





# AM Switch

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

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<u>Old Call</u>		<u>New Call</u>
690	WJOX	AL Birmingham	WSPZ
700	WGZS	AL Dothan	WEEL
810	WCKS	AL Jacksonville	WCKA
1220	KCCS	OR Salem	KBDY
1370	WRWD	NY Ellenville	WELG

BOX 1036 HUTCHINSON, KS 67504-1036

# KWBW

## CPs ON THE AIR

690	WOKV	FL Jacksonville - CP to increase night power as U4 50000/25000 is on the air.
1230	WJOI	VA Norfolk - CP to become U1 627/627 is on the air.
1330	WMOR	KY Morehead - Coordinate correction to N38-10-56 W83-26-56.
1410	KWYO	WY Sheridan - CP for U1 5000/350 from a new, taller (240') tower is on the air at N44-47-54 W106-55-51.
1600	WKWF	FL Key West - Coordinate correction to N24-34-17 W81-44-25.
1600	KMDO	KS Fort Scott - CP for U1 770/35 from a new tower site at N37-47-01 W94-42-00 is on the air. They moved the lower 160' of their old 317' tower to the new site and it is now the radiating element.

## ACTIONS

870	WWL	LA New Orleans - CP granted for auxiliary facilities of U1 10000/5000, using one of the WSMB towers at N29-55-27 W90-02-04.
1050	WKAU	WI Kaukana - CP granted to increase their power levels to U4 5000/1000 by adding two towers to their current three. The new day pattern is directed northwest while the night pattern primarily heads northeast with a small odd-shaped lobe to the southwest.
1080	WOKT	KY Cannonsburg - CP granted to move here (ex: 1040) and increase their power to become D1 1800/0.
1250	KZDC	TX San Antonio - CP granted to increase day and night power levels to become U4 25000/2000 from two new four tower arrays: N29-17-10 W98-28-25 for days; and N29-36-35 W98-34-31 for nights.
1370	WGHC	GA Clayton - CP granted to reduce their power to become D1 250/0. [See CP Amendments below]

## AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

640	WMEN	FL Royal Palm Beach - Licensed for U4 7500/360, WMEN has a CP to change the City-of-License to Boca Raton with U4 25000/25000. This amendment requests U4 50000/25000 at Boca Raton.
1370	WGHC	GA Clayton - Licensed for D1 250/0, WGHC has a CP to change City-of-License to Mount Holly, North Carolina with D1 3000/0 from a new tower site and move to 870 kHz. This amendment requests D1 6000/0 CH 6000 on 870 from a different site, also from Mount Holly.
1460	KHOJ	MO St. Charles - Licensed for D3 5000/0, KHOJ has a CP for U4 5000/85. This amendment requests U4 5000/350.

## APPLICATIONS

540	WWCS	PA Canonsburg - Applies to reduce their daytime power to become U4 3800/500. This action replaces the expired application for U4 3600/500 which appears in the AM Log.
1070	KATQ	MT Plentywood - Applies to add night service as U1 5000/49 at the corrected coordinates of N48-46-01 W104-32-43.

## AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATIONS

820	NEW	MI Escanaba - Amends their application to U4 7500/750 from a new site.
830	KOTC	MO Kennett - Station had an application to move to Memphis, Tennessee with

D1 1000/0 CH 1000. This amendment deletes the CH portion of the application.

1240 KWIK ID Pocatello - Licensed for U1 1000/1000, KWIK has a CP for U1 960/250 at the corrected coordinates of N42-55-27 W112-27-31. They then applied for U1 960/1000, but now amended the application to read U1 960/960.

#### APPLICATIONS DISMISSED

570 KNRS UT Salt Lake City - Licensed for U3 5000/5000, KNRS applied for U4 25000/5000. This amendment requests U4 50000/5000.

1590 KEAS TX Eastland - Licensed for D1 500/0, KEAS applied to move to Carlsbad, Texas with first, D1 1000/0 and then with D1 1200/0. The second motion has been dismissed, leaving the D1 1000/0 application on file.

#### APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

690 NEW SD Tyndall - Applies for U4 1000/400.

1450 NEW GA Clayton - Applies for U1 250/1000.

#### LICENSE CANCELLATIONS

1370 WOCA FL Ocala [A "Red light dismissal", meaning they failed to submit a renewal application]

#### OTHER STUFF

800 KPDQ OR Portland - Their CP add a tower in order to increase the nighttime power has been deleted from the FCC database. KPDQ remains U1 1000/500.

880 CKKC BC Nelson - Their simulcast time with the new FM has expired. We assume CKKC-880 has gone silent.

1040 WZNA PR Moca - The CP to increase their daytime power has been deleted from the FCC database. WZNA remains U5 5000/245.

1520 WHOW IL Clinton - Their 400' tower, which also housed the antenna for WHOW-FM, collapsed on December 1<sup>st</sup> as a result of a severe ice storm which hit Central Illinois. "NewsRadio 1520" returned with 'reduced power' on December 5<sup>th</sup> using a secondary tower. The FM was projected to back on December 8<sup>th</sup> after a temporary tower is erected.

#### HEAR AND THAR

DX News is taking the usual Holiday break, so don't look for us next week. Let me take this opportunity to wish one and all a **Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and the best of DX** from the entire staff of **AM Switch**. We'll see you next year.

Stations reported to have gone silent: **WGVM-1260 Greenville, Mississippi, WYJK-1340 Connellsville, Pennsylvania, WBTO-1600 Linton, Indiana**. Also, just in: **WMBH-1560 Joplin, Missouri** has been off since late November (not storm related), and it's not sure whether they'll be returning.

Back on: "**WGLD-1440 Red Lion, Pennsylvania** has returned to the airwaves // WSOX 96.1 with oldies. Apparently they're operating days with their night power as its just about gone at 5 miles away. My closest station and can't hear it here!" [submitted by **Dave Schmidt**];

A recent news article proclaiming "Georgia erases 519 places off the map" included names such as 'Poetry Tulip', 'Ty Ty', 'Talking Rock' and 'Young Harris'. Young Harris!?!? The city-of-license of **WYHG-770!?!?** Evidently the Georgia Department of Transportation didn't coordinate with the FCC on this one. How can we locate some of these DX locales if they aren't on the map?

FINES: **WWGC-1090 Albertville, Alabama** has been fined \$1500 for failure to file for renewal in a timely manner.

Thanks to **Shawn Axelrod, Perry Crabill, Bill Dvorak, and Wayne Heinen**.



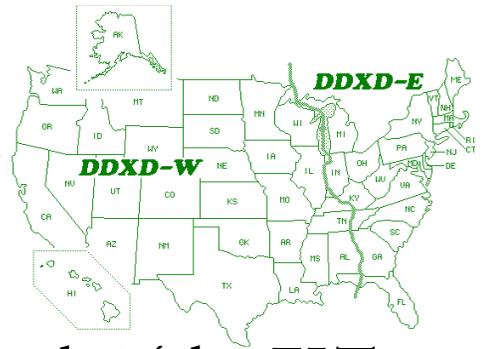
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# Domestic DX Digest

**West: Bill Dvorak** westlogs@aol.com (Division line  
501 Algoma St. - Madison, WI 53704-4812 is between East  
and Central time

**East: Mike Brooker** aum108@idirect.com  
99 Wychcrest Ave - Toronto, Ontario M6G 3X8 CANADA



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

## DDXD-West

FROM THE VAST WESTLAND

- ▲ In last week's edition of DDXD-W, we told about a 1 kHz "mystery signal" on 1610 kHz that was being heard in much of North America and beyond. From the first time it was heard, the DX community expressed a great amount of interest in this signal, and members traded much info on it through the various DX lists. We promised last week to keep the readership posted on the latest details, and this week we have a lot to report on this (still unraveling?) story. Look for a special report (and some "mystery" loggings) at the end of this column.
- ▲ The Holiday break is here-- no *DX News* next week! The next time we pop out of your mailbox will be early next year. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my friends in the NRC a very happy Holiday season! Says your Jolly Old "Ed." as he peers o'er his specs, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all Good DX!" 73 **Bill**

