

# DX News

Since 1933. We know radio.

Volume 59, No. 1 - October 7, 1991 (ISSN 0737-1659)



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### CPC Test ...

KCRV-1370 - P. O. Box 9 - Carruthersville, MO 63680 will present a special DX Test Monday morning October 28 at 0615 ELT. The test will include tones, music, Morse code, and voice. Address reports to Mr. Cleat Stanfill, General Manager. Arranged for the NRC by the Colorado CPC Machine.

**From the Publisher ...** I hope you like the new, cleaner look of DXN. I've changed some things not for just the sake of change, but to make the magazine more readable and legible as well as able to include more information for you. We'll be working with the regular columnists and other regular contributors so that the appearance of DXN is more uniform. For example, both this page and DDXD-E is set in 13-point Times. (reduced to 59% by the printer). On the other hand, I had to squash the index quite a bit to get it to fit, and it may not be as legible. The point is that we're trying to use the available technology to its utmost to bring you a better product while not raising dues. I'd appreciate some feedback from those whose eyes aren't as sharp as they used to be as to the legibility of DXN.

It looks as if we'll have access to an MS-DOS computer which can convert ASCII files from 5.25" disks to 3.5" disks. But we still need volunteer typists occasionally to type up material and save it to one of the following formats: MS-DOS 3.5" or 5.25" disks, in almost any Macintosh word processor (MS Works or Word, MacWrite II, WriteNow 2.2, or even TeachText), Commodore 64 (Mirage or ASCII), or Apple (5.25" or 3.5", Appleworks or ASCII). Accordingly, any contributions forthcoming in elite type will be held until we can retype it.

With the start of the new volume, I'd like to take a little space to say thanks to all NRC members for making the club the great organization it is. A special thanks also to those of you who have written thank-you notices to me in the past, although I must point out that

I really am more of a "filter" than anything else, and that the real gratitude should go to the column editors and other contributors who keep sending in material. Thanks also to those who send station logos and clippings. Nearly everything eventually finds its way to print. And, yes, I'm still having fun!

We're into the weeklies now, so crank up those receivers and report what's going on in DX land. Keep it current, though. 73 - pls.

### Remaining DXN Schedule, Volume 59

#	Deadline	Pub. Date	#	Deadline	Pub. Date
2.	Oct. 4	Oct. 14	11.	Dec. 6	Dec. 16
3.	Oct. 11	Oct. 21	12.	Dec. 13	Dec. 23
4.	Oct. 18	Oct. 28	13.	Dec. 27	Jan. 6
5.	Oct. 25	Nov. 4	14.	Jan. 3	Jan. 13
6.	Nov. 1	Nov. 11	15.	Jan. 10	Jan. 20
7.	Nov. 8	Nov. 18	16.	Jan. 17	Jan. 27
8.	Nov. 15	Nov. 25	17.	Jan. 24	Feb. 3
9.	Nov. 22	Dec. 2	18.	Jan 31	Feb. 10
10.	Nov. 29	Dec. 9	19.	Feb. 7	Feb. 17

### DX Time Machine

#### From the pages of *DX News*

**50 years ago ...** from the Oct. 4, 1941 *DXN*: A list was published of the BCB stations in Australia and New Zealand. Also, one page of "Rules of the National Radio Club;" membership dues were \$2.00 per year.

**25 years ago ...** from the Oct. 1, 1966 *DXN*: Allen Merriman headed the CPC, Russ Edmunds the Verie Signers List, and Steve Weinstein, Contest. Dues were \$5.00 per year.

**10 years ago ...** from the Oct. 1, 1981 *DXN*: Tom Farmerie penned a request for information for the 50th NRC Anniversary book. Dues were \$18.00 per year.

# AM Switch

Jerry Starr  
c/o WHOT Radio  
4040 Simon Road  
Youngstown, OH 44512-1320

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

## CALL LETTER CHANGES

Old call:				New call:
830	WKTX	OH	Cortland	WXTD
900	WBXT	OH	Canton	WCER
	CFBR	ON	Sudbury	CHYC
950	KRXA	AK	Seward	KSWD
1230	WEEX	PA	Easton	WODE
	CFLK	ON	Kapuskasing	CHLK
1340	KTEO	TX	San Angelo	KCRN
	CFLH	ON	Heyst	CHOC
1480	KDBN	TX	Dallas	KCMZ

## APPLICATIONS / GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS None

## APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1480 WCIN OH Cincinnati: reduce powers to 1000/114 watts, antenna to U1

## GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

None

## OTHERNESS

- 530 CIAO ON Brampton: station has been testing here even though CJFT is still operating on this frequency. Expect CIAO to move here from 790 kHz for good by the end of the year.
- 830 WKTX OH Cortland: station returned to the air 9-19 but was noted off all day 9-21, don't know what is exactly happening here but by the time this reaches you this station will be ON THE AIR. By the way, they were using this call, not the new WXTD as noted under Calls above.
- KBUC TX Cibola: silent for a few weeks, this station is ON THE AIR again.
- 900 WCOR TN Lebanon: station is SILENT
- 910 WQZZ TN Columbia: was silent as WCMG Lawrenceburg, TN, station is ON THE AIR from new city of license.
- WVWR VA Roanoke: silent station is ON THE AIR
- 980 KICA NM Clovis: silent station is ON THE AIR
- 1120 WCGM TN Maryville: station is again SILENT
- 1220 KRGO CA Fowler: silent station is ON THE AIR
- 1490 WECM FL Milton: silent station is ON THE AIR
- WJOC TN Chattanooga: silent station is ON THE AIR (and features an all sports format, thus the new call)
- 1500 KRBN TX Boerne: station is SILENT after suffering major varmit-induced transmitter damage, may be off for several months.



1550 WAAJ AL Huntsville: silent station is ON THE AIR but is maintaining a sporadic operating schedule. They operate on listener donations and are on the air only as funds permit.

1570 KTAT OK Frederick: station is SILENT

THANKS: John Bowker, Mike Riordan, Eugene Hinton, Dale Hamm and M Street Journal

73 and Good DX, Jerry & BKF Jerry Starr & Buffalo K. Fooman

## DX News Index to Volume 58

(If you read this index backward, will you get a special, sinister message? Regular, weekly columns are not indexed. Titles are generic. Errors are regretted. Numbers after titles refer to the number of the issue plus the page, - pls.)

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4-1 - WJOP-1350, KSTL-690

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8-1 - KTLT-1590, KCKK-1020

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20-1 - KJRW-1010, KJTB-640

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John Hancock - 20-11

Arza Cadez - Mike Hawk - 23-23

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Marcus Award to Pete Kemp - 28-14

Yvonne Daniels - 28-23

# Domestic DX Digest - East

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

William Hale

734 Burluson  
San Marcos, TX 78666-4335

## MEDIUM WAVE RAMBLINGS

- Some great loggings were received here too late for last issue, and would have been way too old for this issue, so have been edited out. It's unfortunate this happens. My deadlines are clearly made known to one and all. Loggings which will be older than six weeks at date of **DX News** publication are edited out. Actually, I'm pushing it with a few this time. Arghhh.
- Thanks to **Dave Evans** of Brossard, Quebec, I have in my hot little hands (actually in the cassette player) a recording of what was CFCF's final hours . . . as CFCF. Dave notes that CFCF was possibly North America's first radio station, with history going back to 1919. CIQC (the new calls) will be Montreal's first full-time country station since about 20 years ago. A few more details in Special below. Thanks for the news and the tape, Dave! By the way, Dave drove to the U.S. to mail the envelope (strike up there, you know) and it got here in two days!! I heard the comment on Radio Canada that the reason postage is so high there is that they charge for storage.
- Just received my new **NRC Radio Log**. It's a dandy! Get yours today. And yes, I paid full price for it.
- Rick Dau** is having a GTG (that means *get together* for the uninitiated) in Sioux City, Iowa on October 25 and 26. Watch for more details from Rick, but plan now to attend.

## SPECIAL

- 600 CIQC PQ MONTREAL - 9/9 0001 has changed to these CLs and C&W mx (ex:CFCF and NOS); they have dropped **Larry King** overnight in favor of the music format; the ratings were not what the owners wanted, and with C&W are targeting a new demographics, per Montreal's *Gazette* (DE-PQ)
- 790 KKBB TX HOUSTON - new format is **Easy Country** (GK-TX)  
KFYO TX LUBBOCK - 9/10 2232 ID as *79 Stereo, KFYO*; Log doesn't indicate \$ (MH-NE)
- 800 WDSC SC DILLON - has been running ETs since 8/3 @ various times of the day, 1000 watts day/500 PSA & 382 night; sked will likely be NSP once it gets on RS (likely by the time you read this; I know, I rebuilt this one-h!! (DS-DE)
- CKLW ON WINDSOR - now carries **NBC News at :00** (REH-ON)
- 880 KJOJ TX CONROE - heard simulcasting KJOJ-FM (GK-TX)
- 900 WKDW VA STAUNTON - 9/12 0230 is now on the **IRN** with **The Fred Sanders Show**; un. (REH-ON)
- 1040 WMTX FL PINELLAS PARK - 9/6 2035 good in WHO null with AC and contest promo mentioning *The phrase that pays: Mix 96 means music*; legal ID a little early @ 2053: **WMTX-FM Clearwater, WMTX-AM Pinellas Park**; ex: WHBO (REH-ON)
- 1190 KJLA MO KANSAS CITY - 9/8 0710 not silent anymore; hrd ID and NOS (MH-NE)
- 1210 WKNX MI FRANKENMUTH - 9/5 1300-1400 with BBD, now simulcasting full time with FM sister **WGMZ**; legal IDs now include both stns (TS-MI2)
- 1460 WXEM GA BUFORD - 9/9 1945 poor but alone in EE with dual sign-off for WXEM and WAOS-1600 in Austell, GA; format is now **SS**; ex: **WLKQ** (REH-ON)
- 1480 KDBN TX DALLAS - now programming **Transtar EZL** mx; possibly a change of CL forthwith since "DBN" obviously meant **Dallas Business News** (GK-TX)
- 1500 KJIM TX SHERMAN - 9/12 1930 new sign-off IDs **Sherman-Denison** with **KJIM Gospel Radio** is owned by **H.E.S.A. (?) Inc.** It's broadcast towers located at **Radio Center on Woodlake Road between Sherman and Denison.** **KJIM** is owned and operated by **Wilson Broadcasting** on an assigned frequency of 1500 kHz with a power of 1000 watts with studio offices located at **Austin College in Sherman**, phone # for that college is 214-893-3916 (JB-TX)

