

DXN News

• Serving DX'ers since 1933 •

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CPC Test Calendar

WGGH IL 1150 Feb. 6 0100-0200

From the Publisher ... If anything should look a little odd in this issue (odder than the old DDXD masthead with Bill Dvorak's name on it in the previous issue, that is), it's because I had to start layout on my MacBook Pro and finish it up on my Mac G4-hotrodded-to-G5. Seems that the desktop machine, which resides in a rather cold room, wasn't warmed up enough and threw a hissy fit when I tried to boot it up. A session with Disk Utility on the startup DVD convinced it to get with the program, however, thank goodness.

We've made a few status changes on the back page of DXN recently, and I need to remind you to check it carefully before contacting someone in charge, even if you have to break out a magnifying glass. I hate to be anti-social, but I simply don't return phone calls concerning NRC business, and my cell-phone number is NOT the NRC's general all-purpose phone number. If an NRC official doesn't list a phone number back there, it's for a reason. You're welcome to describe your problem to my voicemail, but if you should have sent an e-mail or a letter to someone else, I'm afraid you're out of luck. E-mail is best for contacting most of us, and if you're not wired, please send a postcard or letter to the appropriate person to notify us of problems to be solved. (If you missed the changeover, I don't

deal with labels, membership problems, the NRC AM Log, receiver or antenna recommendations, etc. ... I just put DXN together these days.)

Unfilled positions ... We're in need of volunteers for the following positions: an Internet web guru, to manage and update www.nrcdxas.org; a DXN publisher with fresh ideas, and one or more persons to edit future NRC publications developed by contributors or the club.

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 77

Deadline	Publ	Date			
16.	Jan. 15	Jan. 25	23.	Mar. 5	Mar. 15
17.	Jan. 22	Feb. 1	24.	Mar. 19	Mar. 29
18.	Jan. 29	Feb. 8	25.	Apr. 9	Apr. 19
19.	Feb. 5	Feb. 15	26.	May 7	May 17
20.	Feb. 12	Feb. 22	27.	June 4	June 14
21.	Feb. 19	Mar. 1	28.	July 9	July 19
22.	Feb. 26	Mar. 8	29.	Aug. 6	Aug. 16
			30.	Sept. 17	Sept. 27

DX Time Machine

From the pages of DX News

25 years ago ... from the January 21, 1985 DXN: Kermit Geary (who contributes to this column) stated that he was in his 52nd year of continuous NRC membership, his membership card dated Nov. 17, 1933.

10 years ago ... from the January 24, 1999 DXN: Posts on the NRC listserv revealed that top amongst NRC convention-goers was Ernie Wesolowski, who had attended 39 so far.

NRC AM Radio Log, 30th Edition



The NRC AM Radio Log is unbound and three-hole punched for standard binders. Media Rate: \$19.95 to U. S. NRC members; \$25.95 to U. S. non-members; to Canadian members, \$24.00 (\$33.50 to non-members); add \$3.50 for Priority Mail. Airmail to all outside of USA/Canada: \$33.00. Canadian orders: PayPal or postal M. O. only. Order from: NRC Publications - P.O. Box 473251, Aurora CO - 80047-3251, or via www.nrcdxas.org. (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax.)



AM Switch

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



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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<u>Old Call</u>		<u>New Call</u>
980	WTIX	NC	Winston-Salem
1360	NEW	GA	Lithonia
1410	WEGO	NC	Concord
1520	NEW	GA	Thunderbolt
			WEGO
			WHRH
			WTIX
			WSHX



ACTIONS

1140	KGEM	ID	Boise - Coordinate correction to 43-35-47/116-15-00.
1260	KBSZ	AZ	Apache Junction - CP granted for U1 800/50, moving from Wickenburg on 1250.
1270	CFGT	QC	Alma - Granted move to 104.5 MHz.
1340	CKCR	BC	Revelstoke - FM station on 106.1 is now on the air, meaning the 1340 facility has less than 90 days of life.
1400	KRSC	WA	Othello - Coordinate correction to 46-49-32/119-11-13.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

1060	WILB	OH	Canton - Licensed for D3 5000/0, WILB has a CP for D3 15000/0. This amendment requests D4 15000/0 CH 15000.
1490	KBZY	OR	Salem - Licensed for U1 1000/1000, after being 'evicted' from its original transmitter site, KBZY was issued a CP to move to a transmitter site of, and diplex into into, KPJC-1220's 138' tower (82' shorter than the original tower) and continuing with U1 1000/1000. However, that landowner backed out of the lease agreement and both stations have been operating under Special Temporary Authorizations (STA) since June 2006. Now, KBZY has applied to build a Kinstar antenna and continue with U1 1000/1000.

APPLICATIONS

1270	WRLZ	FL	Eatonville - Applies to decrease their day power to 5 kW and do away with the associated daytime directional pattern.
1320	WLOH	OH	Lancaster - Applies to add 15 feet to their folded unipole antenna to accommodate an antenna for FM translator station W284BD, plus a coordinate correction to 39-42-13/82-32-13.
1310	WPLV	GA	West Point - Applies for U1 1000/25.

AMENDMENTS TO APPLICATIONS

1160	WCXI	MI	Fenton - Licensed for U3 1000/1000, WCXI has had an application on file since 2004 for U4 15000/1000 moving to Wixom. This amendment requests U7 15000/1000 CH 15000 back at Fenton.
1210	NEW	OK	Bixby - Initial 2000 application was for U4 25000/250, then amended to U4 7500/250 in 2004. This request is for U4 7200/250.

AM on FM

620	WZON	ME	Bangor - WZON-FM (103.1) Bangor
710	KURV	TX	Edinburg - KZSP (95.3) South Padre Island
950	WVTS	WV	Charleston - WZJO (94.5) Dunbar
1070	WSCP	NY	Sandy Creek-Pulaski - WTKW (99.5) Bridgeport
1150	WTMP	FL	Egypt Lake - WTMP-FM (96.1) Dade City
1150	KOLJ	TX	Quanah - K254BJ (98.7) Quanah
1240	KXIT	TX	Dalhart - K233BY (94.5) Dalhart
1290	WATO	TN	Oak Ridge - W266AM (101.1) Oak Ridge
1340	KSSR	NM	Santa Rosa - KKJY (95.9)
1410	KNVR	TX	San Saba - KNUZ (106.1) San Saba
1440	WFNY	NY	Gloversville - W231CF (94.1) Gloversville

1600 WAMS DE Dover - W252CH (98.3) Dover
 1600 WAMS DE Dover - W286BS (105.1) Milford

DISMISSALS/DELETIONS

1090 KULF TX Bellville - Licensed for D1 250/0, KULF had applied for D4 10000/0 CH 10000. The CH portion of the application has been deleted.
 1310 WPLV GA West Point - Application for U1 1000/25.

LICENSE CANCELLATIONS

1340 CKCR BC Revelstoke - Shut down 1/18/09, as it moved to 106.1 MHz as CKCR-FM.

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

1490 NEW PA Lemont - Applies for U1 1000/270.

HEAR AND THAR

Ⓞ Returning to the airwaves: WCSP-1070 Sandy Creek-Pulaski, NY.

Ⓞ Reported as Silent: WOAM-1350 Peoria, Illinois; WBYE-1370 Calera, Alabama.