### Reporters

- BW-OK** Bruce Winkelman AA5CO, Tulsa. R8, Quantum phaser, two 50-foot wires.  
**CR-IL** Christos Rigas, Wood Dale. Drake R8, Quantum QX-Pro loop, Jeep Cherokee built-in radio.  
**DB-IA** Doug Beard, Springville. Wife's 1969 Motorola portable.  
**DP-HI** Dale Park, Honolulu. Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop.  
**DP-HI\*** Dale Park, DXing in East Honolulu. Honda car radio.  
**GH-IL** Greg Harris, Park Forest. Icom R75 with Quantum Loop or homebrew shielded loop antenna, or Panasonic RE-6289 circa 1969 / Internal Antenna. 2006  
**JJR-WI** John J. Rieger, South Milwaukee. Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner-preamp or GE Superadio III, Terk AM1000 loop.  
**JRT- MO** John Tudenham, Joplin. Station news.  
**JT-AZ** John Tucker KG7RS, Mesa. Hammarlund HQ-150 or Kenwood R-600, 3' remote-controlled varactor-tuned box loop, 60' Inverted-L, Quantum Phaser.  
**JW-CO** John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge. Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop.  
**LK-SD** Lewis "Rusty" Kruger, Sioux Falls. GPX A2945M-E1 personal radio.  
**MD-AZ** Mike DeWan, Tempe. Hammarlund HQ-129-X with NRC FET altazimuth loop, neither at 100% yet.  
**REW-HI** Richard E. Wood, Keaau. Icom R75, 350 foot longwire to NE, 175 foot longwire to NNE.  
**WH-CO** Wayne Heinen, Aurora. Drake R8B, N/S Flag, E/W Flag, Modified 4 foot NRC Altazimuth loop, 15 foot vertical whip, Dual TG-1 Termination Gizmo w/2 BUF-F amplifiers, Mini-DXP5, DX Engineering RPA-1.  
**Ed.-WI** Your editor, Madison. Drake R8B, Quantum QX Pro loop.

### Station News

- 850 WCPT IL Crystal Lake. 12/6. Adds Stephanie Miller per station. (DP-HI)  
 870 KHNR HI Honolulu. 12/6. Noted off for the past two days. Station news director at first thought I was referring to mother station KHNR-FM when I called today to get an explanation. He didn't know the reason for the outage. (DP-HI)  
 900 KNUI HI Kahului. 12/6. Still airing classic Hawaiian AC music and using slogan "AM Nine Hundred, Maui's Aloha Station." Station spokeswoman didn't know anything about an alleged format change to news-talk and would pass on the inquiry to the program director, who was out of the office at the time. (DP-HI) (So this station has not changed formats, at least yet, and for now a unique format stays in place. I have seen internet postings saying that a format change had either happened or was "imminent." At least one database, 100000watts.com, shows that the station became "Fox News 900, the Talk of Maui," on 10/25. Ed.-WI)  
 950 KTNF MN Saint Louis Park. Per station website, KTNF will air Ed Schultz live when he moves to his new timeslot of 1206-1500 ELT from 12/11. KTNF is one of several stations, judging from their websites, that will switch Schultz with Al Franken, who will air on tape 1506-1800. This is kind of ironic, since Franken is based in Minneapolis while

Schultz broadcasts from further north (Detroit Lakes MN and Fargo ND). Various blogs say the move on Jones Radio's part is to challenge both Rush Limbaugh and Franken, whose status in radio is iffy since he may run for the U.S. Senate. **(DP-HI)**

- 960 KZIM MO **Cape Girardeau.** Simulcasts with KSIM 1400 Sikeston MO; please change your AM Log to reflect this. An e-mail to Faune Riggan, Program Director of the two stations, confirms the simulcast, which is almost completely full-time. The exceptions: on Sunday mornings the two stations carry separate local church services, and on Monday through Friday 10-11 AM Central KZIM carries Neil Boortz while KSIM carries Derry Brownfield. **(Ed.-WI)**
- 1150 KWKY IA **Des Moines. 12/8.** The format switch to mostly Catholic (EWTN and other) programming mentioned in DDXD-W #74-11 was made today, as confirmed by listening to and calling the station. Several evangelical shows will remain on the schedule, such as Focus on the Family. **(DB-IA)**
- 1210 KOKK SD **Huron. 12/3 0054-0104.** Fair below WPHT PA with C&W music. I was surprised to hear this one, which I almost never hear at night. I was even more surprised when at 0101 they give a sign-off announcement followed by a female vocal rendition of "God Bless America." A call to the station reveals that broadcast hours are 0630-0100 ELT seven days a week. Please change your AM Log, which lists them as 24 hours. **(Ed.-WI)**
- 1270 WKBF IL **Rock Island. 12/6 1500.** 100% commercial-free Christmas music. Air America is gone. Calls itself "Truth 1270." Will become Christian talk with new calls before the end of the year. **(DB-IA)**
- 1400 KSIM MO **Sikeston.** See KZIM 960 above. **(Ed.-WI)**
- 1400 KBRB NE **Ainsworth. 11/29 0500.** Out of C&W music with "ABC News brings you the latest from around the nation and around the world at the top of each hour, KBRB AM 14 FM 92 Ainsworth" to ABC news. Add // FM to your Log. **(WH-CO)**
- 1520 WHOW IL **Clinton.** This station, along with its FM counterpart, went off the air in the early morning hours of 12/1 when its 400-foot tower collapsed, a victim of the severe ice storm that rolled through Central Illinois (thanks to a post by **Chris Cervantez** on the WTFDA list tipping us off to this situation). According to the station website, WHOW AM returned to the air on 12/5, at reduced power using a secondary tower. The FM was supposed to return on 12/8 on a temporary tower. No word as to when a new permanent tower would be built. **(Ed.-WI)**
- 1560 WMBH MO **Joplin.** Station has been off the air since very late November, briefly returning 12/2 but now again silent. This occurrence was not weather related, as the station went off the air a couple of days before the storm. The station was bought in 2005 by Hardman Broadcasting for \$1.00. Hardman pays rent to and leases equipment from FFD Holdings, owners of KQYS 1420 MO, KQYX 1450 MO and four FM stations. WMBH has tried three different formats in the last year or so, including most recently "Urban Jamz" by satellite. It was very common to hear dead air during satellite breaks. The station might be about to fold. In the meantime, a weak low-power signal (not a spur) has been heard on 1560 re-broadcasting local Zimmer owned KZYM 1230--perhaps a pirate. **(JRT-MO)** (John first reported on this station back a few weeks ago. See DDXD-W #74-5. **Ed.-WI)**
- 1590 WZRX MS **Jackson. 11/20 2043-2055.** Found WZRX on top of 1590 with "News-Talk 15-90 WZRX" IDs, local ads and CNN Radio programming. Presumably a format change from the UC Gospel listed in the 27th edition of the NRC Log. A new one for me, MS #26. **(BW-OK)**
- 1600 KGYM IA **Cedar Rapids. 11/27 1830.** No longer carries KCRG-TV and ABC-TV news 1800 to 1930 ELT. Only did so for a few weeks after the station was sold. **(DB-IA)** (For more on this, see DDXD-W #74-9 **Ed.-WI)**

#### Off Frequency

- 570.04 KSNM NM **Las Cruces. 12/7 2059.** Out of a Nostalgia tune with legal ID by man at 2100:01 "KSNM AM 570 Las Cruces-- top hits and ABC news. More southern New Mexicans get their news from ABC News than any other news source," and into ABC news at 2100:12. Generally fair signal. This frequency apparently works well for them-- they've been here for a couple of years or longer. **(JW-CO)**

#### Presumed, Tentative, UnID

- 1050 UNID **11/29 0230.** EE station momentarily on top of dominant XEG, with KTCT off (see "Regular Loggings" KTCT below. **Ed.-WI)**. Caught only the words "In Montréal... Saturday." Weak. **(REW-HI)**