BOTH/BLK  
7M97.7 AM-1480

Ottumwa

- KANI TX WHARTON - 9/15 1934 format change from C&W to GOS; ID is *The new inspirational station, we're Great Gospel KANI 1500 AM* (JB-TX)
- 1530 WSWG MI LAPEER - 9/6 1600-1700 with C&W; is now **Country Gold 1530**, no longer @ 103.1 FM; all-live, locally-originated programs (great!) (TS-MI2)
- 1590 WCZN PA CHESTER - sked is now **0600-2100**, unless they have a local remote which runs past that time (DS-DE)

## UNIDS AND UNID HELP

- 530 CJRN? ON - 9/15 0355 MUZAK-type mx, with stronger signal than usually heard from CJFT; 0400 *This is radio station CJRN* loud and clear; Log sez CJRN is in St. Catharines on 710, only a few miles from Fort Erie; disappeared shortly after call ID; anyone know something about this? (JH-PA) [CJFT relays some of CJRN's programming on 530 - Ed.]
- KTWA  
Ottumwa
- 580 UNID ?? - 8/31 0105-0125 oldies with *The Great 58* heard (BP-NC)
- 970 UNID ?? - 8/12 0210 weak with satellite AdCon @ KCJJ-1560 (RD-IA)
- 1120 WBIS CT BRISTOL - this is **Chuck Reh's** mystery station from the August 26th issue; they are listed on the 1991 Sports Final network (RD-IA)
- 1260 WNDE IN INDIANAPOLIS - is **Scott Barnett's Q-95** unID of 8/1 (Issue 29); is @ WFBQ(FM)-94.7 mornings (REH-ON)
- 1590 UNID ?? - 8/23 2140 weak with **Dallas Cowboys** FB; anyone in the Lone Star State know who this might be? (RD-IA) [I wouldn't ID either if I were them carrying the Cowgirls, hi - Ed.]

## TIS AND OTHER STUFF

- 1280 CFYZ ON PEARSON INT'L AP - has moved here from 530; signs on hws to airport changed, but haven't heard them here yet (DT-ON)

## MIDNIGHT TO 0800 HOURS ELT

- 550 WDUN GA GAINESVILLE - 9/3 0028 **WOUN**, *Gainesville, your local news and information leader*; **Larry King** - ads and promos; over **WKRC** (BP-NC)
- 580 WBIL AL TUSKEGEE - 8/27 0103 good with UC (BP-NC)
- 590 WMBB PA UNIONTOWN - 8/31 0104 wx; ads - BBD mx (BP-NC)
- 680 WODZ TN MEMPHIS - 9/8 0723 ID as *Memphis' Good Time Oldies Station*, no CLs hrd (MH-NE)
- 740 WIAC PR SAN JUAN - 9/2 0450 SS mx and announcements; at 0500 heard plainly *This is WIAC San Juan* in EE; SS announcements and mx followed until 0510 fadeout (JH-PA)
- 800 KREI MO FARMINGTON - 9/9 0206 up briefly with **KREI News Headlines**, all items were state and local; local CKLW was off 'til 0231 (REH-ON)
- 830 WCCO MN MINNEAPOLIS - 9/17 0620 with **Dr. Lynch** on call-in show mentioned a topic *Deep in the files of WCCO's computer. . . - Wall Street Journal Report*; KBUC off with XR problem (JB-TX)
- 860 CJBC ON TORONTO - 9/13 0020-0130 fair with continuous CLA mx format; annts in FF **Radio Francais. Radio Canada. . . Toronto** (TB-OH)
- 940 WINZ FL MIAMI - 8/27 0110-0115 nx - ads; *All News, All Day. 940 WinZ* (pronounced *Wins*) (BP-NC)
- 980 KDSJ SD DEADWOOD - 9/7 0000 CHR mx, then sign-off (MH-NE)
- 1010 WINS NY NEW YORK - 9/14 0320-0350 came in as strong QRM to CFRB; all-news radio with national & NYC-area news; poor (TB-OH)
- CFRB ON TORONTO - 9/14 0305-0350 humorous call-in talk show with QRM from WINS (TB-OH)
- 1050 KMTA MT KINSEY - 9/7 0006 C&W followed by wx; very strong (MH-NE)
- 1260 KTTS MO SPRINGFIELD - 9/16 0630 in/out under XEL with *This KTTS newscast brought to you by Mr. Ed's Mufflers, 2006 W. Division* (JB-TX)
- 1310 WTUX IN INDIANAPOLIS - 9/9 0435-0455 **Mo'Yl** all day, all night new **WTUX**; poor (DT-ON)
- 1320 KLWN KS LAWRENCE - 8/22 0702 fair with SSB and sign-on info (RD-IA)
- CJMR ON MISSISSAUGA - 9/14 0124-0205 **Music Radio**, ROK mx request pgrm including Canadian rock 'n roll (TB-ON)
- 1330 WFBL SC GREENVILLE - 9/9 0410-0430 Talknet, promo **Carolina talk news radio 1310 WFBL Greenville and 910 WORD Spartanburg**; poor (DT-ON)
- 1370 KALN KS IOLA - 9/8 0740 C&W mx and ID; mixing with loud unID str (MH-NE)
- KWRT MO BOONEVILLE - 9/8 0749 sign-on with SSB; new (MH-NE)

1400 KVRP TX STAMFORD - 9/17 0732 station promo, license #s of cars with a KVRP bumper sticker announced - owner has 5 minutes to call station and win cash (JB-TX)

1500 KSTP MN ST. PAUL - 9/17 0602 in/out of XEAL; discussing state lottery on AM 15 KSTP - vitamin ad for General Nutrition Center; KBRN silent (JB-TX)

1580 WEAM GA COLUMBUS - 9/9 0601 caught bits and pieces of sign-on (MH-NE)

KOKB OK BLACKWELL - 9/8 0729 ID and local ads; 1st time hrd in a long time (MH-NE)

1590 WQQW CT WATERBURY - 9/5 0020-0058 OLD, Platters, ID 0058 woman ann WQQW Weather, poor over/under WONX (DT-ON)

WONX IL EVANSTON - 9/5 0020-0100 SS mx and talk, sign-off at 0100 in EE, in from fade and caught ...2100 Lee Street, Evanston, Illinois, over/under WQQW, WAKE way in back (DT-ON)

WZRZ MS JACKSON - 9/14 0124 NOS/MoYL mx and ID as AM 1590, Jackson, new (MH-NE)

0800 TO 1600 HOURS ELT

560 WIND IL CHICAGO - 9/5 1100-1200 La Tremenda with SS; hrd 6 miles south of Saginaw; both WIND and WHND heard with 4's on the 2010 meter by turning the radio (TS-MI)

870 WKAR MI EAST LANSING - 9/14 1500-1600 with NPR pgm with a journalist speaking at the national Press Club about the role of the Soviet [unreadable copy -Ed.] for democracy; faint & noisy (TB-OH)

WVIK  
Public Radio  
Rock Island, IL

1600 TO 2400 HOURS ELT

540 WGTO FL CYPRESS GARDENS - 8/22 2250 oldies; fair - good, over/under WSTH (BP-NC)

WSTH GA COLUMBUS - 8/21 2240 C&W with good signal; In the heart of Dixie and proud of it, WSTH AM & FM, also South 106 mentioned (BP-NC)

620 WRJZ TN KNOXVILLE - 9/16 2125 fair with Focus on the Family to 0130; ... Joy 62 WRJZ, ads for Eastern Training, Blunt(?)Discount Pharmacy, Days Inn in Gatlinburg; WTMJ QRM (HF-MI)

630 CFCO ON CHATHAM - 9/15 2155 good with Back to God Hour then People's Gospel Hour @ 0202 (HF-MI)

850 WRMR OH CLEVELAND - 9/16 2139 fair with The entertainment's on us, Warm 850 WRMR, MoYL (HF-MI)

890 KVOZ TX LAREDO - 9/6 2330 ID and CHR mx; always fun to hear this one (MH-NE)

940 CBM PQ MONTREAL - 9/13 2300-0010 noisy reception with CBC Radio Net; That Time of the Night CLA mx variety pgm (TB-OH)

990 WEEB NC SOUTHERN PINES - 8/27 2358 Talknet - ABC News, wx at 0005, back - Talknet, rare over here, very solid over WIVK! (BP-NC)

WIVK TN KNOXVILLE - 9/16 2050 good with Vols Talk sports call-in @ 800-688-6857 with Bob & Mike; ... the flagship station of the Vols Radio Network; female with wx @ 0100 and C&W mx at 0101; ads for Hammers(?)Discount Store, Fidelity Federal, Nissan dealer in Oak Ridge (HF-MI)

1040 WHBO FL PINELLAS PARK - 9/6 2135 ID and CHR mx followed by ads for Tampa/St. Pete area stores; new (MH-NE)

1070 WSCP NY SANDY CREEK - PULASKI - 8/15 2005-2020 C&W woman ann ... WSCP...; over CHOK (DT-ON)

CHOK ON SARNIA - 9/15 2210 good with Home Town Radio CHOK; 60s/70s ROK (HF-MI)

1090 WCAR MI LIVONIA - 9/3 2058 very good with possibly Urdu & EE chanting; mention of Pakistan & Detroit's Info Station, AM 1090 WCAR Livonia, nx in EE @ 0100 (HF-MI)