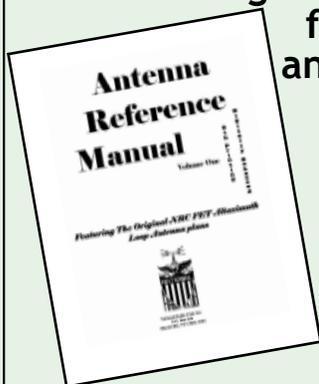
Ⓐ News Item : WAMD-970 Aberdeen, Maryland left the air on 10 January 2010. The station, which had served Harford County for many years with talk, news, sports, and oldies music, was recently purchased by Salem Media. It's been speculated that Salem wants the signal removed to improve the night coverage of WNYM, Hackensack, New Jersey, which it owns in the New York City market.

Ⓞ FINES: A fine of \$17,500 has been assessed to KRAL-xxxx Rawlins, Wyoming (along with their FM station) for failing to ensure the operational readiness of their Emergency Alert System equipment; for failing to maintain a complete public inspection file; and for failing to operate station WHB734, an aural studio-transmitter-link from its licensed location.

Ⓞ Thanks to Wayne Heinen and Tim Noonan.

Antenna Reference Manual, Volume 1

8th Printing Digitally Enhanced and Updated This completely-revised book features the plans for the original NRC 4' FET Altazimuth loop antenna. Completely revamped with digitally enhanced drawings and updated material sources, it also contains other articles on the subject of antennas for medium wave DX'ers, most originally published between 1969 and 1974 in *DX News*. It includes articles on air-core and ferrite core loops, antenna tuners for longwire antennas, and antenna couplers. This is the original book which has been available for over 20 years. \$8.95 to NRC members (\$11.95, non-members). 8 1/2" X 11" bound book format. Canadian orders: PayPal or postal M. O. only. Order from NRC Publications - P.O. Box 473251, Aurora CO - 80047-3251. (CO residents, please add 3.5% sales tax.)



IRCA Foreign Logs

IRCA Foreign Log #12. This edition contains ALL the SDXM DXWW-E, DXWW-W and DXWW-II tips from 8/02 to 8/05, all collated and in frequency order by TA, PA and TP for each DXWW column. Prices: NRC/IRCA members - \$10.00 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$11.50 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$12.50 (Australia/New Zealand airmail). **Non-members** - add \$2.00.

The IRCA has published nine additional volumes of the IRCA Foreign Log. Each volume contains the several hundred actual tips that were reported to the DXWW sections during an entire year, compiled and retyped in a book format. In addition, special features include articles on foreign DXing (volumes 6, 7 and 8), utility lists (volumes 7 and 8), shortwave parallels (volume 8) and BCB propagation (volumes 6, 7 and 8). The IRCA Bookstore still has volumes 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 of the IRCA Foreign Log available for \$2.50 each (overseas airmail add \$2.50/book).

To order from the IRCA Bookstore, send the correct amount in USA funds (payable to "Phil Bytheway") to:

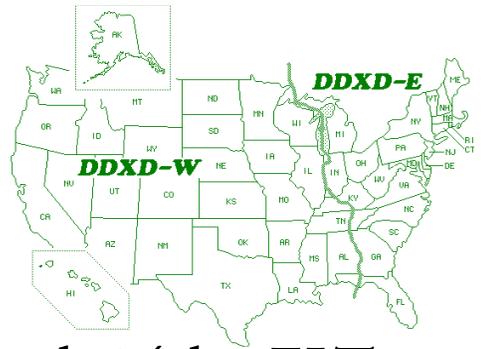
IRCA BOOKSTORE - 9705 MARY NW - SEATTLE WA - 98117-2334 (PayPal e-mail: phil_tekno@yahoo.com). Please state club affiliation when ordering.

Domestic DX Digest

West: Jim Tedford Radio_Enthusiast@hotmail.com
20310 Bothell-Everett Highway B4 - Bothell, WA 98012-8133

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

(Division line
is between East
and Central time
zones)



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

DDXD-West

Wassup from the escaping-all-the-brutal-winter-weather Pacific Northwest. I hope everyone survived the holidays intact and are having a so-far successful 2010. Now that my aged Maine Coon Cat Stanzi has a new heated cat bed, the local interference at my QTH is much reduced. Now all I have to do is figure out how to mitigate the other QRM source in my life, i.e. having to go to work every day.

This week's column is brought to you by these fine folks:

Reporters

DP-HI	Dale Park, Honolulu, HI	DXing at Wai'alaie-Kahala Post Office, Honolulu with Honda car radio
JDS-MN	Jeff Steffes, Watertown, MN	Kenwood R-2000, Quantum QX Loop
JDT-WA	Jim Tedford, Bothell, WA	RCA Superadio III, Crane Twin Coil Ferrite
JJR-WI	John J. Rieger, So. Milwaukee, WI	Icom IC-R75, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B tuner-preamp
JW-CO	John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, CO	Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop.
SA-MB	Shawn A. Axelrod VE4DX1SMA, Winnipeg, MB	Icom ICR-70/Drake R8 4 foot unamplified box loop/ Quantum Loop/ 155 foot outdoor wire/100 foot indoor wire/MFJ 1026 phasing unit.

Station News

590	KSSK	HI Honolulu Per monitoring, KSSK-AM and FM 92.3 don't exactly "simulcast," unlike KUMU AM-FM. The delay between songs airing on AM then FM varies from seven seconds to as much as three minutes. Also, differing commercials sometimes air between sets of songs. Furthermore, the AM breaks away at 5:59 on weeknights to simulcast the KHON-TV newscast. For the record, KSSK AM-FM went "all Christmas" 11/23-12/25. (DP-HI)
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UNID/Tentative

1220	UNID	12/30 0350 Light piano jazz mx underneath KZOO-1210 splatter. Does not fit KDOW-CA's prgm sked per its website. VERY POOR (DP-HI)
1370	KZSF	CA San Jose (tentative) 12/30 0349 SS Man talking excitedly over mariachi mx. VERY POOR (DP-HI)
1440	KVON	CA Napa (tentative) 12/30 0345 ESPN Radio's "All Night With Jason Smith" over/under stn w/ financial tx. Most likely KVON per its website. Both POOR (DP-HI)
1470	KUTY	CA Palmdale (tentative) 12/30 0346 SS Ranchera mx w/ accordion. POOR, unID tx underneath (DP-HI)

DX Logs (All Times ELT)

550	KTRS	MO St. Louis 12/29 0610 News followed by "KTRS News Time Five-Ten" then weather forecast (JDS-MN)
650	WSM	TN Nashville 12/29 0700 Station ID: "WSM Nashville" followed by News (JDS-MN)
700	WLW	OH Cincinnati 12/29 0723 News, Then Station ID: "700 WLW, the home of the best Bengal's coverage" (JDS-MN)
750	WSB	GA Atlanta 12/29 0742 News, followed by "WSB news time seven-forty-two, then weather" (JDS-MN)
790	KJRB	WA Spokane 1/6 2135 Michael Savage Show, ads for local car dealer and Gonzaga University Basketball. Poor but audible in KGMI null. (JDT-WA)
840	WHAS	KY Louisville 01/08 0722 Discussion about meth labs, followed by "seven twenty-two at WHAS" (JDS-MN)