- 1420 KJDLt TX **Lubbock. 11/25 0000.** Tentatively with "...24 hour news room, news radio 14-20 (call sounded phonetically like KJZO) into CBS Network news. **(BW-OK)**
- 1660 KRZIp TX **Waco. 11/28 0900.** Heard slogan "Newstalk 16-60" many times before the ToH. Mentions of "Texas", "Sam Houston" and traffic on I-35. CNN news at ToH followed by Glenn Beck. Heavy fading. **(LK-SD)** (Could you have been hearing KRZI and KQWB trading off on 1660, Rusty? As far as I know, KRZI remains ESPN sports. KQWB, "Talk Radio 1660," carries Glenn Beck beginning at 0900 ELT. **Ed.-WI)**

Regular DX Loggings (times in ELT)

- 540 KNMX NM **Las Vegas. 11/27 2200.** CNN news. Announcement at 2204: "Thanks for listening to New Mexico's back to back to back to back Station of the Year, 5-40 KNMX," into great SS "Tex-Mex" pop music. At 2209 "Keep it right here on 5-40 KNMX for great New Mexican music." Outstanding signal on the R-600 with co-channel SS QRM phased. Listed at 20 watts, not likely! **(JT-AZ)**
- 570 WNAX SD **Yankton. 11/29 0720.** Poor; time check, calls and ads. Signal basically alone. **(JJR-WI)**
- 590 CKRS QC **Jonquiere. 12/5 1812.** Good on top of others with French language talk. Several mentions of Montreal and Quebec. **(CR-IL)**
- 640 WCRV TN **Collierville. 11/30 0758.** "Around Town" (area events); this ended at 0759 with call letter ID and address. Fair signal in partial KFI null, but 13 seconds later local KHOW 630 turned on their IBOC and there went the neighborhood. **(JW-CO)**
- 660 WMIC MI **Sandusky. 11/28 0734.** Very poor under KTNN. Local news, ads. Rare. **(JJR-WI)**
- 680 KNBR CA **San Francisco. 11/29 0400.** A man said: "KNBR will be off the air for transmitter maintenance. We will be back with more ESPN Radio." Carrier cut, leaving only an empty channel. Below average conditions. Thanks anyway to engineer Lee at KNBR/KTCT (for informing DXers that the two stations would be doing maintenance-- see also 1050 **Ed.-WI)**. **(REW-HI)**
- 760 WJR MI **Detroit. 12/5 2201.** Local news -- death of Dearborn mayor Michael Guido; announcer: "I'm..., WJR news. It's 10:01 and 28 degrees." Decent copy for a few minutes; popped out of the jumble while KKZN and KFMB were both in a fade. I haven't heard these guys since 1986 on my erstwhile Radio Shack TRF when KFMB was 5kW, XENY Nogales wasn't there, and KTKR and KKZN were nowhere to be found (not sure if those two were on then). I've been more or less parked on 760 for the last couple of weeks trying to see if the new (old) radio and (almost new) antenna could pull this one out of a much more crowded frequency. I grew up in Detroit so it was good to finally hear it again. **(MD-AZ)**
- 870 WWL LA **New Orleans. 12/6 0645.** Promo mentioning "1-Oh-5-Point-3 FM" and listing talk show hosts like Rush Limbaugh, ending with "...Newstalk AM 8-70 now on 1-Oh-5-Point-3 FM.... WWL, Radio New Orleans," then faded out. No sign of KRLA CA. Been a while since I logged this from home. Very poor; KHNR-870 off. **(DP-HI)**
- 890 KDJQ ID **Meridian. 12/3 1914.** Commercial for local Boise restaurant, musical ID, into oldies music then gone at 1919; presumably switched to night power. Very strong momentarily on the HQ-150. **(JT-AZ)**
- 940 CJGX SK **Yorkton. 11/29 0730.** Fair way over anything with news: cold is coming. **(JJR-WI)**
- 940 KVSH NE **Valentine. 12/1 0821.** Ad for Jack's Tack, followed by ag news, including a story about a bone fragment found in a shipment of beef destined for South Korea, causing that country to suspend imports of beef from the U.S. Good signal. **(JW-CO)**
- 940 CINW QC **Montréal. 12/5 2357.** "940 Montréal" and "old Montréal" ad, rather weak, briefly over KIXZ with CJGX nulled. First time heard. Predecessor CBM used to dominate this frequency. That's the difference between the half-wave main tower CBM used and the 97-degree old CFCF towers CINW uses. The dominant station here now is CJGX. **(DB-IA)**
- 1050 KCTC CA **San Mateo. 11/29 0203.** Went off air; at 0250 back on. Revealed only XEG at below average strength (poor conditions) and three words in EE from a possible Canadian (see UNID above). **(REW-HI)**
- 1070 CHOK ON **Sarnia. 12/3 2210.** "...on Information Radio 1070 CHOK" by a male announcer. Good signal. **(GH-IL)**
- 1080 WTIC CT **Hartford. 12/1 1735.** Good under WTSO 1070 splatter. "WTIC newstime is 5:35" by a female announcer, into "Marketwatch Report." Rarely heard here. **(Ed.-WI)**
- 1110 WGNZ OH **Fairborn. 11/30 0717.** Poor but over KFAB. Calls to song, then fade out. Rare. **(JJR-WI)**
- 1150 WIMA OH **Lima. 11/28 0754.** Poor in null of others with promo, calls, to fade-out. **(JJR-WI)**
- 1200 WCHB MI **Taylor. 11/30 2356.** "WCHB" into soul tune. Good with WOAI nulled. New. **(DB-**

