have decided against 1630-Cloviss, as 790 does better they feel.

VERIFICATIONS

Eric C. Loy <obvious@prairienet.org>: Well, in getting back into the hobby these past two years, I've pretty much stopped sending out reports. For the 1999-2000 season, my return rate was well short of 50%, with a ZERO return rate from Canada. That's especially sad for me, as some of my most treasured ones of the past are Canadian: CJOY, CHLO, CHAB, CFOR and my all time favorite Canadian, CHYR7 on CHYR7 stationery. For this last season, I hit 100%: one for one. KBIM-910 for a new state was too much to resist.

I see a lot of folks are now collecting e-mail veries...maybe I should give it a try...but there was just SOMETHING about a trip to the post office that made it special. Of course many of my last few replies were of the "note on the report" variety, but still.

Working at a graveyard, we get very few reports. Even when we DX Tested a while back, I practically had to search the internet for reports. We did get a verifiable taped report from Finland, though.

All time report story: our GM was running around the station holding a report from a Swedish DXer, hooting about how long the signal traveled, and how he was going to mention it on his Morning Show....until I noticed the scrawl on the bottom of the report: "Heard while on Amtrak." The Amtrak track runs north and south about 30 yards away from the station.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: QSLing is tougher than it once was. I have pretty good luck with US & Canadian stations (90-95%), but to get that I have to resort to e mails, ppcs, and phone calls to stations to "pry" a QSL out of them. I get this "We have hundreds of reports to reply to and don't have the time. Could you send me something to sign?" That works too. I remember wanting a QSL out of KENI-650-Anchorage AK a few years back. I sent follow ups to the station with ppcs, etc. for a couple of years. No luck. I tried calling the station. The CE is the only one that will reply to reports and he is never in. Finally I found out his home address and sent my report direct to his house. It worked. I got a QSL form back. So anything goes in this day. I don't care for e mail QSLs., but I will use them if I can't get anything else. I do try to replace them in time if I can. The same goes for ppcs. At least it is one form of a QSL. Canadian stations are much like the US ones many times now as the Eng. is the Eng. for several stations in a network and has less time, so you have to try again. It will work out in time. But it takes time...

Paul Swearingen <PlsBCBDXER@aol.com>: I must say I feel somewhat sorry for those of you who started taking only paper veries and try to hang on and continue ... and probably annoy poorly-paid station personnel to the point of not wanting to deal with DX'ers ever again. Sure, the collection is great and is a lot of fun to take to conventions and let attendees paw over ... but at what price, in terms of postage, time, and the patience of station personnel?

I'm just glad that I started taping ID's when I did, even though it was only 26 years ago. The nostalgia factor is immeasurable when I listen to those tapes; it took only seconds for me to make them and subsequently dub them; and if I get around to burning them on CD, they'll be that much more accessible to me and anyone else, including poor John Bowker whom I've promised to send ID's for his DXAS program and never have.

Patrick Martin <mwdxer@webtv.net>: I don't find phoning a station to find out about a reception report that was sent is bothering the station. A DXers needs to be polite. You have to remember that the station is there to serve its listeners (at least that was the original idea), and dropping a note to a DXer is not a lot of work. People now have gotten so lazy. That phone call to the station might do more good than you think. Several times the report never reached them, or maybe they did not understand what you wanted. There are lots of reasons you can phone a station.

On the subject of taped veries, I could count all my taped veries, as I always have a tape back up, especially if I need to send a follow up, but I don't care to count them as QSLs. What about the "tentative" report you send to the station. You have a darn good idea you heard the station, but there is no ID. With a tape, you could not count that station. If you send the tape to the station and they confirm it was their station, you've got your verie. That has happened to me many times through the years. Who cares about the time, postage, etc. Any hobby is going to cost your time and money. What ever hobby you chose, to be successful, you have to put a lot of work into it. In QSLing, it is not the 60s anymore and many of the stations do not even know what a QSL is, so it is the job of the DXer to educate them. That has been done by New Zealand & Australia DXers for years, and it pays off. 90% of more of the DU's QSL.

For the stations that do not QSL, they have DXers like John Wright that have taken on the QSLing. I have thought that would be a great idea in the US. A few of us are doing that now.

I still like what Ernie Cooper once said about collecting QSLs. He has been at it for 70 years. It is nice

to look through QSLs on a rainy day. Each one brings back memories on how that station was received and QSL'd.