870	WHCU	NY	Ithaca 01/08 0733 News, followed by Station ID: "News talk WHCU" (JDS-MN)
870	WKAR	MI	East Lansing 12/29 0806 News, into Station ID: "eight o' six at WKAR" (JDS-MN)
960	CFAC	AB	Calgary 1-5 0656 Poor-Fair -"The Fan 960" after local ads, ESPN: Mike&Mike. Up to 40/9 at times! Unusual. No WSBT. (JJR-WI)
1000	KTOK	OK	Oklahoma City 12/29 2119 Station ID: "News radio 1000 KTOK" (JDS-MN)
1010	CFRB	ON	Toronto 01/03 0804 "News Talk 1010 Toronto Weather, Minus twelve degrees" followed by The John Donabie Show. (JDS-MN)
1010	KSJR	CO	Brush 01/08 0813 Farm prices with references to Colorado, followed by Station ID: "Farm Radio 1010 KSJR" (JDS-MN)
1030	KBUF	KS	Holcomb 01/08 0822 Program: The Storm Report, into commercials with references to Kansas, followed by "KBUF Weather" (JDS-MN)
1030	KCWJ	MO	Blue Springs 1/4 1915. Local ads, call letter ID, then sports talk, possibly a pregame show. Fair/poor in KTWO partial null.(JW-CO)
1040	CKST	BC	Vancouver 12/31 0851. Area ads; PST time check, sports talk; 0900 "Team 1040 news and sports update, brought to you by the Vancouver Canucks". Fair, occasionally good, with KCBR nulled. No call letter ID heard. (JW-CO)
1060	KFIL	MN	Preston 01/06 0847 Song: <i>Country State of Mind</i> , Hank Williams Junior, into Station ID: "True Country KFIL" followed by weather (JDS-MN)
1080	KVKK	MN	Verndale 01/06 0832 Station ID: Song Dixieland Delight, Alabama followed by Station ID: KVKK (JDS-MN)
1080	KDKA	PA	Pittsburgh 01/03 0808 Station ID: "News Radio 1020 KDKA" (JDS-MN)
1080	KRLD	TX	Dallas 01/03 0819 Weather forecast, "thirty-three degrees at KRLD" (JDS-MN)
1140	KHFX	TX	Cleburne 12/31 1839. Call letters given slowly in SS, then SS religious talk. Signal up and down, generally under a strong CHRB. Needed for a call change, ex-KCLE. (JW-CO)
1230	KYSM	MN	Mankato 12/30 0405. "...AM 1230 KYSM..." heard and not much else. Just enough to count it for a new one, MN #58 and last new one of 2009. (JW-CO)
1230	KSBN	WA	Spokane 1/7 2003. Spokane business news, stock market report, , ID as "Money Talk AM 1230." No sign of local Korean language station KWYZ. (JDT-WA)
1290	KOUU	ID	Pocatello 1/2 1807. Presumed with C&W music and a mention of kz bq.com. Fair in QRM. (JW-CO)
1300	KBRL	NE	McCook 1/4 0754. "KBRL Skyline Weather", then back to Fox Sports; legal ID at 0859: "The Big Talker, 1300 KBRL McCook" and into ABC news at 0800. Fair in QRM. (JW-CO)
1320	WILS	MI	Lansing 1/3 0759. "...Talk Radio 1320 WILS Lansing" just prior to ToH. Very spotty afterward in QRM with "AM Lansing" program and "More Compelling Talk Radio" slogans. (JW-CO)
1350	KWMO	MO	Washington 1-5 0629 Poor-Very poor "AM1350-KWMO" after listening to 20 minutes of mx, ads, fading, etc. No WTAQ. C&W Rare! (JJR-WI)
1360	WGFA	IL	Watseka 1-2 0706 Poor SRN nx, PSA, calls given in wx. (JJR-WI)
1370	WGIV	NC	Pineville 1/2 1838 Very poor "thank you WGIV..." o/ anything. Black Gospel (JJR-WI)
1470	KBSN	WA	Moses Lake 1/7 2017 Anti-drunk driving PSA, local weather and promo as "First Choice for News." Audible in partial null of CJVB Vancouver. (JDT-WA)
1500	WFED	DC	Washington 01/03 1800 Poor signals but heard ID on the hour under KSTP. NEW My first new one of 2010. Hoping there are more coming. (SA-MB) There are. I have it on good authority. (JDT-WA)
1560	KTUI	MO	Sullivan 12/31 0719. Call letter ID, male announcer chatting. Fair/poor in QRM. (JW-CO)
1570	CKMW	MB	Winkler 12/29 0550 Song: <i>I'd Never Walk Away</i> , Ennis Sisters, Followed by Station ID: "Country 1570 CKMW (JDS-MN)
1580	CKDO	ON	Oshawa 12/29 0559 Song: <i>Na Na Hey Hey Kiss Him Goodbye</i> , Steam Into Station ID: "You are tuned to CKDO 1580 AM, Followed by CKDO News (JDS-MN)

- 1640 KDSR OR **Lake Oswego** 1/8 2056. In an attempt to duplicate John Wilkins' log below, heard these guys instead. Radio Disney with promos for iTunes Pass, upcoming movie *Starstruck*. (JDT-WA)
- 1640 KXOL UT **Brigham City** 1/2 0800. Banda music; legal ID at 0802:30: "KXOL Brigham City, KOVO Provo, Utah, K225AD(?) Provo Utah, 1660, 960, 92.9 - La Favorita" and back to Latino music. Good signal. (JW-CO)

Otherness

- 570 KQNG HI **Lihu'e** 12/17 2332 Noted relaying KAOI-1110 again with Maui ads and Dan Patrick instead of Stephanie Miller. Back to normal sked on 12/18. (DP-HI)

In a strange fit of serendipity, I heard KBSN and KSBN in the same week. This means something. (It means that, unlike me, you are actually DX'ing! -pls.) See you next time. (JDT-WA)

DDXD-East

REPORTERS

- HF-MI **Harold Frogge, Midland** - Drake R8B, 125 ft. bow-tie; 85 ft. RW & 180 ft. center-fed RW
- DJ-PA **David Jansky, Sunbury** - CCRadio, Radio Shack loop
- KK-VA **Kraig Krist, Manassas** - NRD-545, homemade 134 foot multiband antenna running NW to SE
- GL-NY **Ginnie Lupi, Corning** - DX-398, Select-A-Tenna
- JJR-MI **John J. Rieger, L'Anse** - Sony ICF SW7600GR
- NjW-ON **Niel Wolfish, Toronto** - Sony ICF-2010
- MKB-ON **Mike Brooker, Toronto** - Grundig G5, Grundig YB-400PE, Sony SRF-39FP, Panasonic RF-2200 (receiver emeritus)

PRESUMED/UNID

- 920 CFRY(p) MB **Portage la Prairie** - 12/18 0655 - Pioneer ad, "AM nine-twenty" and unintelligible weather forecast by man, music bleeding in ("Feelings", Christmas, C&W). Then woman reading news, mention of "cattle market", "on the Chicago board", stocks, commodities, wheat futures, soybeans, at 0658. (GL-NY) *CFRY and CKNX have similar C&W formats, with local features and news for farmers. The best way to tell them apart is to listen for local weather or sports (Ontario Hockey League scores on CKNX, Western Hockey League on CFRY). Mike.*
- UNID 12/18 0704 - Zydeco-like music by men, singing "ah-ee-ah-ee-ah-ahh." Heard on 922. (GL-NY)
- UNID 12/18 0718 - SS music. (GL-NY)