		IA)	
1210	KOKK	SD	Huron. 12/2 1900. "... and that's the forecast from 1210 Dakota Central KOKK in Huron." (WH-CO)
1220	WSLM	IN	Salem. 11/30 0714. Poor over others. "Shop local" promo and two sets of calls into news. Rare. (JJR-WI)
1230	KOTS	NM	Deming. 12/7 1907. Local basketball game, Deming Wildcats vs. Rockets; call letter ID. Briefly fair over the pile before fading. (JW-CO)
1260	KFFF	IA	Boone. 12/5 1759. Legal ID at 1759:55 "KFFF Boone-Des Moines," followed by SRN news. Good signal until power-down (15 minutes late), which occurred a few seconds after SRN news began at 1800. (JW-CO)
1310	WDOD	TN	Chattanooga. 12/3 2100. "AM 1310 WDOD" by a female announcer and "AM 1310 WDOD for Chattanooga's Greatest Generation" by a female announcer. Fair. New. (GH-IL)
1320	KYHN	AR	Fort Smith. 12/5 1859. Dual non-legal ID at 1859:50 "Rush Limbaugh weekdays at 11 on NewsTalk 1650 KWHN, KYHN, and your information now kwhn.com." ABC news at 1900 was followed at 1905 by two local spots and weather forecast. Good signal, with some fading and QRM. (JW-CO)
1320	KYHN	AR	Fort Smith. 12/7 0207. ID of sister station by a male announcer: "...on KWHN Newstalk 1650." Fair; surfaced momentarily then faded into the noise. New. (GH-IL)
1350	KCOR	TX	San Antonio. 12/7 2006. Latino music; canned slogans such as "Las canciones más pegadoras [?]...en KCOR Trece Cincuenta AM, La Primera" and "No le cambie, aquí pura buena en KCOR, Trece Cincuenta AM, La Primera". Fair to good in auroral conditions. (JW-CO)
1360	KMNY	TX	Hurst. 11/22 0800. "The sound of your money growing, Radio 13-60 KMNY" into Biz Radio Network (BW-OK)
1360	KSCJ	IA	Sioux City. 11/23 0100. Quick ID into ABC news. (BW-OK)
1360	KKTX	TX	Corpus Christi. 11/23 0458. Call letter ID bubbled up in overnight recording. (BW-OK)
1360	KHNC	CO	Johnstown. 11/23 0859-0900. On top of frequency with American Freedom Network promo; full ID at 0900. (BW-OK)
1370	KWRT	MO	Boonville. 12/3 0700. ToH ID by a male announcer: "KWRT 1370 Boonville, Missouri." AP news followed. Briefly strong, then faded. New. (GH-IL)
1380	KTKZ	CA	Sacramento. 11/26 0225. Dennis Prager with townhall.org program (Townhall is the alternate name for Salem Radio's talk network), featuring guest Bill O'Reilly; promo for news coverage ending with "...KTKZ Newstalk 1-Oh-5-Point-5 FM and 13-80 AM," then AP Radio news brief. Fair. (DP-HI*)
1380	KLPZ	AZ	Parker. 12/5 0859. Simple legal ID noted under KOTA's dominant signal. (JW-CO)
1400	KAYS	KS	Hays. 11/29 0005. "You're listening to 1400 KAYS." (WH-CO)
1400	KSRR	UT	Provo. 11/29 0302. "1400 K-Star is KSRR Provo." (WH-CO)
1400	KLIN	NE	Lincoln. 11/30 0405. Man with weather forecast, ending with "That is a look at your three-day forecast from Lincoln's place to talk, 1400 KLIN," followed by an ad or PSA about Christmas donations. Barely poking through the jumble. (JW-CO)
1400	KKTL	WY	Casper. 11/30 0600. "KKTL AM 1400 Casper" ID to net news. (WH-CO)
1450	WLYV	IN	Fort Wayne. 11/29 0800. Very poor, in with others. PSA, legal ID, religious show. (JJR-WI)
1520	KSIB	IA	Creston. 11/30 1812. Ad for a local care center, followed by more of "Creston Radio news"; weather was presented at 1816; obituaries at 1819. Fair signal in KOKC null. Should have gone off the air at Creston sunset (1800 ELT). (JW-CO)
1520	KRHW	MO	Sikeston. 12/2 2123-2127. Local ad mentioning Sikeston; return to Sikeston Bulldogs HS basketball game. Fading up and down in KOKC null; suspect they were still on day power/pattern for the game. (BW-OK)
1530	WLIQ	IL	Quincy. 11/29 1334. "KHMO-WLIQ" dual ID. What's that about? They're 15 miles from each other. Fair to zilch; daytime skywave with KXEL 1540 nulled. New. (DB-IA)
1530	KMAM	MO	Butler. 12/1 2132. Cancellation announcements, local ads, dual AM/FM ID at 2133: "KMoe 92.1 and 15-30 KMAM" into C&W music. Mixing with KZNX TX with ESPN and WCKY OH. Butler had 18 inches of snow in the big storm; evidently on late for "snow emergency." (BW-OK)
1550	WIRV	KY	Irvine. 11/30 0705. Poor. "Tri-city weather", "Tri-city Radio Network", two Kentucky ads. (JJR-WI)
1590	KPRT	MO	Kansas City. 11/28 0659. Poor but clear through clutter. Calls, "Gospel 1590" ID. NEW! (JJR-WI)
1590	WIXK	WI	New Richmond. 11/30 1744. Poor, mostly under others. PSA, calls. (JJR-WI)
1650	KWHN	AR	Fort Smith. 11/27 1803. Slogan and Arkansas-Oklahoma weather. Good for about

- 10 minutes, then gone. (LK-SD)
- 1660 KXTR KS Kansas City. 11/29 1515. "You are listening to AM 16-60 KXTR, the Classical Station." Good. (LK-SD)
- 1670 WTDY WI Madison. 11/27 1425. "The new Madison 16-70 the Pulse." Faded in and out for a while. (LK-SD)
- 1680 KRJO LA Monroe. 12/2 0000. "KRJO Monroe-West Monroe 1680 AM. We are the radio people." (WH-CO)
- 1680 KAVT CA Fresno. 12/2 0400. Very quick "KAVT Fresno Radio Disney" and back to Disney programming. (WH-CO)
- 1680 KDOW WA Seattle. 12/2 0500. "Stereo 1680 KDOW Seattle, a service of Salem Communications" Needed call change. Under KAVT. (WH-CO)
- 1690 WVON IL Berwyn. 11/27 1506. "The all new 16-90 WVON, the Talk of Chicago." Needed for a call change. (LK-SD)

TIS, HAR, Etc.

- 1670 WQFA538p IA Des Moines. 11/29 0051-0100. Presumed. "You are tuned to Highway Advisory Radio, a service of the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa State Patrol, carrying traffic and [??] information." Bits of music were included in the loop. Mostly over a weak WTDY. (DB-IA)

### ***SPECIAL REPORT: MYSTERY SIGNALS ON 1610, 1020 AND 590 KHZ***

At last week's column deadline, we were reporting on a widely-heard mystery tone on 1610 kHz (please refer to the intro to DDXD-W #74-11). DXers began reporting this signal on the night of 11/28, and it was still being reported in the early morning hours of 12/1. The origin was unknown, but very early on several possibilities were eliminated: the signal was not a het, not a TIS, not one of the two Canadian broadcast stations, and not a new U.S expanded band station about to come on the air. The wide area that the signal covered at night suggested high power, and the range it covered during the daytime proved it was somewhere on the East Coast. At around the same time, a second signal (not mentioned in this column last week) was being reported on 590, but not in the numbers nor for the length of time that 1610 was. As a result, not much is known about this signal, and especially if it was related to the one on 1610, or even if it was a signal at all (might have been a het). **Christos Rigas** was one of those who heard this signal, and his logging appears below.

On the morning of 12/1, some East Coast DXers reported that the tone on 1610 was gone. Then, at 1022 ELT, **Ben Dangerfield**, from near Philadelphia, reported that the signal was now on 1020 kHz! Shortly thereafter, **Kent Winrich**, a DXer and engineer apparently in-the-know about the tone, released the following info, which he said was all he could reveal at that time: the signal was "legit and approved"; it was a 1 kHz tone transmitted at 10 kw from an East Coast site; and the purpose was antenna testing. He also confirmed that the test on 1610 was over, the test on 1020 would continue until the morning of 12/3, and that testing would also be done from 12/5 through 12/7, this time on 590 kHz (at which time the test would end).

While the test was on 1020, DXer **Jim Tonne** worked to nail down where the signal was coming from. Using information sent to him by DXers (their coordinates and "best guess" signal bearing) and using a software package, Jim was able to show that the tests were coming roughly from the DC/MD/VA area. As time went on, both DXers' inputs and Jim's techniques became more accurate, and Jim feels confident that a good system is in place for the next time a similar event occurs. You can view his efforts at <http://tonnesoftware.com/1020.gif>.

In the meantime, reports of QRM to legitimate stations began to pile up. When the signal was on 1610, Toronto area DXers reported that CHHA's signal was being thrashed there. At about the same time, WRJE 1600 DE was reporting interference in their primary coverage area, and reportedly lodged a complaint to the FCC. When the signal moved to 1020, several DXers made KDKA engineers aware of the situation. And, in a pre-emptive strike, WMBS 590 PA asked the FCC to investigate, when it became apparent that the scheduled tests on 590 could harm their signal.

It looks like the FCC reacted. After the 590 tests failed to start at the scheduled time, **Glenn Hauser** reported that tests on this frequency would not go on "following negotiations between FCC and military authorities." With this development, the tests apparently ended.

As for the why and the where of these tests, they remain speculation. Glenn Hauser did find that in 2005 a company called BAE Systems had applied for an experimental license for testing mobile broadcasting systems. The original application had requested 590, 1020 and 1600 kHz using 10 kw of power from Fort A.P. Hill, near Bowling Green VA. Note the similarities with Kent Winrich's info; a coincidence? That application was denied, replaced by a request for a much less powerful signal on other frequencies. This was granted in October 2005, but the tests never were completed, due in part

to FCC objections. In an e-mail to Glenn, BAE denied that the current tests were done by them. So, this is where things stand for now.

The above information was gathered and edited from the NRC and IRCA internet lists, and this special report stands as a tribute to those who exchange info on these lists.