David Gleason <david@davidgleason.com>: I take considerable exception to your opinion, Patrick. Radio stations today have far fewer staffers than they did 20 years ago. Most of us never, ever write a "real" letter, even in administrative positions. I, for one, would not know where to find letterhead! Add that to the fact that DXing is not understood or appreciated by most younger staffers, and that engineering is almost always done by an outside contractor at all but the biggest stations and you have what is tantamount to an imposition on station time and productivity.

Answering a letter form a listener outside the station service area is not serving the listener... It is just serving the DXer.

As someone who ad over 2200 paper veries at one time, I feel I have enough knowledge of both sides of the issue to say that writing for verifications today is not a good idea. Some stations may be fascinated by reception letters, but others are not. Most don't have the time. Most don't see any reason to answer.

Forgetting for a moment about consolidation, we have to realize that most markets have triple or quadruple the number of competitive stations when compared to the late 50's or early 60's (the time when 80% of stations verified on the first try). FM is competitive, 80-90 drop-ins have come in, and many AMs have been marginalized due to signals that no longer cover the entire expanding metro. There is not triple the money for ad revenue, so staffs are smaller and expected to work longer, even in the big markets (where I work it is common to see lots of people still in offices after 7 PM!). There are fewer resources for verie answering.

Add the fact that half the letters coming in nowadays are from some guy in Italy who says, "I heard you while I was at Disneyland. Please QSL." Plus, with many stations on the net in some form or fashion, the "proof" of reception issue is taken with considerable skepticism.

Patrick Martin <mnwdxer@webtv.net>: Thanks David for your comments on the subject. I do have to agree with you on longer hours and less staffers. However, there are those that just don't want to write a letter. Face it, unless a person can make a buck doing something they are not interested. I am not saying all people. To give you an example. I have had CEs return my calls on their nickel, which is very nice. But they will spend 1/2 hour or more talking to you, but they don't have time to write verified on your report and mail it back? "Something is wrong with this picture". It does not take any time to QSL a ppc or to write verified on a report. I used to feel that stations got tons of reports. That is not the case anymore, as few people QSL. I know

of many stations that readily QSL correct reports, from secretaries to CEs. Some of the CEs engineer many stations and they work alone. Why do these CEs have the time and others don't? I still feel that many just aren't interested, and don't want to bother. As far as letterhead goes, to me it is nice, but not important. Some stations still go "the extra mile" and they print up QSL cards to send out. Those stations spend even more time that is not needed to help out the DXer. All I am talking about is getting some form of QSL back, be it e mail, ppc, letter, signed report... That is all. I still don't see why someone can't scribble "verified" on your report and mail it back, especially with a self addressed stamped envelope. If I write a letter to Proctor & Gamble about some product they sell, I would always get a friendly letter back. Is radio any different? I still feel, no matter if the listener or DXer is in the area, they should respond some way.

As far as the station being on the internet, that is why I generally send a cassette tape with my reports. I do know that some guy in Italy will send bogus reports. Hey, I even got one for KAVT. But I would think a tape of the signal would be enough to get the station to believe you. I don't think the station owes you a QSL, don't get me wrong...I just feel it can't hurt to QSL that DXer out there.

Russ Edmunds <wb2bjh@nrcdexas.org>: I stopped writing for verifications in about 1975, having only a few hundred. In my case, the combination of poor returns without endless follow-ups, which I was unwilling to do (even then!), the time I had to divert from listening to 'secretarial duties', plus the increasing (yes, even back then) postal costs, coupled with the fact that I had started taping nearly all of my DX in 1969, all contributed to the decision.

I never was going to create a collection for others to look at during get-togethers or conventions, and even that activity was dwindling. I was doing it for myself, and so I stopped.

When I moved to the Philadelphia area in 1983, I didn't pick up the hobby again until 1989. At that time, as now, I had the problems of a basement shack, and electrical noise, and so, as I spent a lot of time locally in the car commuting or whatever, I commenced doing most of my DX in the car, and so as a result of that, plus the death of the reel-to-reel recorder I had used, I also stopped taping. And, only in part due to the death of the tape machine, I've not listened to my tapes since!

At some point, I'd like to re-listen, and, if the quality is still there, transfer them to CD or something



else, but try finding a reasonably-priced stereo reel-to-reel tape machine these days! I suppose I have diminished some of my hobby enjoyment by not replacing the taper, but a long time ago I made the decision to spend more of my hobby time actually DX'ing, and the less hobby time I have, the more I'm glad that I did. I know what I've heard, and require neither veries nor tapes to 'prove' it to anyone else, because, again, I only DX for me!