LOGGINGS

- 610 WTVN OH **Columbus** - 1/4 1652 - Many IDs in talk programming mostly sports. Signal became very steady and good as the sun went down. (DJ-PA)
- 650 CKOM SK **Saskatoon** - 12/29 0815 - Fair over WSM et al with slogan "Saskatchewan's #1....CKOM." (JJR-MI)
- 690 KFXN MN **Minneapolis** - 12/29 0853 - fair with slogan "All Sports 690 the Score" but quick fade. Fox Sports. (JJR-MI)
- 850 WREF CT **Ridgefield** - 12/18 0725 - poor signal in mess with ID at end of newscast. Many mentions of CT towns in local news items. (DJ-PA)
- 900 WURD PA **Philadelphia** - 12/23 1630 - holiday wishes, then "remember, Philadelphia..." by woman, then soft jazz. WURD confirmed with Internet stream. Faded into CHML. (GL-NY)
- 910 KCJB ND **Minot** - 12/31 0815 - Poor with C&W, slogan "910 Country KCJB", local ads, weather over faded KJJQ. (JJR-MI)
- KJJQ SD **Volga** - 12/30 0807 - very poor with Brookings local news, Volga police blotter, slogan "AM 910 Depot Radio" and no usual WFDF. (JJR-MI)
- WSVA PA **York** - 12/16 0729 - "newsradio nine ten", then "WSVA forecast" underneath C&W or Christian music. "Newsradio nine ten WSVA" by man at 0730. (GL-NY)
- WJCW TN **Johnson City** - 12/29 1705 - out of newscast with promo for Hannity and ID as "AM-910 WJCW" (NjW-ON)
- 920 WIRD NY **Lake Placid** - 12/14 0659 - "after the break... caller number seven... First

CFRY
920 AM 93.1 FM

Night tickets in Saranac Lake." Faded into weak CKNX. Heard on 922 kHz. (GL-NY)

- WGKA GA Atlanta** – 12/19 1634 – “dogwoodgolf dot org” at 1634. Internet search revealed a golf course located in Austell, GA. Back to the radio at 1636 to hear “2505... Parkway, Marietta”, then “nine-twenty AM WGKA”. Lots of QRM and fading. (GL-NY)
- WHJJ RI Providence** – 12/27 1650 – Auto Zone ad, Glenn Beck promo with Tiger Woods jokes, then “nine-twenty WHJJ” by man. (GL-NY)
- WOKY WI Milwaukee** – 1/2 1708 – slogan “AM 9-20 the Wolf”; Horizon League college hoops, U of WI-Milwaukee Panthers v. Youngstown State Penguins, women’s basketball game. Fair, mainly on top with very good peaks; far best in LSB due to evil IBOC slop. (HF-MI)
- 930 KSDN SD Aberdeen** – 12/30 0805 – poor with ABC news, “930-KSDN” local weather. (JJR-MI)
- WBEN NY Buffalo** – 12/16 0722 – “WBEN” ID by man. “Check out WBEN dot com” by woman. “WBEN news time is seven twenty-two” by man. Weak. (GL-NY)
- 940 WKGM VA Smithfield** – 12/31 1640 – Preacher apologizing for his raspy throat quotes John 14:14, gave out two phone numbers without area code at 1644, one of which was 357-9546. AM Log confirmed this as WKGM’s number. Lots of fading and interference with CINW. (GL-NY)
- CJGX SK Yorkton** – 12/30 0811 – over top of CINW-Montreal with C&W, “GX-94” IDs and local spots. (NjW-ON)
- 950 WVTS WV Charleston** – 12/28 0729 – “Daybreak on USA”, Bill Cunningham show ad, “on Supertalk nine-fifty.” At 0730 Mason County mentioned in news read by woman, and “West Virginia’s power problem”. (GL-NY)
- WCLB WI Sheboygan** – 12/29 2300 – top of the hour ID: “ESPN 950, WCLB Sheboygan, a _____ radio station”. Over top of WWJ-Detroit. (NjW-ON)
- 960 WFIR VA Roanoke** – 12/01 0557 – “WFIR” popped out underneath man talking about cookie recipes. (GL-NY)
- WEAV NY Plattsburgh** – 12/01 0600 – “and thirteen sixty WESA Randolph.” (GL-NY)
- WELI CT New Haven** – 12/31 1627 – “nine-sixty WELI” under “I Love You” by Climax Blues Band. Then “celebrating the first decade of the century”, and a big burst of static. When signal returned, heard “Clear Channel’s community access radio” and a mention of CT. (GL-NY)
- CFAC AB Calgary** – 12/27 2133 – over top of uberpest WFIR-Roanoke for a couple of minutes with Canucks vs. Flames hockey and “960-Fan” ID. (NjW-ON)
- 970 WCHN NY Norwich** – 1/2 0717 – NOS music and lots of static, then “WCHN radio” at 0718 by man and “brand new audio CD.” (GL-NY)
- WBLF PA Bellefonte** – 1/2 0719 – “on newstalk nine-seventy WBLF” by man popped out of the static and then disappeared. (GL-NY)
- 980 WILK PA Wilkes-Barre** – 12/02 0654 – in mush, “after a break on WILK” by man. (GL-NY)
- WTEM DC Washington** – 12/01 0655 – “College Park... Northern Virginia... myweight-doctor dot com... on ESPN nine-eighty AM” by woman, mentions of FMs as well, then “ESPN nine-eighty WTEM” at 0659. (GL-NY)
- KOKA LA Shreveport** – 1/2 0730 – after several minutes listening to fading in and out of ESPN and a Dr. Pinkus supplement infomercial, a woman with a southern accent popped out of the mix, saying “this is KOKA in Shreveport”. What I assume was ESPN immediately faded back in with a fishing show. Gotta love that sunrise skip! (GL-NY)
- 1030 WWGB MD Indian Head** – 1/2 0759 – creaming WBZ with SS gospel songs, bilingual ToH ID by woman “this is WWGB Indian Head-Washington...esta es doble-vay doble-vay gay bay Indian Head-Washington” into “Noticias Tele-Mundial” news. (MKB-ON)
- 1040 WHO IA Des Moines** – 12/04 0615 – “on newsradio ten-forty WHO” by man. Bowl bids by Iowa Hawkeyes by man. Lots of fading and QRM. Heard on 1038 kHz. (GL-NY)
- 1140 CHRB AB High River** – 12/29 0845 – fair with slogan “Southern Alberta’s....AM 1140”, commodity prices. (JJR-MI)
- 1160 WQRT KY Florence** -12/4 1659 – “you’re listening to Cincinnati’s... WQRT”, into news. Lots of fading. (GL-NY)