1150 WTAW TX COLLEGE STATION - 9/10 ID and Astros BB (MH-NE)

1230 WCOL OH COLUMBUS - 9/15 2215 poor with Columbus' All-Weekend Radio-Cool 92, OLD; OH #50 (HF-MI)

WBPZ PA LOCK HAVEN - 9/2 2155-2212 remote for Labour Day, ment fireworks, contest, draw then OLD request and dedication show; poor, over/under unID with talk (DT-ON)

1260 WRDZ OH CLEVELAND - 9/3 good with Night Line with Angela, Jesus Rock mx; over/under WNDE? with Reds BB (HF-MI)

1280 WQUE LA NEW ORLEANS - 9/7 2146 IS as Q-93 (MH-NE)

1290 KLEH IA ANAMOSA - 8/26 2105 fair with KC Royals BB on the evening of Brett Saberhagen's no-hitter (RD-IA)

1310 WMTG MI DEARBORN - 9/3 2120 fair with Request Classics, Classic Soul, AM 1310 WMTG, call 313-584-WMTG (HF-MI)

1340 WSTV OH STEUBENVILLE - 9/14 2335-0008 OLD, sign-off 0008, legal ID America poor over/under 2-3 unIDs; not 24 hours as in Log (DT-ON)

1350 WSLR OH AKRON - 9/4 2127 very good with Whistler 1350 WSLR, C&W mx (HF-MI)

1370 WWCB PA CORRY - 8/10 2045-2106 music WWCB--top 40 nx, poor (DT-ON)

1390 WCGO IL CHICAGO HEIGHTS - 9/3 2135 good with promo for concert at the Regal Theater, AM 1390, Thanks for making us your number one choice... you're listening to the music you grew up with -- Dusty 1390, soul mx; very "tight" with call IDs (HF-MI)

1400 WAMQ PA LORETTO - 8/5 2058-2200 Pirates vs Phillies on Pirate network; ID at 2200 1400 WAMQ over/under WABY; poor (DT-ON)

1450 WRJM CT POQUONOCK - 8/26 2359 noted saying ...nothing happened today so there isn't any news, ID and sign-off w/GSQ; when passing through the area this past summer, they were noted running The Best of Rush Limbaugh but the tape seemed to be blank and there was nothing on it! This must be some operation! (DS-DE)

1460 WXOK LA BATON ROUGE - 8/23 2154 good w/UC mx and WXOK ID (RD-IA)

WXOK LA BATON ROUGE - 9/15 2202 ID and UC mx, with KGGO and 2 other dominant stations (MH-NE)

1490 WSIR FL WINTER HAVEN - 8/24 2120-2200 OLD, 2132 ...on WSIR..., very poor, int unID with baseball (DT-ON)

WBEX OH CHILLICOTHE - 9/4 Reds vs Expos bpb, end of game, local ads, over and under WNBT (DT-ON)

WNBT PA WELLSBORO - 9/4 2021-2034 bpb of Phillies-Astros bb, local ads, over/under WBEX and unID; poor (DT-ON)

1560 WCNW OH FAIRFIELD - 9/9 1930 heard call ID with location given as Hamilton, ✓ of map shows Fairfield only 4 miles south of Hamilton; behind WQXR after WAGL sign-off (JH-PA)

WAGL SC LANCASTER - 9/9 1900 first break of WQXR dominance of this frequency; sign-off clearly heard behind a very weak WQXR (JH-PA)

1570 KMYZ OK PRYOR - 9/10 2028 ID as The hot new Z-104.5 and wx; lost at :30; new (MH-NE)

REPORTERS



RD-IA RICK DAU//Iowa City, IA//R-1000 and Radio West Loop

BP-NC BILL PRATHER, KC4KMG//Tryon, NC//Kenwood TS-4305 + 4' loop

DE-PQ DAVE EVANS//Brossard, PQ//DX-440, TM-1523, Sony SRFA-13, Chryco Caradio3

DS-DE DAVE SCHMIDT//Wilmington, DE//HQ-180A, SM2

DT-ON DON TRELFOURD//Scarborough, ON//

TS-Mix TOM SANDERS//MI1 = Price Nature Center near Saginaw, MI or MI2 = Davison, MI//ICF-2010

REH-ON CHARLES REH//Leamington, ON//R-390A + Sanserino Loop + TR-3000 open reel tape recorder

JH-PA JACK HORNER//Lancaster, PA//ICF-2010 barefoot

TB-OH TONY BERNHOFFER//Toledo, OH//Pioneer SK 550 Boombox + homemade loop

HF-MI HAROLD FRODGE//Midland, MI//R71A + Arcomm AP-4 antenna tuner + 185' wire

MH-NE MIKE HAWK//N00SY//Omaha, NE//R-1000, HQ-180AC, + 2' loop

GK-TX GARY KETTLER//Austin, TX//

JB-TX JIM BOEHM//San Antonio, TX//ICF-2010 + Dual Tunable Audio Filter

Ed.-TX Ye Editor, N5SZC//San Marcos, TX//no relation to the captain of the Minnow

ABBREVIATIONS AND SPECIAL SYMBOLS USED IN DDXD-E

||: parallel with or to - :to or into :00 on the hour AC:Adult contemporary AP:Associated Press BBD:big band BRN:Business Radio Net C&W:country & western CHR:contemporary hit radio CID:code ID CL:call letter ContChr:contemporary Christian EZL:easy listening EE:English FF:French GOS:gospel IRN:Interstate Radio Net jx:jingle LSR:local sunrise LSS:local sunset MLB:Major League Baseball mx:music nx:news NPR:National Public Radio OC:open carrier bpb:play-by-play PSRA:pre-sunrise authority PSSA:post-sunset authority QRM:man-made interference QRN:natural interference QTH:location REL:religious ROK:rock 'n' roll RS:regular schedule S:stereo SID:singing ID SRS:sunrise skip SS:Spanish SSB:Star Spangled Banner SSS:sunset skip TC:time check TT:test tones UC:urban contemporary UPI:United Press International wx:weather

73. Bill

# 8 International DX Digest

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

Mark Connelly made it just under the IDXD deadline wire with his loggings from Rockport. It's nice to see some Africa loggings. See if you can find the one logging he didn't submit!

Deadline for all loggings is the Saturday before the Friday deadline in Topeka.

JRW


## PAN-AMERICAN

- 640t GUADELUPÉ Arnouville 0003 9/12. FF talk by man, most likely Guadeloupe. Eastern Caribbena cx good at the time. [MC-MA]
- 670 CUBA R. Rebelde 0417 7/22. Sonido Rebelde slogan, SS pop mx. [MC-MA]
- 705t ST. VINCENT 0413 7/22. Open carrier at this time. [MC-MA]
- 740t PUERTO RICO San Juan 2328 9/11. WIAC suspected w/SS talk, nx about Puerto Rico and Dominican Rep. [MC-MA]
- 760 CUBA R. Reloj 0155 7/23. Reloj program in jumble. [MC-MA]
- 780 BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS Roadtown, Tortola 0007 9/12. ZBVI good at times w/calypso mx, Carib EE DJ w/echo chamber. Battling R. Coro and other unID SS. [MC-MA]
- 800 NETH. ANTILLES Bonaire 0009 9/12. PJB good w/EE religious talk; o/SS LA's. [MC-MA]
- 810 COLOMBIA Bogotá 0408 7/22. HJCY atop channel w/Colombian nx (frequent Bogotá mentions). [MC]
- 825 ST. KITTS Basseterre 2313 9/11. Fair to good w/preaching in EE. [MC-MA]
- 830 VENEZUELA San Antonio de los Altos 0403 7/22. YVLT noted w/Venezuelan anthem and s/off o/u Canadian. [MC-MA]
- 880t VENEZUELA 0011 9/12. Caracas likely w/SS talk mixing w/WCBS. [MC-MA]
- 895 NEVIS 0012 9/12. Poor w/pop mx. [MC-MA]
- 910t VENEZUELA Maiquetía 0015 9/12. SS nx w/mentions of Venezuelan cities; no ID given. [MC-MA]

## Jim Renfrew

61 Wilcox Street  
Rochester, NY 14607-3832

- 1080 VENEZUELA Barcelona 0015 9/12. YVOJ w/R. Barcelona ID and SS mx, loud annihilating WTIC. [MC-MA]
- 1100 COLOMBIA Bogotá 0017 9/12. HJCN w/SS talk, shrill "Atención Bogotá" announcement, and Santa Fe mentions, rising above a graveyard-like imbrolio (several other SS's plus ZDK were clanking around in there. [MC-MA]
- 1160 BERMUDA Hamilton 0025 9/12. VSB3 noted w/BBC nx relay o/u WSKW and others. [MC-MA]
- 1165 ANTIGUA St. John's 2335 9/11. Good w/man preaching in EE. [MC]
- 1170t VENEZUELA 2338 9/11. SS talk w/frequent mentions of Caracas, in mess. [MC-MA]
- 1170 HAITI Port-au-Prince 2344 9/11. 4VRS good w/FF reggae-style vocal, o/SS station after WKPE went off. [MC-MA] (nice - Jim)
- 1190 COLOMBIA Barranquilla 0030 9/12. HJCT atop channel w/SS talk, ads for Barranquilla businesses, mentions of "La Costa Norteña" (north coast), then news. [MC-MA]
- 1375 ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON RFO, St. Pierre 0730-0805 9/22. Heard with what I presume was a morning program from France-Inter in Paris, including music, man and woman bantering, "Inter" (non-local) ID, strong pips on hour, brief news. I've heard this one as a tentative before, but now I'm certain. It faded badly by 0800. My "DX-Edge" says sunrise is just before 0800 in St. Pierre. I wish that I had been monitoring the frequency before this time to see if RFO rose up in the sunrise twilight, as propagational theories predict. I also checked RFO Cayenne 5055 kHz, which was much stronger, and found it // to 1375 at this time, which I had never thought about doing before when trying to ID this one. [JR-NY]
- 1610 ANGUILLA The Valley 2323 9/11. Loud w/EE preaching. [MC-MA]