Ron Gitschier <RGITSCHIER@doyle.navy.mil>: With all this talk about veries, I want to thank the members on this list that donate their time to volunteer to be QSL Managers. Hobbyists looking to make a difference... there are a handful here on this list. From that lead I became involved in hunting down mailed reception reports at the station. At first there were many just lying around pinned up in the studio or tucked away in drawers or hoarded by various staff as trophies or mementos... I snuffed each of them out, read them, and prepared on station's stationery, with the PD/Acting GM's permission, a verie letter printed out of my home PC/Printer. I paid postage where there wasn't an offering or it was taken by the staff earlier from my own pocket because I wanted to make a difference. Being a single income family with one in college at the time, I usually took postage from my coffee money and was happy to do it. About every week, I'd make sure I drove the 50+ miles each way to the station to collect the reception reports.

A lot of folks were mighty grateful for my efforts. Many from this group/club and many other fellow DXers abroad. Some of which had been trying to land a WGSR (WQAI/WYHI) verie for years. Once word got out we were verifying, and subsequently I held DX tests, correspondence grew to new heights, acquaintances made, etc.

I used to report loggings before I enlisted in the Navy and had a fairly good return rate ('81/'82). Through most every QSL I learned something new about the station I logged as I'd ask a number of questions, mostly technical whenever I'd write a station. I thank all those folks for taking the time to reply. While AM DXing is indeed a thrill, I don't feel that it's 'law' that they 'have' to reply to every single piece of mail. It's a 'if you have the time' sort of thing... it's a very nice thing to do on behalf of the broadcaster to promote the hobby and good will... all that said I hope that everyone eventually gets a good return rate. It's frustrating, but keep at it.

Me, I'd like to do reports again, but don't have a lot of time to DX. Maybe that's one reason I collect AM IDs. And the ones I reap from the ether are the most special to me, because it's sort of a living QSL in a sense... my personal memento that I heard station W/K/C/X-xxx when I lived in Jacksonville, FL or was sailing through their city grade signal on a trip with the ship along our coast or abroad.

I am no longer associated with radio station WGSR as it has a different party that just opened a lease with the ownership. I may later on, as history has it - I always come back to Fernandina's airwaves but for now I'll have to step back and feel things out. I've been there at 1570 since June 11, 1997.

If anyone on the list should ever get their foot into a station, I encourage you to see about volunteering to be a "QSL" manager. I enjoyed my tour as one immensely. It gave me a good feeling inside that I was helping to make a difference in the hobby from my little corner of the world. We can numerate all the reason why we can't take the time, but on the most part the challenge is to think of all the reasons to do it - 'support radio' (and our hobby), as Fred says every month.

Kevin Redding <amfntvdx@qwest.net>: I tape stuff and wonder why I do it. I rarely if ever listen to the tapes and they take up space and probably if I ever get the time to listen, the tapes will be unusable. Looks like you and I are just about on the same page. I keep a log of interesting things that I hear and tape some stuff and that's it. I might stop taping and just keep the log. The important thing is to remember that this is a hobby and what its all about it to have fun. You don't have to do anything but enjoy whatever aspect of the hobby you like best. Listening is the part that's the best for me too!

More on QSL's next time. Hope to see you then.

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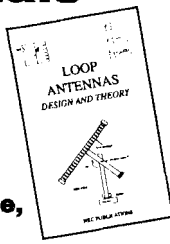
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Your successes in obtaining QSL's and other station items