- 1230 WKLK MN Cloquet – 12/29 1800 - poor with ToH legal ID into news. (JJR-MI)
- 1240 WJMC WI Rice Lake – 12/30 0749 – poor with station promo “listen for news....AM 1240 WJMC”, lost to mess. Rare! (JJR-MI)
- 1260 WPNW MI Zeeland – 12/11 1651 – Laura Ingram show with “sound bite” segment; ads, including one for a furniture superstore. “West Michigan’s patriotic... WPNW, twelve-sixty The Pledge” at 1700. Lots of fading and QRM. (GL-NY)
- 1290 CFRW MB Winnipeg – 1/3 2109 – Unmistakable CanCon oldies by A Foot In Coldwater and Crowbar heard under the CJBK/WHIO mixture. Checked website for the last 500 songs played just to make sure... (NjW-ON)
- 1340 KRBT MN Eveleth – 12/30 0706 - poor but clear “AM 1340 KRBT” ID in mess noted while chasing UNID C&W station. (JJR-MI)
- 1400 WATW WI Ashland – 12/30 1612 - very poor with “This is WATW... Memories 1400” made possible when WCCY-MI, carrying same NOS format, misfired, not giving calls! Rare! (JJR-MI)
- 1450 WHRY WI Hurley – 12/29 1618 - poor with “Greatest Hits....1450 WHRY” ID over others and into mud. (JJR-MI)
- CHIN ON Toronto - 1/7 2355 – station promo in EE: “... ‘Insight’ where we deal with politics, social issues... Wednesday night from 11:30 PM... FM 91.9... worldwide on the internet at www... ‘Insight’ radio worth listening to on the Caribbean network... broadcasting to the world... CHIN (said as the word chin and not as a call sign)...”. (KK-VA)
- 
- 1550 WIGN TN Bristol - 12/21 1600 - ToH ID by male announcer into news. Signal very good at times then faded into others. (DJ-PA)
- CBE ON Windsor - 1/6 2355 - mixing with Spanish singing, “CBC news is next followed by ‘As It Happens’” into news. (KK-VA)
- 1570 WSCO WI Appleton – 12/31 0828 - very poor to fade-out with “1570theScore.com” website promo, ads, and mention of FM translator. (JJR-MI)
- WFLR NY Dundee - 1/4 2355 - mixing with religious talk station, local news “...Joe... WFLR news...” into weather forecast. (KK-VA)
- 1580 CKDO ON Oshawa - 1/3 2355 - Mixing with talk and another oldies station, slogan “... endless summer CKDO...”. (KK-VA)
- 1590 WFBR MD Glen Burnie - 1/2 2355 - mixing with WAKR and another oldies station with new, then woman with “...WFBR forecast...” local weather. (KK-VA)
- WAKR OH Akron - 1/2 2355 - Mixing with WFBR and another oldies station, slogan “...oldies variety equals fifteen ninety WAKR” into Chuck Berry song. (KK-VA)
- 1600 WPDC PA Elizabethtown - 1/1 2355 – in mix with sports talk about a quarterback, “... sports radio sixteen hundred WPDC...”. (KK-VA)
- 1610 CHHA ON Toronto - 12/31 2355 – station promo in mix with Caribbean Beacon (Dr. Gene Scott) and ESPN station: “...in your car, at home, at work or where ever your listen... CHHA...studios located... park in Toronto Canada... postal address is... email address is...” (KK-VA)

Two URL's you need: <http://e-dxn.com>; <http://www.nrcdxas.org>

NEW! IRCA Mexican Log, 14th Edition (Winter 2009)

The IRCA MEXICAN LOG lists all AM stations in Mexico by frequency, including call letters, state, city, day/night power, slogans, schedule in UTC/GMT, formats, networks and notes. The call letter index gives call, frequency, city and state. The city index (listed by state, then city) includes frequency, call and day/night power. The transmitter site index (listed by state, then city) tabulates the latitude and longitude of transmitter sites. This is an indispensable reference for anyone who hears Mexican radio stations. Size is 8 1/2" x 11".

Prices: NRC/IRCA members - \$9.50 (US/Canada/Mexico/sea mail), \$12.00 (rest of the Americas/Europe airmail), \$12.50 (Australia/Japan/New Zealand airmail). Non-IRCA members - add \$2.00. Please state club affiliation when ordering.

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International DX Digest

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

Foreign DX Catches. All times are UTC

DXers in the southwest, what's coming in from south of the border? What's riding the waves into the Pacific Coast? How well is Cuba and the rest of the Caribbean heard in Florida and the deep south? What about transoceanic DX in the midwest? If you're hearing it, let us know, and become part of the official record of international DX for the NRC. This week DXers check in from Nova Scotia, Texas, and Virginia...

Transatlantic DX

- 162 **FRANCE** *France-Inter*, Allouis (47°10'N 02°12'E) DEC 28 0250 - French noted. [Connor-NS]
171 unID DEC 28 0251 - Very faint. [Connor-NS]
183 **GERMANY** *Europe 1*, Felsberg (49°17'N 6°41'E) DEC 28 0252 - French talk, good signal. [Connor-NS]
189 **ICELAND** *Ríkisútvarpid*, Gufuskálar (64°54'N 23°55'W) DEC 28 0253 - Very strong with Christmas carols, announcements in Icelandic. [Connor-NS] JAN 5 0636 - John Lennon song; fair and steady signal, still audible (barely) at 0920. [Beu-TX]
198 **ENGLAND** *BBC Radio 4*, Droitwich et al. DEC 28 0254 - English, good copy, ID, news at 0300. [Connor-NS]
207 **ICELAND** *Ríkisútvarpid*, Eidar (65°19'N 14°26'W) DEC 28 0308 - Parallel to 189 kHz. [Connor-NS]
216 **FRANCE** *RMC Roumoules* (43°47'N 6°09'E) DEC 28 0301 - French talk program. [Connor-NS]
225 **POLAND** *Polskie Radio*, Solec Kujawski (52°22'N 19°48'E) DEC 28 0255 - Probable with weak audio. [Connor-NS]
234 **LUXEMBOURG** *R.Luxembourg*, Junglinster (49°40'N 6°19'E) DEC 28 0255 - French. [Connor-NS]
252 **ALGERIA** *R.Algérienne*, Tipaza (36°35'N 2°27'E) DEC 28 0311 - French talk, Koranic recitation. [Connor-NS]
252 **IRELAND** *RTÉ Radio 1*, Clarkestown DEC 27 0215 - Playing "Hallelujah." DEC 28 0248 - Armchair copy with lots of traditional Irish music. [Connor-NS]
261 unID DEC 28 0249 - Unidentified. [Connor-NS]
963 **FINLAND** *Radio 86*, Pori (61°28'N 21°35'E) JAN 2 2200 - In the clear after 950 WPEN-HD switched to night facilities; CRI program beginning with a woman reading news. [Conti-NH]
1062 **DENMARK** *Danmarks Radio*, Kalundborg (55°40'N 11°04'E) DEC 31 0440 - Interval signal heard till 0445 (consisting of chimes), then announcements by man, Eric Clapton song at 0451, news at 0500 read by a woman. Fair to good signal peaks till 0505. [Beu-TX]
1089 **UNITED KINGDOM** *TalkSport* synchros JAN 2 2145 - Good; telephone talk actually about sport, promo going into commercial break, parallel 1053 kHz. [Conti-NH]
1134 **CROATIA** *Glas Hrvatske*, Zadar (44°06'N 15°15'E) JAN 5 0248 - Man singing ballads, parallel to 3985; signal strong enough to punch through heavy IBOC. [Beu-TX]
1179 **SWEDEN** *R.Sweden International*, Sölvesborg (55°59'N 14°40'E) JAN 2 2100 - Huge, 10 to 20 dB over adjacent 1180 WHAM; interval signal segued into a lively instrumental, then a single chime on the hour and Swedish program beginning with news, parallel 5850 kHz. [Conti-NH]
1215 **KALININGRAD** *VOR Bolshakovo* JAN 2 2058 - Over/under *Absolute Radio*; ID in English with frequencies and URL, then interval signal and national anthem followed by another ID in English, "This is the Voice of Russia World Service..." [Conti-NH]



Sveriges Radio

Pan-American DX

- 555 **ST. KITTS & NEVIS** *ZIZ Basseterre* (17°19'N 62°44'W) DEC 28 0400 - Strong with BBC programming. [Connor-NS]
820 **CUBA** *CMDE R.Rejoj*, Contramaestre (20°18'N 76°15'W) DEC 27 0110 - Time pips and Morse RR. [Connor-NS]
960 **CUBA** *R.Rejoj*, multiple sites DEC 27 0120 - Time pips and Morse RR. [Connor-NS]
1610 **ANGUILLA** *Caribbean Beacon*, The Valley JAN 1 0455-0535 - Mixing with CHHA, singing, talk, and ESPN Radio; Dr. Gene Scott preaching. [Krist-VA]

Contributors

Mike Beu KD5DSQ, Austin TX; Drake R8B, terminated Delta antenna (17-ft apex x 28-ft base).