#### Here are the "Mystery tone" loggings sent to DDXD-West:

590 UNID 11/27 2007. Good with steady test tone. (CR-IL)  
 1020 UNID 12/1 1604. Test tone heard over weak KDKA and some slop from local WMVP. (CR-IL)  
 1610 UNID 11/28 1936. Good with steady test tone. Also heard on 11/29 at 1840 on my car radio. (CR-IL)  
 1610 UNID 11/30 1743. Poor to fair under local TIS WPTJ444. Steady tone. (JJR-WI)

## DDXD-East

### REPORTERS

PG1-FL Paul Gray, NØJAA, Satellite Beach - Yaesu FT-840 transceiver, G5RV antenna.  
 PG2-FL Paul Gray, NØJAA, Satellite Beach - Sangean ATS-818ACS with built-in antenna.  
 HJH-PA Harry Hayes, Wilkes-Barre - Grundig S350, Kiwa Pocket Loop  
 IEN-GA Ira Elbert New, III, Watkinsville - Drake R8B 135' N/S Wire; 2002 Nissan Sentra GXE Pioneer DEH-470MP; Sony ICF-2010  
 RP-IN Robert Pote, Greenwood - Drake R8A + Quantum loop  
 LW-NY Leslie Wood, East Meadow - Sony ICF-2010, Radio Shack loop  
 MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto - Grundig YB-400PE, Panasonic RF-2200.

### STATION NEWS

1610 CHHA ON Toronto - still on air as of 12/08 with usual SS programs. Apparently they're not going silent while re-locating their transmitter site. (MKB-ON)

### UNIDs

940 - 11/22 1800 - Mention of FRN Radio Network. (LW-NY)  
 1550 - 12/03 0203 - Sweeping test tone fading in and out with other stations. Unable to determine location. No ID was heard after several minutes of listening. (PG1-FL)  
 +++ - 12/03 0213 - Bilingual Miami station identified as "670 WWFE" in both English and Spanish. Fair signal alternating with test signal on same channel. (PG1-FL)  
 1700 - 12/03 0007 - "Your home for Dallas Cowboys football." Couldn't make out the call letters as they were garbled. Fox News at TOH followed by Coast to Coast Live syndicated call-in show. Fair signal, slow fading; alternates with WEUP. (PG1-FL) *There's not much on 1700, but KVNS, Brownsville, TX would be the one most likely on the Cowboys network. Mike.*

### LOGGINGS

560 WJLS WV Beckley - 12/03 1911 - Focus on the Family ad along with religious music. Good signal on top of the mix. "A reminder from AM 560, WJLS". (IEN-GA)  
 690 WIST LA New Orleans - 12/04 1934 - The Savage Nation with Michael Savage & New Orleans traffic and weather. Slightly better than decent signal on top of the mix. "AM 690, WIST". (IEN-GA)  
 850 WRBZ NC Raleigh - 11/22 1713 - in with "Sports Radio 850, the Buzz" station ID. On top, with fair signal. (LW-NY)  
 930 WBEN NY Buffalo - 11/22 1830 - time announced, "News Radio 930 WBEN" ID. Brief traffic and weather report for area, followed by CBS News with Katie Couric. (LW-NY)  
 940 WMAC GA Macon - 12/06 1905 - Local news in progress, also commercials for Boys Town and Middle Georgia Technical College. ID promo, "Have a say about the news of the day, weekday mornings with Kenny D. and Jamie G. on News Talk 940 WMAC." Followed by lead-in to Savage Nation talk show. Fair signal until fade-out at 1909. (PG2-FL)  
 +++ - 12/07 1812- Clark Howard program in progress, followed by an ad string

then into a Christmas message "Happy holidays from everybody at WMAC" at 1822, excellent signal almost like local. **(RP-IN)**

- 950    **WORD**    **SC** **Spartanburg** - 12/07 0845 - Station ID at 0845 "Newstalk 950 WORD", very good signal heard with my local station WXLW-950 off the air for three days due to transmitter upgrades. **(RP-IN)**
- WVTS**    **WV** **Charleston** - 12/07 0857 - Station slogan heard at 0857 "We broadcast to over 12 million listeners everyday, WVTS" fair to poor in WORD's null heard while WXLW off the air. **(RP-IN)**
- WAKM**    **TN** **Franklin** - 12/07 0900 - Station slogan heard at top of the hour "You're listening to radio coast to coast, WAKM 950 Franklin" then into news. Faded up briefly in mix of stations. **(RP-IN)**
- WPEN**    **PA** **Philadelphia** - 12/07 1810 - Station promo heard, what sounded like "Philadelphia is doing it tuning to the new WPEN" very poor quality signal, heard in mix with usual WXLW off the air. New one for me. **(RP-IN)**
- 1010    **WINS**    **NY** **New York** - 12/05 1749 - Local news, including a story on the USS Intrepid, then a local traffic and weather report. Multiple short ID's, 1010 WINS." Fair signal until fade-out near TOH. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1020    **KDKA**    **PA** **Pittsburgh** - 12/06 1922 - Commercial for Pennsylvania Wine and Spirit Stores, then ID, "The voice of Pittsburgh, News Radio 1020 KDKA." Local talk show in progress. Fair signal, moderate fading, but easily heard over a "Radio Rebelde" station. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1070    **CHOK**    **ON** **Sarnia** - 11/27 0530 - in with news on the half-hour, "CHOK news and information radio" station ID. **(LW-NY)**
- 1200    **WTLA**    **NY** **Utica** - 11/27 0500 - "1200 WTLA" ID on hour, then into news and weather, followed by NOS music. **(LW-NY)**
- 1250    **WEAE**    **PA** **Pittsburgh** - 11/24 1702 - in with end of newscast and lengthy ID: "the voice of Pirate Nation, Kind of Radio, ESPN 1250". **(LW-NY)**
- WARE**    **MA** **Ware** - 11/24 1705 - oldies music, in and out with WEAE on "Oldies 1250". **(LW-NY)** *This may be the only station whose calls match the city of license letter for letter. Mike.*
- 1280    **WGBF**    **IN** **Evansville** - 11/26 2030 - ID "Newstalk 1280, WGBF" during long WADO fade. Had discussion about Howard Cosell. **(HJH-PA)**
- 1290    **WNBF**    **NY** **Binghamton** - 11/24 1740 - on top with Paul Harvey show, then into sports scores and weather for area on "News Radio 1290 WNBF". **(LW-NY)**
- 1310    **WDKD**    **SC** **Kingstree** - 11/26 2151 - Fair at times with, "The Beach", an oldies show. Many ads for places in Bishopville and Sumter. Mostly alone. No call ID's heard. **(HJH-PA)**
- 1320    **KYHN**    **AR** **Fort Smith** - 12/06 2253 - Tammy Bruce Show promo and The Savage Nation with Michael Savage. Decent signal mixing with WCOG in Greensboro, NC. "The one you depend on, 1650, KWHN". **(IEN-GA)**
- 1350    **WARF**    **OH** **Akron** - 12/05 1802 - Network news in progress, then local promos and station ID. "Democracy has a new voice, 1350 AM Radio Free Ohio." Very difficult to pick out of the mud, but easier at 1820 when a traffic report was heard. Received over local station WMMV. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1370    **WSPD**    **OH** **Toledo** - 12/05 1835 - Discussion in progress about states' rights, followed by local commercials and station ID, "News Radio 1370 WSPD." Rapid fading but good signal otherwise. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1410    **WING**    **OH** **Dayton** - 12/05 1843 - Local sports call-in show discussing Nascar's 2007 season. Station faded-out before TOH so no ID, but did hear call-in number 457-WING. Fair signal until fade-out. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1500    **WTWP**    **DC** **Washington** - 12/05 1920 - Clark Howard Show in progress, discussing gift cards and hospital surgery. Show was then pre-empted by a college basketball pre-game show. Long promo ID, "You're listening to George Washington Colonials on the new Washington Post radio, WTWP-FM Washington, WTWP-AM Washington." Good signal, minimal fading. **(PG2-FL)**
- 1690    **WMLB**    **GA** **Avondale Estates** - 12/03 0043 - "The voice of the arts, WMLB." Program of classical music, then CBS News at TOH followed by promo for the Al Franken Show. Strong signal, minimal fading, alternates with UNID talk station. **(PG1-FL)**
- 1700    **WEUP**    **AL** **Huntsville** - 12/03 0023 - "The People's Station WEUP." Program of contemporary Christian music followed by a community calendar. Very good signal with slow to moderate fading; alternates with the UNID talk station on same channel and occasionally a UNID Spanish station. **(PG1-FL)**

# *International DX Digest*

**Bruce Conti** nrcidxd@aol.com  
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Nashua, NH 03062-1174

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

*Space Weather News* reported two X-class flares and several lesser flares from "big sunspot 930" during the week. While it was only a glancing blow, it was enough to boost the K-index to 5 for an extended period, producing some of the best auroral reception conditions in some time, evident in this week's logs.