**Rádio Peperi - AM/FM**  
 5,000 Watts - 1370 KHz - AM-ZYJ-782  
 1,000 Watts - 104.9 MHz - FM-ZYD-746

## TRANS-ATLANTIC

- 702 unID 2358 9/11. Het during Africa-only TA cx. [MC-MA]
- 765 SENEGAL Dakar 2304 9/11. Fair w/AA-sounding chant. Semi-AU cx tonight, only Africans in. [MC-MA]
- 1179 unID 2342 9/11. Strong het during African opening. Audio lost to QRM from SS LA (Ven?) on 1180. [MC-MA] (not much listed - Jim)
- 1197 unID 2346 9/11. Het during African opening. First thought is Agadir, Morocco, but Algeria 891 was barely noticeable so maybe it's a considerably farther south African. [MC-MA] (seems like a high power BBC relay came on in Southern Africa this year, not sure of frequency - Jim)
- 1349t MAURETANIA 2318 9/11. Het, too much WLNH-1350 slop for audio. [MC-MA]
- 1404 GUINEA Conakry 2348 9/11. FF talk, poor in WIDE-1400 slop. [MC-MA]
- 1467 FRANCE Roumoules 0409 8/8. Potent OC. >>>> 8/12: classical mx at low audio level on big carrier. [MC-MA]

- 1548t SPAIN 0406 8/8. Bits of classical mx. [MC-MA]
- 1566 SWITZERLAND Sarnen 0359-0400 8/8. Alpine mx, polkas, dixieland jazz, then GG talk, good. >>>> 0354 8/12: Alpine accordion mx, woman in GG, good. [MC-MA]
- 1593 GERMANY Langenburg 0258 8/10. Male GG vocal, fair in slop. [MC-MA]

## CONTRIBUTORS

- [MC-MA] Mark Connelly WA1ION, after-work DXpedition to Rockport MA (Granite Pier site), Sony 2010, MFJ 1024 active whip w/RTU-1 and MWT-2 regen. tuner
- [JR-NY] Jim Renfrew, Rochester, NY HQ-150, SM-1, Sony 2010

WKAQ-San Juan, WMNT-Manatí, WKJB-Mayaquez, WABA-Aguardilla, WZBS-Ponce, WHOY-Salinas, WRSS-San Sebastián, WGDJ-Lares, WJTT-Guebradillas, WMSW-Hatillo.



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# Formats

**Tony Fitzherbert**

356 Jackman Avenue  
Fairfield, CT 06430-1728

## Changes in programming status; reported by listeners

Welcome to the early Fall edition of Formats. Here in Fairfield County, WADS - 690 has returned to the air with a Portuguese format, ID'ing as "Radio Portugal" and "Radio Romantica" for the absolute lack of folks of that ethnic group in Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton. Now three of the four Bridgeport area AM stations are ethnic, with WCUM - 14350 full service Spanish, WDJZ - 1530 automated Spanish and Portuguese, and WADS. WICC - 600 is the only English AM station in Bridgeport. And less than ten miles away in Hamden, local WXCT - 1220 has dumped its BRN Business News for Hispanic programming for the large Spanish population in New Haven.

And as noted on our annual vacation, most AM stations north of Boston are either automated, satellite fed (cuts down on the personnel bill), or relays for FM stations. They are, for the most part, quite boring. And as Eric Bueneman notes in a letter, many of these stations do NOT offer the unique services needed by the local cultures and towns up in these parts. If I own a small business in Berlin, NH, Brattleboro, VT, or Lewiston, ME, I am going to buy time on a satellite - fed radio station? Come on, now! I would go for FM or the local paper.

The M Street Journal notes that WMNT - 1520, in Garden City, GA is silent and for sale, CHEAP, as they could not hire a staff. And the same publication noted that WYUT-1420, Herkimer, NY, is silent, being evicted from their studios while they were on the air!

Our contributors are the M Street Journal, Eric Bueneman, Al Holtz, Mike Hawk, your editor, while on vacation, and new contributors Mitchell Scott Paul and Morris Sorensen. Morris and Eric likewise bring us Dial Scans from Winnipeg, Gainesville, GA, and the northern Atlanta suburbs. And your editor Dial Scans Portland, ME and the Bridgeport - New Haven, CT area. Here we go.

550 KUSA MO St Louis - CWM "Country Five" (MP).  
550 WDEV VT Waterbury - Full service AC with live announcers (TF).  
560 WHBQ TN Memphis - CWM days, rock nights (M).  
560 WEAZ PA Philadelphia - automated EZL as of 9-15, "WISH-AM" (AH).  
580 KANA MT Anaconda - CWM//FM (M).  
590 WLVA VA Lynchburg - SMN Adult Standards (M).  
600 KIXX CO Wellington - "60 - Kicks" (MP).  
600 WMT IA Cedar Rapids - Nostalgia (MP).  
600 KERB TX Kermit - Silent (M).  
610 KDAL MN Duluth - Oldies (MP).  
610 KDAF MO Kansas City - CWM (MP).  
620 CJCI BC Prince George - CWM (M).  
620 KGW OR Portland - AC/Jazz//KINK (M).  
630 KJNO AK Juneau - Unis AC (M).  
660 WVAL MN Saute Rapids - "Rockin' 101"//FM (MP).  
660 KQSR ND Williston - CWM/News/talk (MS).  
680 WRMD FL St Petersburg - Spanish (M).  
680 KFEQ MO St Joseph - "Newsradio 68" (MP).  
680 KVCM MY East Helena - Religion (M).  
700 WCAT MA Orange - Sun Talk (M).  
730 WSTT GA Thomasville - Silent (M).  
730 WJTO ME Bath - SMN Kool Gold (TF).  
740 WLVG MA Needham - This old radio station, formerly WCAS - Cambridge, is silent (M) and (TF).  
740 WIRJ TN Humbolt - CWM (M).  
740 WDFZ TN Tullahoma - SMN Standards (M).  
740 WRPX WI Hudson - Variety, CWM, sports (MP).  
760 WVNE MA Leichester - Religion, satellite-fed (TF).  
770 WWCN FL North Fort Meyers - CNN Headline News (M).  
770 WEW MO St. Louis - Back to big bands (EB).  
790 WTAR VA Norfolk - All news (M).  
800 KNKK UT Brigham City - SMN Kool oldies (M).  
810 WJXL AL Jacksonville - 2nd 50,000 watt station in US to go silent!! (EB).  
810 WBIC GA Royston - AC (M).  
810 WSYW IN Indianapolis - Classical weekdays //FM, rap "Yo-8-1-h" on weekends (M). Yech! (TF).  
860 WDMG GA Douglas - SMN CHR //FM (M).  
880 WBKZ GA Jefferson - Urban contemporary (EB).  
880 WINU IL Highland - Big Band/Nostalgia (EB).  
880 CKLQ MB Brandon - CWM (MS).  
910 WNHV VT White River Jct. - News/talk (TF).  
920 WPTX MD Lexington Park - AC, talk after 0930 (M).  
930 WRFB MA Holyoke - News/talk (TF).



930 KOGA NE Ogallala - AC (MH).  
940 KSWM MO Aurora - Silent (M).  
950 KNFT NM Bayard - Unis CWM (M).  
960 KLTF MN Little Falls - Oldies, farm info (MP).  
960 WKZA PA Kane - Reported silent (M).  
970 KQAG MN Austin - Almost silent, Sundays only 0700-1400 (M).  
970 KBBT OR Portland - New wave/dance "970-The Beat" (EB).  
980 WBBE KY London - Silent (M).  
980 WYFN TN Nashville - BRN Bus. News/Religion (EB).  
990 WHIA GA Dawson - Silent (M).  
990 CKIS PQ Montreal - Oldies (M).  
990 KSVF NM Artesia - News/talk (M).  
1000 KNDA TX Odessa - Silent (M).  
1000 WTAK AL Huntsville - CHR/AOR (EB).  
1000 WCMX MA Leominster - Oldies (TF).  
1010 KCHJ CA Delano - Spanish (M).  
1030 KBUF KS Holcomb - CWM/farm info (MH).  
1040 WMTX FL Pinellas Park - AC//FM (M).  
1040 WJOR TN St Joseph - Silent (M).  
1050 WNTR MD Silver Spring - Brokered talk/ethnic (M).  
1050 KLOH MN Pipestone - EZL/oldies (MP).  
1060 WAMT FL Titusville - Silent (M).  
1080 WPTD GA Marietta - Skyline religion on weekends, "light contemporary Christian" on weekdays (EB).  
1080 WXLN KY Louisville - Religion (EB).  
1080 KYMN MN Northfield - CWM/FM (MP).  
1080 KRLD TX Dallas - "News 1080" (MP).  
1090 KAAV AR Little Rock - Religion (MP).  
1090 KBYG CO Aurora - Sports/talk (MH).  
1100 WYKR VT Wells River - Satellite CWM // FM in Haverhill, NH (TF).  
1110 WBT NC Charlotte - News/talk - CBS, BRN (EB).  
1110 WNNW NH Salem - All Spanish, dumps motivational talk (M).  
1130 WBZL IN Brazil - Unis. CNN News (M).  
1130 KFAN MN Minneapolis - All sports, ex-WDGY (M).  
1150 WZBQ AL Tuscaloosa - CHR/oldies // FM "Z-102" (EB).  
1150 CKX MB Brandon - Rock/AC (MS).  
1150 KDEF NM Albuquerque - All sports (M).  
1160 WVNJ NJ Oakland - Satellite-fed 1950's and 1960's music and full service for Bergen County, NJ, start up in Fall 1991, when 5 towers are erected next to the Oakland compost heap (Al Holtz).