John Connor VE3TG, Fall River NS; YB400 barefoot.

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; SDR IQ, variable termination SuperLoop antennas 13 x 20-m east and 15 x 23-m south.

Kraig Krist KG4LAC, Manassas VA; NRD-545, 65-ft multiband antenna running northeast to southwest.

73 and Good DX!

NRC Contests

Wayne Heinen amradiolog@nrcdxas.org
4131 Andes Way
Aurora, CO 80013-3831

An annual DX contest which encourages DX'ing and offers prizes

Here we are half way through the season and the mid seasons winners are John Cereghin of Smyrna, DE top of the Cumulative Points Contest and Deane McIntyre Calgary, AB the top eligible Contestant in How Many Miles Can you Go? As contest manager I'm always ineligible and I don't think that John needs two copies of the 2010 World Radio-TV Handbook. Congratulations to both John and Deane! Keep those loggings coming in! Both contests run though May 31!

Mid Way Results

<u>Contester</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Loggings</u>	<u>Points</u>
John Cereghin	Smyrna, DE	431	917
Wayne Heinen*	Aurora, CO	314	768
Richard Lauhead ...	St Paul, MN	254	533
Deane McIntyre	Calgary, AB.....	212	435
Paul Swearingen* ..	Topeka, KS	225	422
John P Kavan.....	Tampa, FL	163	320
Russell Curry	Eugene, OR.....	139	298
Nancy Johnson.....	Billings, MT	121	293
Steve Sprague	Coffeyville, KS ..	138	279
David B Jones.....	Nashville, TN.....	32	68
Bill Patalon III	Fallston, MD.....	43	55
John R Malicky	Pittsburgh, PA	12	26
Dale Park	Honolulu, HI.....	6	12

* Ineligible for contest Prize

How Far can you Go? Through Dec. 31, 2009

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Loggings</u>	<u>Tot. Miles</u>
Wayne Heinen*	Aurora, CO	316	167691
John Cereghin#	Smyrna, DE.....	434	152267
Deane McIntyre....	Calgary, AB	215	150242
Richard Lauhead..	St Paul, MN.....	254	112259
Paul Swearingen* ..	Topeka, KS	225	92732
Russell Curry	Eugene, OR.....	139	72946
Nancy Johnson	Billings, MT	121	64146
John P Kavan	Tampa, FL	163	55236
Steve Sprague	Coffeyville, KS....	138	41186
Bill Patalon III.....	Fallston, MD	43	14886
David B Jones	Nashville, TN	32	10644
Dale Park.....	Honolulu, HI	7	10104
John R Malicky	Pittsburgh, PA.....	12	4467

* Ineligible for contest Prize

Ineligible already won contest #1

Confirmed DX'er

Phil Bytheway phil_tekno@yahoo.comt
9705 Mary NW
Seattle, WA 98117-2334

Your successes in obtaining QSL's and other station items

Welcome once again to the QSL column for the NRC... send your verification details to me!!

1100 KWWN NV Las Vegas. F/D letter and ESPN sticker in 12 days from Bill Croghan (WB0KSW), C.E. (JW-CO)

1280 WPKZ MA Fitchburg. Letter in 4 days from Mark Bisbee. (SM-MA)

1630 KCJJ IA, Iowa City. Nice QSL CARD signed by Tom Suter, GM, in about a week. (DD-OH)

1700 KVNS TX, Brownsville. Nice verification letter, received in about 3 weeks includes a tech. info sheet for the station; signed by Tim Thomas, Market Mgr. (DD-OH)

A big thanks to the following contributors:

Dave Dunn, Columbus, Ohio (DD-OH)

Stan Morss, Boxford, Massachusetts (SM-MA)

John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, Colorado (JW-CO)

Tecsun PL-380 DSP Receiver— the Ultimate Ultralight?

Four Band Performance Review of Tecsun's Latest DSP-enhanced Pocket Radio

By Gary DeBock



Introduction In late spring of this year China's leading radio manufacturer, the Tecsun Company, introduced the first consumer-oriented pocket radio to feature the innovative Silicon Labs' 4734 DSP chip-- the PL-300WT AM-FM-SW-LW receiver. This breakthrough model provided outstanding FM sensitivity and selectivity, and unprecedented AM selectivity for a pocket radio—immediately changing the playing field for

the compact receiver segment of the electronics market. Whereas the PL-300WT (and its Grundig G8 clone) was a dream come true for FM-DXing enthusiasts, its AM DXing performance was limited in several aspects, causing both the Tecsun and Kchibo companies to quickly develop and market new models that would exceed the PL-300WT's AM sensitivity and selectivity—and overall AM-DXing potential.

The 4734 DSP chip controlling the PL-300WT had been designed to allow multiple DSP filtering options for outstanding AM selectivity, but this superb capability was not used in the PL-300WT, which had its DSP filtering fixed at a setting wider than optimum (for DXing). Unfortunately another 4734 chip capability was included, however—an irritating “soft mute” function, which caused a severe drop off in DX audio when tuning 1 kHz farther away from a pest station. AM-DXers who purchased the PL-300WT (Grundig G8) models began longing for an improved pocket radio which offered all the DSP selectivity choices available with the 4734 IC chip, and which was free of the “soft mute” issue. Fortunately, the Chinese manufacturers got the message, and rushed to comply with our desires.

Multiple DSP Filtering Selections The Kchibo company took advantage of the PL-300WT's lack of filtering options with the summer introduction of its D92L and D96L models, which were AM-FM-SW units complete with the full range of DSP selectivity choices available from the 4734 IC chip (6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 kHz). Improving upon a reputation for producing low-cost radios of questionable quality, Kchibo made a serious effort to engineer reliability into these new DSP models, and most of the radios worked exactly as designed.



In the case of the D92L, however, the design itself had severe shortcomings, including a digital section generating RF hash to degrade AM sensitivity, and a 15-second digital “chuffing noise” whenever a control was changed. As such, the D92L models never really caught on with AM-DXers.

The D96L model (at left) was vastly improved, though, with excellent AM sensitivity and a reduced (5-second) digital “chuffing noise.” As the best performing DSP model available at the time of the 2009 Ultralight Radio Shootout (mid-September of 2009), the D96L came away with top honors, unique with its combined superiority in both AM sensitivity and selectivity.

Tecsun PL-310 Model During the summer Tecsun itself was preparing two new DSP pocket radios to maintain its market dominance, the first of which was the PL-310, an outstanding AM-FM-SW-LW model also featuring the full range of DSP selectivity options (like the D96L).