## Transatlantic DX

- 747 **CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN** RNE5 synchros DEC 7 2208 - Good; man and woman with rapid-fire news, heavy synchro echo. [Conti-NH]  
783 **MAURITANIA** R.Mauritanie, Nouakchott (18°07'N 15°57'W) DEC 7 0045 - Excellent, auroral enhancement; primitive string vocal. [Conti-NH]  
1206 **FRANCE** France Info, Bordeaux (44°57'N 00°11'W) DEC 6 2205 - Man and woman in French through auroral fluttering. [Conti-NH]  
1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** BSKSA Duba (27°20'N 35°45'E) DEC 6 2150 - Excellent, no 1520 interference; telephone talk in Arabic, parallel 9555 and 9870 kHz. [Conti-NH]  
1557 **FRANCE** France Info, Fontbonne (43°46'N 07°25'E) DEC 6 2145 - Excellent; man and woman in French, parallel a weak 1206 kHz. [Conti-NH]

## Pan-American DX

- 530 **TURKS & CAICOS** R.Visión Cristiana, South Caicos (21°30'N 71°31'W) DEC 2 2315 - Spanish religious program, ID'ed twice as *Radio Cristiana*, not *Radio Voz Cristiana* - name change? On top and getting het from 531 kHz! - but no audio. [Frodge\*MI]  
560 **CUBA** R.Rebelde, Moa (20°40'N 74°56'W) DEC 8 0155 - Good; "Radio Rebelde, cadena nacional" during "cuarto inning" of baseball coverage, one of the teams from Sancti Spíritus. [Conti-NH]  
580 **MEXICO** XEMU La Rancherita del Aire, Piedras Negras, Coah DEC 8 0226 - "La Rancherita del Aire" slogan, then into a ranchera tune. Fair/good with interference. [Wilkins-CO]  
590 **CUBA** R.Rebelde, unknown location DEC 7 0050 - Nostalgic salsa parallel 600, 670, and 5025, in a stew with unID classical music (R.Musical Cuba?), "Family 590" WEZE, and French Canadian CKRS. [Conti-NH]  
630 **CUBA** R.Progreso, Pinar del Río (22°25'N 83°43'W) DEC 7 0100 - Under WPRO; contemporary romantic vocal about Venezuela, sounded like a live remote from a concert venue, through top of the hour without ID, parallel 640 kHz. [Conti-NH]  
640 **GUADELOUPE** R.Guadeloupe, Pointe-à-Pitre (16°15'N 61°32'W) DEC 7 0155 - Two men with sports commentary in French, parallel streaming audio at <http://guadeloupe.rfo.fr/>, signal about even with R.Progreso Cuba. [Conti-NH]  
690 **CUBA** R.Progreso, Jovellanos (22°49'N 81°10'W) DEC 7 0118 - Fading over WELD; live audience, romantic female vocal, parallel an excellent 890 signal. [Conti-NH]  
720 **JAMAICA** RJR Innswood, St.Catherine (18°00'N 76°47'W) DEC 7 0135 - Faded up nice with Crime Stop Line PSA, "Real Jamaican Radio" promo, "RJR 94 FM" IDs, then faded under unID Spanish sports commentary. 0146 back on top with R&B reggae singer. [Conti-NH]  
720 **MEXICO** XEAVR R.Fórmula Veracruz, Veracruz, Ver (19°05'N 96°05'W) DEC 8 0301 - Male voice with ID, "XEAVR Rádio Fórmula Veracruz, transmitiendo en el setecientos veinte de amplitud modulada..." followed by the song "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas." Rough copy and soon covered by XEDE. A new one here, XE #213 and only the third logging from the state of Veracruz. [Wilkins-CO]  
720 **MEXICO** XEDE La Caliente, Saltillo, Coah (25°26'N 100°53'W) DEC 8 0301 - Partially readable ID by man: "X-E-D-E (said slowly)... La Caliente... 24 horas... con ocho mil wats de potencia efectivo..." Signal had been good earlier but had faded a bit at ID time and was mixing with XEAVR and one or two others. 8000 watts would be an increase from the listed 5000 watts. [Wilkins-CO]  
750 **CUBA** CMHV R.Progreso, Trinidad (21°48'N 79°59'W) DEC 8 0140 - Over WSB; contemporary vocal parallel 890 kHz. [Conti-NH]  
770 **COLOMBIA** HJJX RCN Bogotá (04°37'N 74°11'W) DEC 8 0145 - Under WABC; sports talk parallel a good 760 HJAJ signal. [Conti-NH]

- 780 **VENEZUELA** YVMN *R.Coro*, Coro (11°23'N 69°40'W) DEC 6 2215 - Good; "24 horas... Radio Coro" promo, auroral conditions. [Conti-NH]
- 790 **CUBA** CMAQ *R.Rejoj*, Pinar del Río (22°25'N 83°43'W) DEC 7 0250 - Excellent; alternating man and woman, etc. [Conti-NH]
- 820 **CUBA** CMDE *R.Rejoj*, Contramaestre (20°18'N 76°15'W) DEC 8 0001 - Clock, minute markers, code IDs, under WNYC and WTOP. [Conti-NH]
- 850 **CUBA** *R.Rejoj*, Nueva Gerona (21°53'N 82°48'W) DEC 2 0252 - Weak code RR under WKNR. [Frodge\*MI]
- 860 **CUBA** CMDB *R.Rejoj*, Baracoa (20°21'N 74°29'W) DEC 7 0010 - Excellent; alternating man and woman with news items, clock, code, etc. 870 CMDT *R.Rejoj* good too. [Conti-NH]
- 910 **VENEZUELA** YVRQ Caracas (10°32'N 66°55'W) DEC 6 2230 - Good, over unID Spanish; distinctive Venezuelan llanera music, "AM Center" promo. DEC 7 0025 - Excellent; Copa América coverage. [Conti-NH]
- 930 **CUBA** *R.Rejoj*, multiple locations DEC 6 2357 - Loud wobbling over WGIN. [Conti-NH]
- 950 **CUBA** *R.Rejoj*, La Habana NOV 29 2341 - Weak code RR under WWJ. [Frodge-MI]
- 1160 **MEXICO** XEQIN *La Voz del Valle*, San Quintín, BCN (30°34'N 115°57'W) DEC 8 0131 - Man and woman chatting; call letter IDs and PSAs. Good in KSL null. [Wilkins-CO]
- 1170 **COLOMBIA** CARACOL Cartagena (10°27'N 75°32'W) DEC 6 2327 - Good, over WWVA; Banco Popular Colombia ad, "Colombia... de todo, por Caracol." Het from unID 1172 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 1170 **MEXICO** XEFEM *R.Felicidad*, Hermosillo, Son (29°03'N 111°01'W) DEC 8 0128 - Latino music; canned slogan "...más música en Radio Felicidad, Once Setenta AM (female voice), los éxitos del tiempo (male voice)," followed by more music. Fair in KFAQ null. [Wilkins-CO]
- 1380 unID DEC 6 2355 - Mysterious Rejoj-like clock tick-tock, no minute markers or Morse code IDs, through CKPC and WSYB. [Conti-NH]
- 1460 **MEXICO** XECB *R.Ranchito*, San Luís Río Colorado, Son (30°22'N 109°41'W) DEC 8 0100 - Top of the hour ID, partially readable, mentioning call letters, street address (but no city), 10 kW day, 1 kW nite, member of OIR, and "Radio Ranchito" slogan. Fairly good signal but interference from several. [Wilkins-CO]

### Contributors

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; R8B, MWDX-5, 15 x 23-m terminated corner-fed broadband loops east and south.