1170 WARW NY Cornwall on Hudson - Still silent (TF).  
1170 KVOO OK Tulsa - CWM "Big Country" (MP).  
1190 KKOJ MN Jackson - CWM, CNN (MP).  
1220 WSME ME Sanford - Format this wear is Sun Talk (TF).  
1220 WKBK NH Keene - Talk (TF).  
1220 WTCN MN Stillwater - Reported Silent (M).  
1230 WMOU NH Berlin - All satellite oldies, except live 0600-0930, A(i) news (TF).  
1230 KSTC CO Sterling - CWM (MH).  
1230 WFOM GA Marietta - Silent after 44 years. (EB).  
1230 WSSO MS Starkville - AC/oldies //FM (M).  
1230 WTSV NH Claremont - Satellite standards (TF).  
1230 KHSN OR Coos Bay - SMN Standards (M).  
1230 KSYM MN Mankato - Oldies, SNN (MP).  
1230 WSTJ VT St Johnsbury - CHR (TF).  
1230 WAMM VA Woodstock - CWM (M).  
1240 WGGG GA Gainesville - Drops Sun Talk for nostalgia (EB).  
1240 WTME ME Lewiston - Religion//WRTQ - 1450 (TF).  
1240 KULT NE North Platte - EZL/AC (MH).  
1250 KURB AR Little Rock - Rock/AC//FM (M).  
1250 WMTN NJ Morristown - Adult standards, drops BRN Business News, probably to head off competition from WVNJ (TF).  
1260 KDYZ MN Hutchinson - CWM, A(i). (MP).  
1270 WBZS FL Eatonville - UC/Talk (M).  
1270 WTSN NH Dover - AC/CWM (TF).  
1280 WTMV FL Sarasota - BRN Business News (M).  
1280 WABK ME Gardner - AC/CHR//FM (TF).  
1280 KRAN TX Morton - Silent (M).  
1290 WKNE NH Keene - Adult standards (TF).  
1300 WYTL IN Terre Haute - Silent (M).  
1310 KIQQ CA Barstow - AC/Talk // KUQU (M).  
1310 KRBI MN St. Peter - Oldies, EZL (MP).  
1330 WRCA MA Waltham - Drops its show tunes for Spanish and ethnic programming (M and TF).  
1340 WDME ME Dover-Foxcroft - Silent (M).  
1340 WDCR NH Hanover - Rock, Dartmouth College's radio station (TF).  
1340 WWNH NH Madbury - Religion, "Love 1340", nice little station, ought to move to 750, vacated by WHEB (TF).

**WROK**  
**WZOK**

NOITE COMMUNICATIONS, INC. - P.O. BOX 8186 - ROCKFORD, IL 61126

1350 KCHU MN New Prague - Religion (MP).  
 1370 KALN KS Iola - CWM (M).  
 1370 KSUM MN Fairmont - CWM (MP).  
 1370 WFEA NH Manchester - Unis standards (M).  
 1370 WDEF TN Chattanooga - Now EZL//FM (EB).  
 1370 WVAO WV Moundsville - Religion (M).  
 1370 KSHY WY Cheyenne - Religion (M).  
 1370 WBTN VT Bennington - Silent (TF).  
 1390 WHMA AL Anniston - AC/Talk, move to Sandy Springs rejected by FCC (EB).  
 1390 KXSS MN Waite Park - Nostalgia (MP).  
 1390 WEED NC Rocky Mount - Sun Talk (M).  
 1390 WSCE SC Charleston - AC/oldies//FM (EB).  
 1400 WIDE ME Biddeford - "Talk of York County", talk (TF).  
 1400 WYKC MS Grenada - SMN UC/AC (M).  
 1400 WTSL NH Hanover - Talk (TF).  
 1400 WLTN NH Littleton - Satellite AC (TF).  
 1430 WGFS GA Covington - AC (EB).  
 1430 WRTH MO St Louis - EZL (MP).  
 1430 KTYN ND Minot - Religion (MS).  
 1440 KQRS MN Golden Valley - CHR (MP).  
 1450 KMMS MT Bozeman - Adult standards (M).  
 1450 KZZU ND Rugby - CWM (MS).  
 1450 KBLM OR La Grange - Oldies (M).  
 1450 WTSA VT Brattleboro - Satellite CWM (TF).  
 1460 KDWA MN Hastings - Talk (MP).  
 1460 WQCR TN Huntingdon - Religion (M).  
 1470 KHND ND Harvey - CWM (MS).  
 1480 WMAX MI Kentwood - CNN Headline News (M).  
 1480 KAUS MN Austin - AC (MP).  
 1480 KRAE WY Cheyenne - CBS Net (MH).  
 1490 WAJF AL Decatur - Urban "Hot Jams" (M). Ought to get with "Yo-8-1-oh" (TF).

1490 WMLS GA Monroe - Oldies (EB).  
 1490 WSIP KY Paintsville - CWM//FM (M).  
 1490 WLGW NH Lancaster - AC, live assist by announcers who probably do all of the other chores around the place, such as cleaning, coffee - making, etc. Studio, 80 foot tower are behind a Radio Shack just north of downtown Lancaster (TF).  
 1510 KPBI MO Greenwood - CNN Headline News (M).  
 1510 WPUT NY Brewster - Satellite CWM "Putnam Country" (TF).  
 1510 CURS PQ Sherbrok - Reported silent (M).  
 1510 WAHT PA Annville - Silent (M).  
 1510 WRKU SC Burnetown - Reported silent (M).  
 1530 KKCM MN Shakopee - Religion (MP).  
 1540 WMYF NH Exeter - Still adult standards (TF).  
 1550 KXTO NV Reno - Spanish (M).  
 1560 KCJJ IA Iowa City - Oldies (MP).  
 1560 WWGM TN Nashville - Silent (M).  
 1570 CFOR ON Orilla - CWM (M).  
 1590 WABV SC Abbeville - Reported silent (M).  
 1600 WKBK TN Milton - Oldies (M).  
 1610 WMNF NH Franconia Notch - TIS for Franconia Notch and Cannon Mountain, also another TIS down on the Kankamancus Highway between Lincoln and Conway, NH.

A good column this time!!! Thank you! Stay aboard for the Dial Scans. Eric Bueneman begins with a dial scan for Gainesville, GA.

550 WDUN Gainesville - News/Talk/some AC, sports "AM 55-The Information Station."  
 1130 WLBA Gainesville - CWM "Great Country WLBA".  
 1210 WDGR Dahlonga - AC/CHR/Oldies.  
 1240 WGGA Gainesville - Nostalgia, CBS.  
 1330 WKZD Murrayville - CWM, "KZ-1330".  
 1460 WXEM Buford - Spanish CHR//WAOS-1600, Austell, "La Favorita".

Now Eric dial scans North Metro Atlanta...

610 WPLO Grayson - CWM "Stereo 610".  
 1080 WFTD Marietta - Light contemporary Christian, studios are inside the Roswell Street Baptist Church.  
 1170 WHNE Cumming - CWM, WSB - TV News at 1800.  
 1270 WYXC Cartersville - Live assist ("look, Ma, no satellite!!!") CWM, "Wixie 1270".  
 1290 WCHK Canton - CWM//FM "K-105" occasionally, "AM-1290" when separate.  
 1400 WA2X Alpharetta - Spanish, "Radio Exitos".  
 1450 WBHF Cartersville - SMN AC, live local features.  
 1500 WDPC Dallas - CWM/Southern Gospel.



805 Dakota Avenue - Box 1115  
 Wapeton, North Dakota 58074

1550 WYNX Smyrna - Contemporary Christian.  
 1600 WAOS Austell - CHR, Spanish, //WXEM-1460.

Morris Sorensen brings us up the road a bit (beyond the limits of Atlanta's fine MARTA rapid transit lines) to dial scan Winnepeg....

580 CKY Winnipeg - Oldies "KY-58"  
 630 CKRC Winnipeg - CWM.  
 680 CJOB Winnipeg - Adult standards/talk.  
 810 CKUS Winnipeg - Ethnic/AC/MOR.  
 920 CFRY Portage la Prairie - CWM.  
 950 CFAM Altona - Classical/EZL/some ethnic.  
 990 CBW Winnipeg - CBC/Variety.  
 1050 CKSB Winnipeg - CBC/French.  
 1250 CHSM Steinbach - Variety/Winnipeg Blue Bombs football.  
 1290 CIFX Winnipeg - classic rock oldies, flagship station for the Winnipeg Blue Bombs.  
 1570 CKMW Morden - Winkler - CWM, and Toronto Blue Jays.



And your editor dial scans Portland, ME....

560 WGAN Portland - All talk.  
 870 WLAM Gorham - Satellite adult standards, full service including morning magazine 0500-0900 //WKZN, 1470, Lewiston.  
 900 WCLZ Brunswick - BRN Business News.  
 970 WYNZ Portland - Oldies//Y-101 on FM.  
 1310 WLOB Portland - Religion.  
 1440 WLPZ Portland - Rock//FM.  
 1490 WPOR Portland - CWM //FM.

And last, your editor takes you down I-95 to the New Haven - Bridgeport, CT area.....

600 WICC Bridgeport - AC/Oldies, full service info, satellite talk after 1900, AP Net feed, Italian on Sunday AM.  
 690 WADS Ansonia - Portuguese.  
 960 WELI New Haven - Full service, AC, talk, and morning man Mark Roman has been there for over 25 years.  
 1220 WXCT Hamden - All Spanish.  
 1300 WAVZ New Haven - Adult standards, mostly satellite-fed.  
 1340 WNHC New Haven - Urban Contemporary, mostly automated.  
 1450 WCUM Bridgeport - Full service Spanish, "Radio Cumbro".  
 1500 WFIF Milford - Religion, gospel, some ethnic on weekends.  
 1530 WDJZ Bridgeport - The birthplace of MYL is now a mixture of Spanish and Portuguese programming relayed from 1490 in West Springfield, MA...

All for now except Al Holtz's wife, Jane advises that she heard that some AM station in Florida has formatted ALL CHRISTMAS MUSIC 365 days a year - more information when I get it. What a fine column you folks have produced. The entire NRC thanks you.

And as the DX season is fast coming upon us, do continue to support your FORMATS columns!

73's 72

### Facts About NRC's DX Audio Service

The DX Audio Service provides the ONLY monthly broadcast news cassette service to the DX community. Available to anyone anywhere, it is designed to inform the radio listener in a pleasing and informative manner. Many of the announcers on the service are professional broadcasters giving their free time to give the listener the finest service available.