In comparison to the D96L, the new PL-310 (at left) offered roughly similar performance in AM-DXing, but had superior FM and SW performance, as well as a fairly competitive Longwave band not included in the D96L. Like all Tecsun models, it was free of the digital “chuffing noise” issue in the Kchibo models, and had a more traditional, rectangular design. Fortunately, Tecsun was also developing a DSP pocket radio which had all the

of the PL-310, plus complete freedom from the one disadvantage plaguing all the DSP pocket radios produced thus far... the irritating "soft mute" function, a major drawback for weak-signal AM-DX-ers.

PL-380 Specifications The new Tecsun PL-380 model (at right) is that highly refined product from China's leading radio manufacturer, which for international purchasers is currently only offered by the top-rated Hong Kong eBay sellers "Anon-co" for \$45.99, plus \$24.00 shipping (by registered air mail to North America), and "elink.shop" (for \$44.99 plus \$24 shipping).

It's an AM-FM-SW-LW model with fairly competitive performance on all four bands, and may be considered Tecsun's "second generation" DSP pocket radio, with many improvements over the original PL-300WT model. Offered in black, gray and silver colors, the PL-380's cabinet (at 133 x 85 x 27 mm, or 5.3 x 3.3 x 1.2") is of equivalent size to the Tecsun PL-310 and PL-300WT models, and may be pictured as a PL-310 with a tuning thumb-wheel (instead of a round tuning knob, as on the PL-310 model).

Three AA batteries or a 4.5 VDC adapter supply power for the model (three rechargeable batteries are included with the radio, as well as a USB cable for charging from a computer), and the weight of the PL-380 is 200 grams (7 ounces) when fully loaded.

In comparison to the PL-310 DSP model, the new PL-380 has all the advanced digital features of its predecessor, plus a few new ones. Like the PL-310, it has Si4734 DSP chip-based displays of signal strength, signal-to-noise ratio, temperature (selectable in Celsius or Fahrenheit), battery consumption, current time, and alarm time setting. It has selectable 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 kHz DSP selectivity options available from a front panel control (in a carousel rotation scheme). It has an excellent direct-entry keypad with generous-sized numerical controls (which operates without the typical need to push an "enter" button). The model has 550 preset memories available, with 100 for each of the AM, LW and FM bands, plus 250 for the SW bands. An alarm function can awaken the owner with either a buzzer or a live radio signal, and there is also a selectable key-lock function.

AM coverage on the PL-380 is from 520-1710 kHz when 10 kHz tuning steps are selected, and from 522-1620 when 9 kHz steps are selected. As on the PL-310, the AM tuning rate is adjusted according to the user's rotation of the tuning control, so that rapid rotation of the tuning control shifts the tuning rate from 1 kHz to either 9 or 10 kHz steps (whichever steps are selected by the user for AM operation). When the tuning control rotation is slowed or stopped, the AM tuning rate shifts back to 1 kHz. This tuning system takes some practice to master, and is not universally popular with all DXers. Even if 10 kHz tuning steps are selected, a transoceanic DX chaser can still manually tune in the 9 kHz-split frequencies with the tuning control.

LW coverage on the PL-380 is from 153-513 kHz, with sensitivity somewhat less than that of the PL-310 model (which is greatly superior to that of the PL-300WT models, but inferior to that of the ICF-2010 and other top portables). Outstanding FM reception is available from 64-108 MHz, and FM stereo audio is available from the earphone jack when such stations are received. The FM tuning rate is also adjusted according to the user's rotation of the tuning knob, with the slower 10 kHz steps changing to 100 kHz steps when the tuning knob rotation is faster. The FM-DXing performance of the PL-380 is exceptional (as in the PL-300WT and PL-310 models), with the Si4734 DSP chip providing a breakthrough level of sensitivity and selectivity for weak-signal reception.

SW coverage is generally decent, and is from 2.3- 21.95 MHz, selectable in 13 different band segments from the front panel. In a major improvement of the PL-300WT (G8)'s reception of numerous AM spurs and mixing products throughout the SW spectrum, the PL-380's SW reception is free of these problems (as is the PL-310's SW section).

Whereas the PL-310 has five tuning modes, the new PL-380 has no fewer than seven: Easy Tuning Mode (ETM), jog dial manual tuning, auto-scan tuning, pre-setting manual scan tuning, memory pre-setting auto scan tuning (ATS), memory pre-setting address direct-entry tuning, and frequency direct-entry tuning. The reviewer was highly impressed with the versatility offered by these various digital tuning methods (explained thoroughly in the 29-page English owner's manual), but since full explanation of each tuning system is beyond the scope of this review, suffice it to say that a PL-380 owner will have no problem tuning in multiple DX stations in every conceivable way.

Included in the PL-380 shipping package are three rechargeable AA batteries, a USB cable to charge



the batteries from a computer, a Chinese owner's manual and registration card, a vinyl carrying case, stereo ear bud phones and case, a clip-on wire antenna, and a wrist strap attached to the PL-380 cabinet.

AM-Oriented Technical Summary For some strange reason, Tecsun has chosen to install a PL-380 loopstick significantly smaller than that of the PL-310 (80 x 8mm or 3 1/8 x 5/16", as opposed to the PL-310's 100 x 8mm or 3 15/16 x 5/16"). This does result in slightly less AM sensitivity on the mid-band frequencies than with the PL-310, as will be detailed in the following live tests. Balanced against this slight detriment is the PL-380's freedom from the soft mute function, allowing reception of weak AM stations without the signal dropping in and out, as is occasionally an issue with the PL-310 (and other soft mute-enabled Si4734-chip radios). For DXers using effective external antennas, of course, the size of the PL-380's loopstick would be irrelevant, and for those hobbyists wishing to enhance the model's AM-DXing capability as a stand-alone receiver, a far more sensitive 7.5" loopstick transplant has been developed for the PL-380 (further details and a link to the technical article are posted at the conclusion of this review). In general, the PL-380's combination of superb 1 kHz DSP filtering and freedom from the soft mute issue provides outstanding opportunities for both domestic and split-frequency DXers, especially those with serious external antennas.



Four-Band Live Signal Testing The new PL-380 model was extensively tested against both the PL-310 and the Kchibo D96L (the winner of the 2009 Ultralight AM-DX Shootout) on the AM, FM and SW bands, and against the PL-300WT (a.k.a. G8) model and the PL-310 on the LW band. All testing was performed in the reviewer's typical suburban location of Puyallup, WA, about 35 miles south of Seattle. Operational checks and fresh batteries were provided to all radios prior to the testing, to ensure accurate results. The AM sensitivity checks were performed with all radios in the 2 kHz DSP selectivity setting, while the AM selectivity checks were performed in the 1 kHz setting.

All AM testing was performed during enhanced winter conditions within 2 hours of local noon, while the LW testing was performed after local midnight. FM and SW testing was performed late in the afternoon, using only the fully extended whip antennas. In the case of the PL-310, the soft mute issue occasionally caused weak AM signals to drop in and out during marginal reception, and the final performance figure is for the best reception during the testing sequence.

AM SENSITIVITY (best is 5; worst is 0)

530-TIS 620-KPOJ 750-KXL 980-CKNW 1110-KWDB 1390-KJOX 1520-KGDD 1640-KDZR

D96L (A)	3.5	3	2	0	1	0	2	3.5
PL-310 (A)	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	3
PL-380 (B+)	3	3	2	0	1	0	2	3

Sensitivity Summary The D96L has a slight sensitivity advantage over the Tecsun units on the extreme high and low band, while the PL-310 has a slight advantage over the other two units on the mid-band frequencies. The PL-380's performance matches the PL-310 on the band edges, and the D96L's performance on the mid-band frequencies. The smaller loopstick in the PL-380 apparently accounts for this lack of top-level AM sensitivity.