Harold Frodge, Midland MI; and MARE DXpedition, Brighton\*MI.

John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge CO; Drake R8, 4-ft box loop.

### International News

**BELGIUM:** The English news bulletins from 1512 *R.Vlaanderen Int'l* seem to have been discontinued, checked several times last month and not heard, just pop music during the former slots. [Mike Barraclough, World DX Club *Contact* via *DX Listening Digest*, Jim Renfrew]

**FINLAND:** YLE has informed in their program bulletin 28.10-31.12 2006 that Pori MW 963 kHz and SW broadcasts will end with the beginning of 2007. MW 558 kHz from Sandhamn in Helsinki will continue as a service to the Baltic Sea. [Bengt Ericson, *ARC Information Desk*]

**IRAN:** 1368 *R.Golestan* in Gorgan seems to have a high power transmitter on this frequency. Heard very well with full ID, "Injah Gorgan est, Radio Golestan," and local programming thanks to tip from Mauno Ritola. According to Ritola the Iranian stations have introduced a new ID-style: "Injah (capital) ast Radio (province)." Same type of ID heard from other Iranian stations. [Bengt Ericson, *ARC Information Desk*]

**NEWZEALAND:** Expansion of the *R.New Zealand AM Network* is expected to result in the following changes: 576 *R.Rhema*, Hamilton, ex-855 kHz. 657 Tauranga, new, *AM Network* and *Southern Star* parallel 657 Wellington. 855 Hamilton, ex-*R.Rhema*. 1026 *R.Rhema*, Invercargill, ex-1404 kHz. 1314 Invercargill, new, *AM Network* and *Southern Star* ex-1026 kHz. 1368 1XT *Village Radio*, Tauranga, expands hours to M-F 2100-0300 UTC, S-S 2000-0400 UTC, power remains 1 kW. 1404 Invercargill, ex-*R.Rhema*. 1494 Hamilton, new, *AM Network* and *Southern Star* ex-576 kHz. This should leave 855 Hamilton and 1404 Invercargill silent, but these frequencies may be leased to other stations. [*New Zealand DX Times*, NZRDXL]

**UKRAINE:** 1359 *R.Tsentr* (regional station from Donetsk) is on 24h nowadays. 1930-2000 it relays *R.Polonia*. Transmitter site Dokuchayevsk (dozen km south of Donetsk). Detailed ID at each ToH and at other times. [Vlad Titarev, MWDX]

# *Review of Radio Shack Accurian 12-1686 HD receiver*

*by Bob Foxworth*

I bought a RS Accurian HD radio for evaluation on a promotional sale and rebate which ended last Saturday. I bought it at a R-S store in the Citrus Park Mall, in a factory boxed carton. The young sales clerk knew what it was and did not mistake it for X-M/Sirius, and said they were selling "lots" of them, though I have to put that in some context. They said I could return it within 30 days, which I might yet do. With the rebate this made the net \$100, within my pricing model.

The box contains the receiver (and remote), power supply, and 1 AM and 2 FM external antennas. The receiver is approx 7.5 inches high x 12 in. wide x 6 in deep (max) and presents a slightly curved panel with 2 speakers, one in each side and a control area in the middle. There was a slight temp. rise from the top air vent. The brick power supply is appx 4-3/4 x 2-1/4 x 1-3/8 inches and accepts a standard PC 3-pin cord on one end and has a cable feeding a barrel connector on the other, which goes to the rcvr. The power supply output rating is DC 5V at 5 A.

The receiver tunes AM 530 to 1710 in 10 kHz steps, with a rollover at the ends, and the FM tunes 88 to 108 MHz. The AM loop is a plastic rectangular frame appx 5-3/4 in wide x 5 in high with seven turns of maybe 28 ga stranded wire solenoid wound on the frame. There is no tuning or resonating cap. The two ends of the winding lead to a appx 6-1/2 foot mini coax leadin, terminating in two tinned wire pigtailed, heat-shrunk at both ends. These tinned leads are placed into the antenna input pushclips by the user.

There is a choice of two FM antennas, either a single unipole of length 4 ft 10 inches, or a dipole (not folded) made of mini twinlead with a feedline of 4 ft 10 inches and the tee is 31 inches each side. Each FM antenna terminates in a F connector and has plastic hanger eyelets.

The instruction book is 13 pages, well illustrated and moderately technical at a user level, but has no real technical internal operational receiver info.

The rear of the receiver has a 5 VDC barrel jack, a 1/8 inch mini phono jack for Aux In, two push-clips (marked + and Gnd) for the two AM loop wire pigtail leads, and a Fe. F connector for the FM antenna the user chooses. There is no internal antenna provided. The pushclips are like those found on cased loudspeakers.

The front of the receiver has the following functions: Power (push on/off), LCD display panel with blue backlit characters, rotary volume knob which also supports pushing in for mode (2 AM, 2 FM and Aux in). The 2 AM or FM ranges support hearing two pretuned stations on each band. The volume adjust is detent step rotary tuning, and a bar graph lights up when the volume knob is being changed. The Aux In is a good match for the earphone jack of a hand held digital recorder and provides good sound for one of these devices.

Front panel push buttons also include "preset/store", channel-, channel+, tuning-, tuning+, DSP, and Clock. The preset saves your favorite frequencies but again do not survive a removal of the power cord from the wall.

Channel mode selects previously preset stations and tuning mode selects any frequency by stepping up or down (10 kHz steps) or can be held in to go to search mode. DSP has five settings, "jazz" "pop" "classic" "rock" and "none" which apparently just adjust the eq and rolloff for different types of music. I believe their usefulness is marginal and to me is somewhat cosmetic as it does not affect the RF environment.

The clock displays date and time (12-hour) in an all numeric format on the LCD panel. When AC power is disconnected, the clock does not store the time, and does not reset from any HD data stream, but must be re-keyed each time the AC plug is connected. The clock shows if no "artist" data is being sent. The radio will, however, store the last AM or FM frequency chosen, if the power is removed and reapplied. As the intention is to have the user operate the set with the panel power pushbutton ( a relay click is heard) this should not be an issue.

A mini-phono headset jack is provided on the front panel, which mutes the speakers, and provides an easy way to get audio recordings from the set.

I did not, as of now, attempt using the remote, as it would not add to the electronic behavior of the radio.

## Radio reception.

Testing was done in northwest Tampa. With no AM antenna connected, my locals on 620, 820 and 970 are heard weakly, say s-3 to s-4, and 570 at threshold level. Maybe 10 - 15 dB boost can be had by holding the finger next to the clips and inductively coupling.

Using the loop gives good level on these local AM signals but a faint background noise in analog mode is heard. Rotating the loop creates maybe 20 to 25 dB of nulling when the loop is "upright". Laying the loop "flat" reduces pickup substantially. The manual vaguely refers to repositioning the antenna if the signal is weak, but has no explanation of proper loop positioning.

Many "open" (daytime) AM channels showed varying types of slight to substantial complex noise, which defies simple description, but serves to partially mask weak AM signals. Test frequencies such as 590 or 640 (Habana, Cuba), WRZN 720 or WWBF 1130 were heard with substantial degradation in s/n ratio compared to reception with test analog receivers. The type of noise would vary by frequency,

being birdies, rumbling or grinding. The test for sensitivity on these weak signals showed many were uncopiable or at marginal audible copy, when they could be copied with little difficulty on sets such as the dx398 "barefoot", due apparently to the reduced antenna gain and the higher noise floor.

There is a very long AGC attack time and when the freq is step-tuned, the new frequency is muted for over a second and slowly rises in volume. Listening to frequencies where several signals are present, with pronounced beating, yields a pumping, chuffing irregular sound that makes hearing the audio difficult.