DXAS was started to provide broadcast information, both AM and FM, to the visually-handicapped DX listener. It has evolved into a service which provides useful material to all types of listeners. Many subscribers listen to the tape to and from their place of work while driving.

One-year subscription, subscriber keeps the cassette each month: \$25. Sample copy and back issues of DXAS: \$3

Cassettes are mailed by First Class mail, on or about the 20th of the month. For information, subscriptions, renewals, sample copies; write to NRC DX Audio Service - P. O. Box 24 - Cambridge, WI 53523-0024. For back issues: NRC Publications.

## The 1991 Bridgeport Convention

by John Malicky; photos by Paul Swearingen

Finally it's here, the 1991 NRC Convention in Bridgeport(Clarksburg), West Virginia! One year after Pittsburgh, there will be no late arrivals on my part as in past conventions. Instead and as planned, I wind up a circuitous 300 mile eight station tour at WHAW-98, Weston, WV and arrive at our '91 NRC site, the Bridgeport Holiday Inn, this late Thursday eve. My first encounter is with members Ernest "Lefty" Cooper and Mike "the Sunshine Kid" Lantz discussing DX, other radio tidbits, and why the Mets have fallen into mediocrity! Soon making his presence is our host and star of this year's show Bill Swiger who later attempts to find a new member, Al Buckalew, from Tinseltown/Los Angeles as we will meet him tomorrow. Before the night is over, there's just a little more excitement. By accident while phoning home, I happen to catch sight of the small parade of women from dressing room to the hotel's club for the weekly ladies longerie show. This was to be one of the NRC '91 scheduled events, but was cancelled for lack of interest-hi!

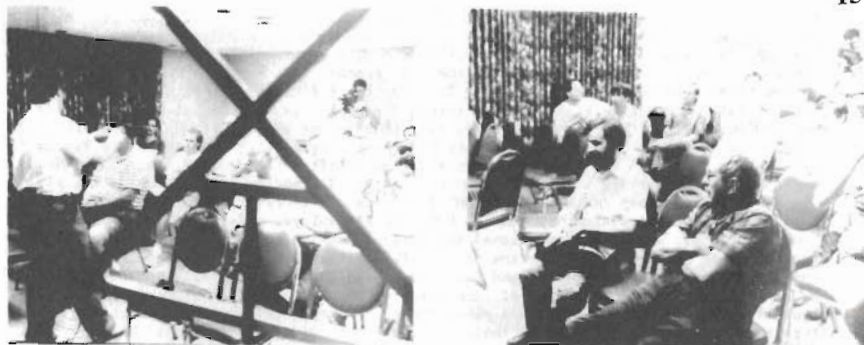
It's now 8 AM, Friday August 31, the humid foggy air begins to give way to the bright morning sun with the official start for Bridgeport '91 just a few hours away. Already I've planned a 5 station stop in and around Clarksburg beginning with WPDJ-750/104.9. As mentioned in previous DX News, the coinciding 13th annual Italian Heritage Festival downtown is also taking shape. By chance, I find the WOBG-1400/105.7 booth and meet P/GM Bob Hilber and Roni Davis! Bob is pleased that I've arrived and has received my advance notice by postcard to visit his station. Just before noon, with studios on old route 50 east, I find their DJ Don Niles signing off his oldies show for the day. An avid FM(and parttime AM) DXer, Don and I enjoy lunch at his favorite Chinese restaurant(and mine now, too!) while he mentions of stopping by the convention during the next two days and may even consider joining our club!

By midafternoon with temperatures around 96 degrees(now we're cookin'-hi!), several of the members begin to arrive. First, it's Bill Townshend whose trip here took some time as he walked from Washington, D.C.-hi! Then my roommate and Pittsburgh(Verona) NRC'er Chris Cuomo also checks in arriving via bus, not by foot! In Hospitality Room A, warm greetings are extended to Gaye and Jack Parks(Hamlet, NC's finest DXer and probably the only one, too!), Martin "aren't overseas luggage checkpoints great" Wisniewitz, Glenn Cooper, Frank Merrill, Charlotte and Kermit Geary, Chuck Rader, "Krazy" Ken Chatterton, and Corning, NY's Betty Lord. Early evening saw more visits from Paul "Mr. DX Quiz" Mount, George "Traveling Man" Greene, Warren Greenberg, Ernie "Captain Video" Wesolowski, Paul "no John, I won't type your convention summary" Swearingen(who sometimes is our DX News Editor), Jim Wallace(late of WVA-1170 now with WV Public Radio and the Ohio State Buckeyes #1 fan!), Linda and John Bowker, and Bruce "you'll never believe what happened to me today" Conti. A fine crew indeed!

Returning to just before evening, three short and unrelated events are occurring with myself and Martin Wisniewitz, the Bowkers, and Bruce Conti. First with Martin and I, even with expected failure, we attempt to obtain station visits for the members for Saturday from WDTV TV 5 and WBOY TV 12. Adjacent to our hotel is the WDTV studios and micro-waves tower sending a signal to their main tower several miles south in Jane Lew, WV. Downtown at WBOY, we at least have a pleasant conversation with GM Gary Bowden who seems genuinely interested in our convention and hobby. Meanwhile, out "on the road again" are the Bowkers as John tunes in for clean static free airchecks. As their last known address was in Princeton Junction, NJ this past June, now it's wherever their huge RV with car takes them, soon in a few months to Sun "Retirementville" City, Florida. So if you happen to see a man under a big oak tree in your neighborhood park with receivers, antennas, and wires, ask why and he'll respond, "well you do understand the hobby of collecting stamps...only I'm collecting radio signals/airchecks, now leave me alone!" Then you've met John-hi! Also on the road in the midday heat, literally burning up in his nearly overheated '84 Thunderbird, with only 180,000 miles on it, is Bruce Conti fast approaching Morgantown, WV on newly named I-68. However, soon at Fairmont on I-79, Bruce cools(?) off during an intense thunderstorm that's left several accidents before him. Welcome to West Virginia Bruce-hi!

As our first day winds down, NRC(designated as such by husband Bill!) Convention Secretary Brenda Swiger runs errands and makes the members feel at home, complete with the good china and placesettings-hi! Meanwhile in uniform, Bridgeport H.S. football cheerleader and daughter Erin Swiger leads the group in a club cheer, "gimme an N.. gimme an R.. gimme a C, gimme an N..R..C!!!"

Early Saturday morning, August 31, more members now join the festivities. First, 4 new members are greeted. They are Karen and Hugh Montgomery of Bethel(Cincy), Ohio, Jim Wilhelm of nearby Fairmont, Bob Carlson of Vincent, Ohio, and William Via from Baltimore. Thanks for coming folks! Next of DX Audio Service fame, it's Fred Vobbe accompanied by wife Debbie and daughter Connie. Then yawns and stares(?) greet NRC Pres Mike and Sue Knitter as Mike's only real reason for being here was that he'd have a whole weekend off not answering the long-distance calls-hi!



Left - Fred Vobbe demonstrates the different properties of loop antennas as a four-foot loop looms in the foreground.. Right - Krazy Ken Chatterton, foreground, appears rather placid during the technical talks!

Also making his yearly appearance all the way from New Zealand, the Kiwi man himself, Laurie Boyer! Even the doors stay open as the NRC's Swat Team checks in with Jerry "AM Switch/Hot 101 FM" Starr, Alan Merriman, and Ed "Pigeon Jones" Krejny. Outside, a sizable public gathering curiously watches as a strange red van, covered entirely with bumper stickers, pulls into the hotel parking lot. Why it must be Dave Whatmough! Finally, having met previously last year, is Ed McDonald of Morgantown. Though unaware of my WAJR-1440 visit in Morgantown on Tuesday past, Ed mentions his show, "Side Tracks" two hours of bluegrass music from 5-7 PM on Sundays over WAJR, will be pre-empted for Steelers football and moved to Labor Day Monday at 10 AM.

Soon two developments occur, one takes off, the other is shot down. First, too much of an exact schedule of no more than 15 written names with a 24 hour advance notice has caused cancellation of touring Clarksburg's 911 Center. However, Brenda Swiger and several of the wives/women leave at 10:30 AM for the Arts & Crafts Jubilee with a Civil War Renactment. Upon their return, Ernie Cooper's quip is that he planned to miss that trip because he already knew the outcome of the war-hi! Still, to pass the time, several members use their special '91 NRC 3-D Glasses(?) to view Ernie Wesolowski's 3 day old video of the WLW and VOA-Bethany transmitter sites in Hospitality Room B.

Promptly as scheduled at 1:30 PM also in Room B, the NRC Technical Talks begin with Professors (John)Bowker and (Fred)Vobbe with written exams to follow-hi! First, John starts with a short lecture and overhead pictures on the history of radio. Fred follows with a talk and demonstration on passive and active antennas. Without the use of batteries, passive ones shown were John's cheap Select-Antenna and Bill Swiger's 4 foot loop. Next were Fred's active homebuilt ferrite bar models. Fred mentions his new model will sell around \$180, then it will give way to a new design later. The third of the talks was John's interesting lecture on Digital Audio Broadcasting, or DAB. The basic premise is that DAB will eventually reproduce the sound quality like that of cds and completely alter AM-FM broadcasting. Thus, within a local area and radius of 40-50 miles, 12 stations would share a single tower and transmitter, with a 2/1000 second pulse, to broadcast a clear, clean, and crisp signal. Though outside this radius, there would be a degradation of a complete signal dropout. Coming events for DAB include the Canadians transmitting via satellite by next year and later this month September in San Francisco, KOIT will test the system under the name "Project Acorn." By February 1992, all this will come together at the international radio conference in Spain. If signed by President Bush and put into action by the FCC, DAB could become reality by the year 2000! A radical change in the way we DX, too! Also, John pointed out many key issues are still there for the FCC to answer. They include what will be the frequency limitations as he mentions a 30 mHz plan for 98% of all broadcasters(currently AM has 1 mHz, FM 20 mHz), signal degradations, what will be the power limits, how will the U.S. manufacturing of receivers be handled, what channels will be set aside for educational programs, who will hold the license for a single transmitter, what will the costs be for broadcasters and consumers, and if there are satellite broadcasts who will hold the license for these. Stay tuned to your DX News!! Finally after a short break, Fred has returned with a discussion and demonstration on the construction and assembly of long-wire antennas. Distributing plastic insulators(dogbone and egg) that replaced porcelain, Fred also reveals an impact resistant spring insulator that would allow a wire to stretch and withstand heavy ice formations in winter. Its design was prompted after Fred's employer, WLIO-TV in Lima, Ohio, felt the brunt of an ice break through the roof this past year!