AM SELECTIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)

560-KPQ

1080-KFFX

1460-KARR

D96L (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH slop)
PL-310 (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH slop)
PL-380 (A)	5 (no KVI slop)	4 (slight KPTK slop)	5 (no KSUH-slop)

Selectivity Summary The 1 kHz DSP filtering provided by the Si4734 chip is identical on all three models, providing equally impressive selectivity on all three test stations. DSP models without the 1 kHz filtering option (like the PL-300WT and G8) cannot match this stellar performance.

AM QUIRKS: The PL-380 suffers from internally-generated AM heterodynes as all other Si4734 chip radios, especially from 1410-1440 kHz (although these have apparently been reduced from the serious level of the PL-310 and PL-300WT heterodynes) Like all other such radios, the PL-380 emits a slight click of RF hash whenever the AM tuned frequency is changed (detectable when another radio is alongside the model). The dual tuning rate controlled by the speed of tuning thumbwheel rotation

cannot be switched off, and has proven irritating to some users. Although the digital beeping noises can be switched off, most users find them excessively loud. Finally, since all of these PL-380 units have been imported from China, there are no service facilities in North America for warranty repair of these radios, and owners having any issues will need to ship them overseas for repairs.

	LW SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)			
	<u>351-NY</u>	<u>369-ZP</u>	<u>385-WL</u>	<u>405-MOG</u>
PL-300WT (F)	0	0	0	
PL-310 (A)	3	4	2	1
PL-380 (C)	1	2	trace	0

LW Sensitivity Summary The PL-310 has the best LW performance of these three models, with reception of all four beacon test stations. The PL-380's smaller loopstick causes a drop off in LW sensitivity relative to the PL-310, but still greatly outperforms the almost deaf PL-300WT (G8) models on the LW frequencies. By comparison, an ICF-2010 will outperform all three Ultralight models.

	FM SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)					
	<u>KISM-92.9</u>	<u>CIOC-98.5</u>	<u>CKKQ-100.3</u>	<u>CFMI-101.1</u>	<u>KINK-101.9</u>	<u>KKCW-103.3</u>
D96L (B)	2	4	1	0	0	0
PL-310 (A)	3	5	2	2	1	2
PL-380 (A)	3	5	2	2	1	2

FM Sensitivity Summary The two Tecsun models have equivalent outstanding reception on FM, with the D96L falling somewhat behind (presumably because of an inferior whip antenna design, since the DSP circuitry is the same). The PL-300WT (a.k.a. G8) models also have the same outstanding FM performance as the PL-310 and PL-380 models.

	SW SENSITIVITY (best is 5, worst is 0)			
	<u>WWCR-5935</u>	<u>WYFR-5950</u>	<u>Anguilla-6090</u>	<u>WTJB-9370</u>
D96L (B+)	5	4	3	2
PL-310 (A-)	5	4	4	3
PL-380 (B)*	4	4	3	2

SW Sensitivity Summary Of these three models, the PL-310 has the most sensitive and stable SW reception, especially on the higher frequencies. The D96L's metallic front panel occasionally causes instability on the high SW frequencies when first touched by the user. One of the two PL-380 review units was unstable on the SW frequencies, breaking into oscillation suddenly on occasion. It also displayed the PL-300WT (G8) quirk of rampant AM spurious signals across the SW spectrum, curable by touching the whip antenna. The other PL-380 review unit had normal SW operation. By comparison, the Eton E100 model had slightly superior SW reception to any of these models.

PL-380 Verdict The newest Tecsun model is an outstanding value at its \$44.95 (plus shipping) price, but whether it will be preferable in value to the PL-310 (and D96L) certainly depends upon the type of DXing favored by the prospective purchaser.

For a domestic DXer looking for the most AM sensitivity from a stock pocket radio, the PL-310's larger loopstick does provide a slight performance edge on the mid-band frequencies, as well as the 1 kHz DSP selectivity necessary to chase DX adjacent to local pests. The D96L can also outperform the PL-380 on the extreme high and low AM band frequencies, with equivalent 1 kHz DSP selectivity. Unfortunately both of these other models are burdened by the "soft mute" issue, which can be an unpredictable irritant causing a weak signal to drop in and out on occasion. The soft mute issue is a drawback for most DXers, but since the PL-310 and D96L do have slight AM sensitivity advantages over the soft mute-free PL-380 on certain frequencies, a DXer using these other receivers (in stock form) to chase domestic DX could conceivably log more stations with them. This assumes that these DXers could learn to tolerate the soft mute issue.

The choice would change dramatically for transoceanic DXers, however. The soft mute-free PL-380 is ideal because of its ability to tune 1 kHz farther away from domestic splatter, and because almost all TA and TP-chasers have effective external antennas, any limitation in PL-380 stock AM sensitivity would be irrelevant. Overall, for DXers (domestic or split-frequency) who are highly irritated by the soft mute function or who use any type of external antenna, the new PL-380 would be the clear choice.

Tecsun's choice of a smaller PL-380 loopstick is unfortunate, and results in reduced LW sensitiv-

ity as well. LW enthusiasts would do well to purchase a different model, although FM-DXers will be highly satisfied with the PL-380's outstanding capabilities. SW enthusiasts should not have overly high expectations for the model, although the PL-380 should be suitable for basic tasks like checking the SW parallels of medium wave DX stations. In general, the four-band performance of the new PL-380 provides one more excellent purchasing option for AM-DXing enthusiasts, which depending upon your overall objectives, may be the perfect combination of value and versatility.

73 and Best Wishes to All,

Gary DeBock

Additional Resources

For those DXers looking for greatly improved LW and AM sensitivity from the PL-380, an effective 7.5" loopstick transplant modification has been developed, with the technical article posted on the Ultralightdx Yahoo File Site (under Modifications), on the <http://www.dixer.ca> file site (in the ULR file section, under Modifications), and is also directly linked at the following URL: <http://www.mediafire.com/?vnjhmkmazxx>

This modification transforms the PL-380 into a very sensitive stand-alone LW and AM receiver, typically outperforming any modified Ultralight radio created so far (see photo below).



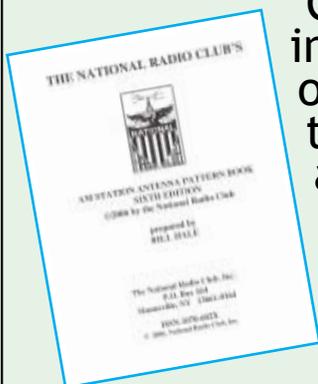
Two demonstration MP3's of the PL-380's DSP filtering have also been recorded during actual TP-DXing, and are dramatic in showing the effectiveness of the PL-380's multiple DSP filtering options in overcoming domestic splatter. In both recordings, the PL-380's DSP selectivity is progressively stepped down from 6 kHz (the widest option) to 1 kHz, reducing adjacent domestic splatter to a negligible level. In the 648-Voice of Russia recording, the PL-380's tuned frequency is also stepped down to 647 kHz during the last 7 seconds (a capability made possible by its unique freedom from the "soft mute" issue), providing an additional reduction in 650-KSTE splatter. This 648-Voice of Russia recording is

linked at <http://www.mediafire.com/?tnwem2fiz1y>, and a recording of 738-BEL2 (Taiwan Fisheries) is available at <http://www.mediafire.com/?mnznomi5zvj>

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