Tests were done using a R-S 15-1853 loop. This is the circular tuned loop that was sold a few years ago. It was possible to get a boost in signal when this loop was near-field coupled to the Accurian's loop, but the tuning was not sharp or distinct, and had to be adjusted carefully and slowly, as if the front end of the Accurian was almost "fighting back", an effect I have never seen before and find hard to describe. I have not yet attempted to completely substitute a different loop in place of the stock one.

There were some AM frequencies that were relatively noise-free and once, I had a hearable copy on Jamaica-720 a little after sunset.

The summary for AM is that (1) I don't think this receiver is acceptable for DXing non-HD stations in analog mode and (2) does not have the sensitivity to get a usable signal from a HD station outside of its local coverage area. It gives a mostly acceptable quality for local, strong non-HD AM signals. I did notice the artifacting on AM HD signals such as with the Limbaugh and other talk shows. I'd rate it as slightly annoying for any extended time.

I foresee a marketing issue where a set buyer may believe that every AM signal will be received in the enhanced mode that HD offers, when in fact the great majority of AM signals may actually sound worse, due to operating non-HD and from the noise issues I experienced.

AM HD. In Tampa there are two AM HD signals, on 820 and on 970. These are high power (day-time) signals located just a few miles distant from me. Both of these signals will decode to HD, at this close range. The big question of course is what is the limit of coverage at which the HD decode fails when analog is still usable.

I am able to force a temporary un-lock of HD on these two AMs by just rotating the loop. There are two critical angles in which HD is marginal (even at this range) due to loop nulling. A nontechnical user who uses "set and forget" for his/her loop placement in the house runs a small chance of never hearing a desired HD AM, and may not understand the need for better loop placement, as the "collective experience" of outside antennas is now a lost art.

When any non-HD frequency is tuned in, the display will say (for example) "860 AM". When tuning in, say 970, the display will pick up and show the call letter ID in a second, or even less than a second. It then takes 7 or 8 seconds for the audible decode to change to HD sound. When this happens, a HD logo becomes visible on the display, and a 6 line bar graph showing signal strength becomes visible. The bar graph is not rapidly responsive to input level changes (loop rotation, etc) and it is unclear what exactly drives it, as FM signals show most or all bars while AM show just some, and of course only on my 2 local HD signals.

The main effect of HD is to brighten the high end audio response and to create a sensation of stereo separation. This effect is noticed best when the user is directly in front of the set (or using a headset) and is somewhat less pronounced when listening from a distance. The effect on WMGG (a Spanish music format) is quite a lot more noticeable than it is on WFLA (talk) where it is (to me) only somewhat apparent.

The display latches the call letters which continue to show, even if the HD unlocks. WMGG has a scrolling line of text with their "megaclasica.com" web address. WFLA has no such data stream and the display just shows "artist: title:" in the area where the date and time, or scroll, otherwise appear.

It's interesting to tune the set to 960 where the hiss is present on a dx398 etc, in this case a grinding bubbling type noise is heard, not too different than the analog case. (I'm sure someone is wondering about that). Incidentally WFLA hiss is somewhat louder on 960 than on 980 on an analog set.

One of my plans is to determine the rough edges of the AM HD coverage. I would do this by taking the set in my truck, powering it from an AC inverter and setting up at various locations. I soon found that the inverter I have plays very badly with this (and probably other) sets, on AM, and this option is completely unworkable for me. I need to come up with a 5 VDC 5 A clean source. In the meantime I do have some results to offer.

I set up the set at an indoor location in southern Pasco county, close to the intersection of SR41 and SR-54. Neither HD signal was even decently copiable in analog, let alone getting any HD. I need to go back and see if this is environmental.

On the other hand I set up the receiver indoors at the K of C meeting hall on Fruitville Road in Sarasota (meeting of Antique Radio Collectors - hi), where WFLA gave just fragmentary bursts of HD. However I was surprised to see that WMGG gave a solid decode there. This is about 50 miles south of Tampa.

FM usage is somewhat more satisfying. What is interesting to me is that the blend from FM analog to FM HD is hardly noticeable. It is more of a perception of a subtle difference, than the striking change I hear on 820 AM. The sound section of this radio, to me, is innately good enough that it renders analog FM quite nicely, and the program feed the FM folks use is not that much enhanced with HD.

I had issues with decoding HD on a number of the FM offerings depending on how I placed the antenna, which one I used, and where I was in the house. The dipole needed to sometimes be fully extended and positioned, with placement issues somewhat like those for the AM loop. I am not a FM DXer and may not go a lot farther with this issue.

Some FM customers will want the secondary programming which is available on FM. I won't do an exhaustive rundown of what's on the dial here as it won't help many in other markets. Non-comm WUSF is frequently but not always running separate programming on their secondary, which IDs as "WUSF eighty-nine seven two." They show as "89.7-1" or "89.7-2" when tuned in and the "new" station appears as if "dropped in" between the existing ones. When they both carry NPR news, the -2 is 7 seconds behind the -1. Some stations like WSJT 94.1 have the same programming on the -1 and the -2, with 7 seconds separation. WUSF has the analog fallback timing solved while the fallback on WSJT is a bit over a second out.

The receiver also delays anything it handles (analog or digital, AM or FM) by about 100 ms behind the signal as heard on an ordinary receiver. If a previously heard -2 is still cached in the receiver, the HD unlocks, and the -2 is tuned, silence results. There were a couple of episodes where the tuning was changed from a HD to a non-HD and a couple more buttons had to be pressed to get the sound back.

Aux In. The fifth input option (2 AM, 2 FM and Aux) lets you feed the output of another sound device into the set. This is very useful to me. I have several small digital recorders and can feed the headset output through the set, with good results. Take care to not overdrive the input, but a decent headset level from the recorder should be optimum.

Insides. Here is a posting from the Broadcast list digest which is quite interesting. As I may yet return the set, I am not about to open it up.

-----  
 Message: 20  
 Date: Sat, 2 Dec 2006 19:41:19 -0600  
 From: "stanleybadams" <stanleybadams@yahoo.com>  
 Subject: [BC] Accurian Insides  
 To: <broadcast@radiolists.net>

I was tooling around the internet looking for reviews and information on the Accurian, as I received mine this week but have not turned it on yet. Here is what someone posted on a web site (www.avsforum.com) by the name of Eric. So I am giving credit where credit is due

I finally had the courage to open up the radio and look inside (Hint: some screws are hidden under the speaker grilles).

There is a Samsung module that plugs into a PCB named "Table-Top Version 2.2". The Main PCB contains the Power Supply, Amplifier, and connectors for the display, speakers, keypad, etc. The Samsung HDRMDVM0101 module contains the heart of the radio. The module has a 20 pin and a 50 pin connector to interface to the Main PCB. The module also has a JTAG connector for the ATMEL Processor.

ICs on the module include:

ATMEL Mega128L Low Power AVR RISC Processor with 128K Flash  
 TI TMS320DRI350AZTS5 DSP for HD Radio Baseband and Analog Decoding  
 TI DRI8201 Intergrated AFE  
 Spansion S29GL032M90TFIR4 3.3V 32Mb Flash x8/x16 Bottom Boot Sector  
 ESMT M12L128324A 3.3V 4MBx32 SDRam  
 1803A 24bit 96K Stereo Audio ADC  
 1782 24bit 96K Stereo Audio DAC  
 LM833 Dual Op Amp

This is a Software Defined Radio where the AM or FM signal is converted to a 10.7 MHz IF and then digitized. The digitized IF gets downconverted and fed to the DSP where either AM, FM or HD signals are decoded and sent to the Stereo Audio DAC. It appears even the Aux Input is digitized.

Several companies offer modules based on the HD reference design so I would not be surprised if most HD radios use the same scheme. Plug a module into a I/O board and put a custom user interface/configuration in flash.

Obviously, the speakers can be replaced or the audio fed into a stereo system, but as you see they are modules such as this Samsung, or what TI or others would build. It is a single unit radio that has the real guts in the decoders, not in the RF section. Somebody ought to build a good American made copy of this thing, don't you think?

Stanley Adams  
 Memphis  
 -----

This tends to confirm my own thoughts about the RF behavior. PS: a JTAG is a test point to allow diagnostic and interfacing on a otherwise self-contained module.

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