It's now 6 PM Saturday evening as Mike Knitter now addresses the membership with new and updated NRC Business. The topics include: membership is stable at 740 with 15-20 new members replacing the same number who drop out so the magic number of 800 is not yet in sight; the soon to be again in print "brand new and improved!" NRC Night Pattern is now being assembled by computer whiz and member Sam Tankersley of Glendale, AZ, so grab and send all those schematic and/or advertiser coverage maps to Sam today!; the exciting and creative NRC DX Audio Service on cassette tape continues to grow so well coordinated by



Fred Vobbe that it shines over other bland blind services, putting a few out of business because they couldn't match the quality of ours, and causing "our feet to finally get in the door" (and someday kick it down!), with the popularity rising such that 60% of that membership being sighted; NRC Publications have reached into Europe via DXF in Finland so now those overseas members and other DX clubs can purchase items through DXF for a lesser cost; a confusing state, though somewhat amusing, is that NRC state of New York members must pay NY sales tax for books, etc. if ordering by mail through Mansville, NY, but not on credit card orders through the NRC phone service in Wisconsin, while Wisconsin members are taxed the opposite!; Since the post office has decreed that all DX News be taped before mailing, a slow process on our side, all addresses must now have a nine digit zip so that they can be "bar coded" for faster delivery, though some DX News still arrive late to members (Alan Merriman, a D.C. postal employee offered his assistance to look into this); Chris Cuomo mentioned the idea of publishing a 60th anniversary NRC book for next year as Mike said there are still a few of the 50th ones left for sale (also on the topic of anniversaries, Mike and Sue will celebrate their 20th wedding date October 2, so send those cards and letters!..and tomorrow Charlotte and Kermit Geary would celebrate their 50th and be presented a cake, though my apologies as my Pittsburgh '90 picture book mentioned last year was their 50th, well at least I mentioned it-hi!); and finally Rick Dau of Iowa, though he could not make Bridgeport, phoned in his '92 bid which was accepted, first for Davenport "Quad Cities", Iowa, then later changed by Mike to Des Moines (Who Land) because of better airline connections. Afterwards and through tomorrow, "Krazy Ken" (though he's really very mild-hi!) Chatterton holds out his tin cup for purchase of the new NRC AM Logbook (\$15), FM Logbook (a much improved and better version for \$12), and Bill "DDXD" Hale's new NRC Station Map Book (\$8).

Following the NRC Banquet in the Coal Room (with a coal stove to match-hi!), plus glimpses of the Pitt(34)-WVU(3) blowout in Morgantown, I now join everyone back at Room B for the "infamous" NRC Auction hosted by a pleasantly subdued and amusing presenter, Sue Knitter! As Sue knows, and Brenda Swiger and our new members will find out, why would anyone purchase most of this worthless junk?! NRCers do!(it in the dark-hi!) My donations include 2 Bridgeport WDCI-104.1 (on as of June 29) cups, a WTK-95.3 shirt and hat, 2 NRC Pittsburgh '90 pennants and books, and the leftover ham oriented gear that went unsold last year, but figuring that it would be bought by a gullible host(?) prompting Brenda to lock Bill out of the house if he bought anymore stuff! But Swearingen wanted to fly here on another auction item, the 1,900 exWREN-1250 bird, but had difficulty taking off-hi! Total for the bidding came out to \$235 which included my possible high of \$48.50 selectively snatching at the last second a much wanted WVVA shirt (that I missed last year, an exaggerated comical version cloth map of the world according to New Zealanders (I wonder who brought that-hi!), an '89 M Street Radio Directory (sorry John Bowker!), and a large plastic "Magic 102.5" WJQ banner from Chuck Rader, though he wouldn't say how he got it! However, the highlight of the bidding was our newest and youngest bidder, 5 year old Connie Vobbe, who along with daddy's help (and money!) is on her way to becoming a promising and gambling NRC Auction Bidder!

After the Sunday morning September 1 NRC Brunch back into a divided Coal Room (Hatfields on the left, McCoy's on the right!), most members return to school, again, in Room B for Headmaster Paul Mount's challenging and fair NRC DX Quiz! As Ernie Wesolowski's video camera pans a room of mostly dumbfounded NRCers (mostly me!), Frank Merrill was busy attaining a high score of 67 and receiving 2 NRC stamps plus some expired NJ lottery tickets-hi! My only question concerning the procedure was, why couldn't Ernie show us more of Frank's test?! And now, congratulatory wishes go out to Paul and his "very DX understanding" fiancée, Carol, as next April 20th wedding bells will be ringing, and we're all invited, see you there!



Left - Auctioneer Sue Knitter invites convention-goers to take a piece of West Virginia home with them during the annual auction. Right - Dave Whatmough's "Magic Bus" is a rolling catalog of radio station bumper stickers.



Left - The youngest NRC DX'er? Daughter Connie Vobbe tries out the portables for fit while father Fred Vobbe begins lessons in DX'ing. Right - Convention hosts Brenda, Erin, and Bill Swiger appear none the worse for wear during the last day of the Bridgeport '91 NRC Convention.

Following the quiz, Jerry Starr lays out an impressive sequence of several rapid snapshots of the demolition of exWVU-1390's 6 tower array from last month. Amazingly, as the last tower would not fall, Jerry had to pull it down-hi!

A break in activity and an afternoon of free time follows with just a short demonstration of Alan Merriman's phasing unit. This would now be a great opportunity to locate a "golden treasure", the WDM-920 3 tower array which I could not get to on Wednesday past. Embarking on this expedition with me is Bruce "Admiral Perry" Conti. Twenty miles up to Fairmont and southwest along route 19 to Monongah, we abandon car, climb a steep dirt road, sidestep the dangerous 4-wheel drive Mon Power drivers, traverse through a DX graveyard (a real cemetery folks), and finally reach our destination! Within sight of member Jim Wilhelm's home (as the trek is no big deal to him-hi!), the 3 huge self-supporting towers are in a northeast alignment. Fighting back tears (of sweat, it was hot!), we record this moment hopefully for our DX Audio Service members and place the official NRC Swat Team flag (of a pigeon!) atop the transmitter building! This was our own version of a NRC Scavenger Hunt, though without prizes, but knowing: who else would want to spend a beautiful Sunday afternoon doing this?!

Later as the Italian Heritage Festival begins to wind down, so does NRC '91. Early evening finds new arrivals Ruth and Carrol Weyrich stopping by in Room A. If a young DXer were to svsdrop, they could listen in on the great amount of QSLs obtained by Carrol, with 1,720 AMs, Ernie Cooper with an exact total of 5,000 (4,381 AMs and 619 FMs), and the granddaddy of all, Kermit Geary with a whopping 6,120 AMs, 115 Cuban! Meanwhile, my time is spent with Mike Knitter picking his brain on current NRC procedures and his wallet-hi!

Our final scheduled event at Bill Swiger's residence (map not provided!) is a Sunday evening beverage session under a very colorful sunset turning into an overflowing starlit sky! These are the only real highlights as 16 members find no real catches on Alan Merriman's Kenwood F-5000 and MWDX-4A phasing unit. Bill tries to holmes the DXing with his W-180A, but still no results. The activity is there in the hills, but not enough to overpower the residential night locals. Later, some of us view Bill's downstairs ham shack.

A warm Monday morning September 2 at 10 AM saw many members begin to depart as I'm off to run a 5K (3.1 mile) "Great Duck Race" in Clarksburg's Riverbend Park. Arriving back at the hotel, there is one last surprise, a visit from member Harley DeLeurere from nearby Haverly, WV! Meeting for the first time ever, Harley and family were on a 3 week trip to Indiana, Wisconsin, and Canada. Upon returning home, Harley made time to squeeze a short visit in today. As I am most appreciative for Harley's written directions for several of my WV station visits, I was glad you came sir, even for a short time!

At 1:45 PM, it's a short 100 mile trip home for Chris Cuomo and I bidding goodbye to another NRC convention, Bridgeport '91! Many thanks to our host Bill Swiger, wife Brenda, and daughter Erin. 37 members convened and 49 awards total enjoyed the company of each other. Hope to see many more of you next year at NRC '92 in Des Moines!

Attending Bridgeport '91 were Buckalew, CA; Townsend, TX; Lantz, FL; Merrill, IL; Swearingen, KS; Via, Weyrich, MD; E. Cooper, G. Cooper, Greenberg, MA; Wesolowski, NE; Conti, NH; Mount, NJ; Chatterton, Lord, Rader, Wishnewitz, NY; Carlsen, Green, Krejny, Montgomery, Starr, Vobbe, Wallace, OH; Cuomo, Geary, Malicky, PA; Merriman, VA; DeLeurere, McDonald, Swiger, Wilhelm, WV; Knitter, WI; Whatmough, ON; Boyer, NZ, and Bowker, all over the U. S.!

### The Answer Man

Got a question about radio? Send it to NRC's Answer Man: Russ Edmunds - 753 Valley Rd. - Blue Bell, PA 19422-2052. No question is a dumb question, and Russ will answer all, from basic to highly technical. Watch for the answer in DX News!

## The Drake R8 - A Quality Control Nightmare?

(Seldom before has any receiver like the Drake R8 caused such a stir since its release in early summer 1991.

First reports from *Monitoring Times* columnist Larry Magne were favorable; he merely grumbled a bit about unfriendly ergonomics for fat-fingered DX'ers. An early impression from an anonymous writer in the June 3 DXN merely listed specs provided by Drake, but Rob Keeney's review in the August 26 DXN was quite favorable, pointing out low background noise and, like Magne, pleasing audio quality, plus its low (under \$1,000) price.