550	WASG	Atmore AL, n/d e-mail in 8 days for e-mail report. V/s Mike Gliner, President. (Myers—FL)
610	WVTJ	Pensacola FL, f/d prepared QSL sheet in 7 days. V/s Michael Gliner, President (Myers—FL)
639	CNR	CHINA, QSL card in 30 days for tape and \$1.00. No v/s. (Martin—OR)
860	KBEE	Salt Lake City UT, prepared card in 7 days for follow-up. V/s Ritchie Bauer, CE. (Wilkins—CO)
870	KRLA	Glendale CA, QSL card in 155 days. V/s Bill Sheets, CE. (Martin—OR)
880	KJOJ	Conroe TX, prepared card in 14 days after a follow-up. V/s Sandy Phall(?), CE. (Wilkins—CO)
930	WBEN	Buffalo NY, n/d letter, sticker, Arbitron Rating Sheet in 8 days. V/s Dennis Kavanaugh, Engr. Mgr. (Jones—TN)
940	KCEE	Tucson AZ, prepared card in 9 days after a follow-up. V/s Fransico Abril, Asst. Engr. (Wilkins—CO)
945	CNR	CHINA, QSL card in 30 days for tape and \$1.00. No v/s. China MW QSL #33. (Martin—OR)
970	KUFO	Portland OR, verie form in 9 days. V/s S. Rutherford, DoE. (Martin—OR)
1010	KNWZ	Palm Springs CA, QSL form, KCMJ-1140 mug, KXPS cups, KNWX key chains, fridge magnets in 27 days after 3 rd follow-up. V/s Jay White, CE. (Martin—OR) <i>Nice haul! GM</i>
	KCMJ	Palm Springs CA, same as above after 2 nd follow-up. (Martin—OR)
	KXPS	Palm Springs CA, same as above. (Martin—OR)
1150	CKOC	Hamilton ON, n/d letter, poster and "Jukebox Car Sign" in 9 months for \$1.00. V/s Nevin Grant, Program/Mx Dir. (Jones—TN)
1160	WAMB	Donelson TN, QSL letter in 48 days for taped report. V/s W.C. Baird, Jr., VP. QSL# 2769. (Martin—OR)
1180	WJNT	Pearl MS, f/d form letter, sticker in 2 weeks for DX Test. V/s Stan Carter, CE. (Myers—FL)
1200	KSRK	Soquel CA, e-mail reply in 3 days for e-mail report. V/s Catherine Wise. KSRK@redshift.com . (Martin—OR)
1310	CHLW	St. Paul AB, prepared card, sticker in 15 days after a follow-up. V/s Illegible. (Wilkins—CO)
1340	WROD	Daytona Beach FL, n/d e-mail in 1 day after an e-mail follow-up. V/s Bill Matthews. (Myers—FL)
1480	KAVA	Pueblo CO, prepared card in 8 days after a follow-up. V/s Illegible. (Wilkins—CO)
1580	KMIK	Tempe AZ, p/d letter in 7 days. V/s David Recher, GM. (Myers—FL)
1630	WTEL	Augusta GA, QSL letter in 370 days after 2 follow-ups. V/s Harley Drew, Oper. Dir. (Martin—OR) <i>I received one as well, but unneeded as they had already veried as WAWX and I didn't even report them as WTEL! GM.</i>
1670	KAZT	Redding CA, f/d "ESPN" card, prepad card, stickers in 11 days after a follow-up. V/s Jim Bremer, CE. (Wilkins—CO)

Contributors: David Jones, Springfield, TN; Patrick Martin, Seaside, OR; Greg Myers, Clearwater, FL; John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, CO



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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.

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

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I just received the October 1, 2001 issue of *DX News*, very good as always. I am sorry I have not been collaborating as I used to do some time ago, but that book I undertook to write with my friend Teo Veras about the Radiodiffusion in the Dominican Republic is a very heavy task, most of my time is dedicated to research for the book. I am very grateful as I have been receiving help from DXer friends from abroad who has been sending me copies of QSLs from a long time ago; that helps. Yes, thanks to all of you. Because of that I could not be at the Pittsburgh Convention, as my nephews living at Albany, N. Y. were willing to pay me a ticket to New York, but I was too much occupied on that work. I saw the information sent by Mark Connelly from MA, who said that he heard R. Monte Cristi on 580, on August 28, and precisely, the founder of that station, Rafael Octavio Moscoso Cordero (aka Don Fellito) died on September 19. The station started operation at the beginning of the '60's on the frequency of 630 with 1000 watts as HIAF. Now it is on 580 kcs. To Trelford in Jamaica: The station you heard on 1330 that you mentioned as "Radio Scincilla" is "Radio Visión Cristiana", even though they have a transmitter on 530 from Turks & Caicos Islands, they also have another transmitter located in Santo Domingo, but it is not a relay, they have another programming.. I also saw an information sent by Pentti Lintujärvi, from Finland, who said that "An official list of AM-and FM stations in Dominican Republic has finally been made accesible at the INDOTEL website." Yes, that is true, but I do not trust that list as they usually publish a list they have on paper but not on the air; the lists I publish are taken from the air, as many of the stations are not really on the air, as they are only projected, or some other (those heard on the air) are illegal and they are not on that list. I always make my own lists visiting as many towns I possibly can in order to prepare a good list, or an on-the-air list, not a list on the paper. Well, I think I went too long with this Musing, so I have to stop here. My heartiest greetings to you all.

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