NASWA's Guy Atkins sounded the first real warning notes in the August, 1991 *Journal of the North American Shortwave Association*, pointing out the flimsiness of the metal case. Other DX'ers began sending in reports to various journals, commenting favorably about the DX capability of this receiver but also pointing out various small problems in quality control. Although one can make a case for some DX'ers being pickier than others, accounting for diversity in reports on

### R-8 Impressions by John R. Tow

I have just had the good fortune of briefly comparing the new Drake R-8 receiver with a new Icom R-71A, a recent production stock JRC NRD-525, and my much modified NRD-525. The newest receiver, the R-8, is the first American made solid state receiver since Ten Tec's abortive attempt several years ago. R.L. Drake has previously produced two excellent and nearly affordable receivers, the SPR-4 and the R-7A. I have owned and used an SPR-4, but never an R-7A. National pride has made me regret the sale of my SPR-4 for some time.

An ex-student, Rick David (WC4Q), called me to tell me about his latest acquisition, the Drake R-8. He was concerned about the apparent distortion his receiver seemed to have on CW, his favorite mode (Rick still enjoys 20 meter mobile CW - he has a "bug" mounted in his car's center console!). His R-70 did not share the distortion, although its up was occasionally acting up. Rick had also borrowed a new R-71A from work for comparison. He asked me if I would help him evaluate the receivers! I jumped at the opportunity!

The R-8 is an attractive receiver. It would look good on your desk in the den or office. If you are accustomed to heavy receivers with strong cabinets to support accessories, you are in for a shock. The top and sides are formed in a U shape and constructed from a piece of aluminum about a gauge thicker than oven wrap! The flip down feet are very fragile looking plastic pieces unbecoming a receiver of this caliber. The top is easily removed to reveal, thankfully, a much heavier construction inside.

The front panel is thoughtfully arranged. The push buttons have a good rubberized feel, albeit a bit narrow. The main tuning knob is well made but small. The feel and mass are appropriate for spinning. The LCD readout is back-lit and not easily read unless viewed from directly in front of the receiver. Certain angles and strong side-lighting will make for difficult viewing. The S meter is an analog type.

The receiver's controls are a bit different. The push buttons are all dual function requiring a 'shift' button to be pressed before the secondary functions would be displayed or changed. The "SYNCHRO" button has an indicator light to show when it is on - not when it is in lock or not. The synchronous detector circuit will switch off whenever the received frequency is

the R8, the emerging picture began to be of a well-designed radio, superior in many ways to older radios, but perhaps one which has not had all the bugs worked out in it.

The two reports which follow, from two NRC members, were written independently. One member rejected his receiver, for various reasons not related to the DX capabilities; the other had no major complaints. We would simply warn the purchaser of any receiver, not just the R8, to be certain of the manufacturer's warranty and to check it out thoroughly within the allotted time. And we would remind the Drake company that, as one of the last major U. S. manufacturers of quality DX receivers, the entire DX community is looking to you to provide high quality equipment which is free from problems. The consensus of reviews now indicates that for quality control the Drake R8 rates at about a "C-". We're looking for an "A" rating; can your production lines provide it? -pls.)

changed. The tone control is concentric with the squelch control and seems to have little effect in normal listening. The internally mounted speaker is top notch in quality. Unfortunately, the cabinet does resonate and produces distortion. The audio output level is low when coupled to a RS Minimus 7. The output is apparently intended to drive 4 Ohm speakers. The external speaker is connected via a 1/4" phone jack and controlled by a back panel slide switch. The line output is quite high, like the NRD-525. The headphone jack will take a 1/4" stereo headphone plug, although the level is too low to drive the Koss HV-1A 'phones to anything but a low level (Again like the unmodified NRD-525!).

On to the back panel. The receiver has two coaxial inputs (SO-239's in place of the horrible RCA jacks used on so many previous Drakes!) and a Hi-Z input representing a good selection of inputs. The line cord must be permanently attached - I don't remember attaching it to the set. It is of the two circuit (no ground) type. The DC connections are conveniently located for battery operation (My choice!). A DB-9 connector for the RS-232C interface, mute connection, and timer connections are also present on the back panel. One definite oddity on the back panel is the label with the country of manufacture!

We opened Rick's radio to see if something was loose near the speaker and thus resonating with the CW chirps we were receiving. We noticed several interesting design features, but no loose items. The resonance was in the upper case. The speaker, as mentioned, is excellent and appears to be about 3" or so with a large magnet. To its left and forward, actually just behind the front panel, is where they decided to locate the power transformer. I do not like having 120 VAC just behind the front panel. The imported receivers have the edge here. The circuit boards visible from the top appear to be of above average quality with excellent quality components. A 2N5109 transistor with a heat sink attached can be seen at the rear of the main board. This transistor is normally used as a CATV wideband amplifier and is known for being nearly 'crunchproof' and is most likely the preamp stage in the R-8. The board had more diode switched input filters than I have seen in any HF receiver. Rick wanted me to hurry up and close the receiver up so we could continue our testing - with an external speaker, of course!

Functionally, the receiver has some well thought out default settings for the AGC and BW for each of the available modes. Unfortunately, as others have found and pointed out, it resets to those defaults whenever you change modes. Cycling through the bandwidths is also irritating to some. I could certainly live with those shortcomings. The notch filter is apparently an audio type instead of the usual Drake feature of a 50 kHz IF notch (ala the R-7A, R-4's, and SPR-4). The R-8's notch can apparently reduce a heterodyne, but the carrier meter doesn't budge. I did not test the scanning or channelizing features, however.

Operationally, the receiver is fun! It also sounds good! No boom boom bass ala the R-70&71A, NRD-515, etc. Little if any hiss (unlike the NRD-525!) is present. The receiver sounds quieter in the synchro mode, although this isn't born out in the low level tests. The synchronous detector doesn't always lock the first time it is engaged - a whooshing heterodyne can be heard while the PLL is trying to "lock". Once locked, the passband tuning can be adjusted to enhance one sideband over the other. Lock is lost once the frequency is altered. The synchronous detector permits near hi fi reception under most conditions. The preamp is easily defeated and a switchable attenuator is also provided.

The selectivities are well thought out for average listening. Critical DXers may want a 1 or 3 kHz range bandwidth. Since all of the selectivities are from a diode switched 8 pole 50 kHz LC filter, no changes are possible - no improvements or after market enhancements are probable! What you get is what you will have! Not bad choices for average SWLs and DXers, good choices for the ECSSB users, and decent selections for the utility monitors - just very permanent choices for all! The shape factor (SF) of the LC filter is quite good, but not equivalent to the ultimate selectivity provided by cascaded eight pole filters. The filters are all included - a definite plus when one considers the cost of "extra" filters today.

I connected the R-8, R-71A, and both NRD-525's via a 4-port hybrid coupler to an Alpha Delta sloper for comparison. The R-71A had some spurs at night on 49 and 19 meters with the pre-amp on. The other receivers were quiet - even with the R-8's preamp on. Weak 15 meter band signals were more readable on either the R-8 or the R-71A with their preamps on than the NRD's. The R-8 seemed to have the best AGC action with the modified NRD second. The audio was cleanest on the Drake and more crisp on the modified NRD. The stock NRD was much more irritating to listen to than the R-71A (I cannot stand that hiss!). My familiarity with the modified NRD made it the easiest receiver to change from one mode to another. The R-8's resetting to default BW and AGC with mode change slows you down. Perhaps the memories would allow quicker changes - and comparisons. A longer use-test would reveal more operational shortcuts. Unfortunately, Rick had to pack up and head home (60+ miles) - and along with him went the R-8!

Which receiver is the best is the obvious question. The answer is simple - none! If you don't have a receiver in this price range, I would buy the Drake. The loss of the PBT on the late production Icoms (Our test sample, although new, was old stock - it had the PBT!) would take them out of my consideration. I would think twice about unloading a '525 or '71A merely to obtain an R-8 (or '535, for that matter!). Anything receivable on one receiver will be receivable on the others. I would consider the service life of the receiver in my choice. The '525 is the obvious choice here. Its construction is service-oriented, complete with built-in test equipment and modularization down to the front panel! The R-8, R-71A, '515, etc all share common large multifunction PC boards, a maintenance nightmare. The '525 permits easy fault isolation and remedy. A good example is in order.

During the tests, I found that in fact my receiver was malfunctioning on the higher frequencies. I had thought that 22 meters and up were dead this summer - they may have been less than optimum, but not dead. In comparing the receivers on Tahiti at 15,171 I found my '525 to be much weaker than the others - unless I bypass the front-end circuits ('PASS' mode), that is! I swapped HF Tune (CFL-205) PC boards between the two receivers and found that my receiver would once again function normally. Replacing the good board with an extender board and my original board, I was able to isolate the problem quickly. IC1, the 74LS145 decoder that drives the diode switches for the front-end preselectors, was holding Band 4 & 5 low. Replacing it with a socket and a new chip did not correct the fault. SMT bypasses C8 & C9 were reading low resistance (should be open ...), keeping Band 4 & 5 on. Replacing them with .01 uF 25 WV ceramics (Where can you find SMT caps on a Sunday?) and re-connecting my protective diodes in case the failures were RF-induced and my receiver was ready for service once again. Another comparison with the "good" board showed no difference in performance. Hooray for a serviceable product! Incidentally, JRC's excellent service manual for the NRD-525 indicates that IC1 should be checked when low sensitivity is noted in one band (pg 3-3). I wish I had read the troubleshooting section first ...

Will I purchase an R-8? I hope so. My financial situation at present will prevent any purchases of substance for some time to come (My current "hobby" is putting my youngest son through college!). I would not sell my NRD-525 to purchase one, however. When compared to the mid-seventies \$695 price of the spartan coverage SPR-4 or the early eighties price of \$1649 for the basic R-7A, the R-8 is a steal - and it is complete.

Drake R8 Receiver: Promising Or Fatally Flawed?

Dallas Lankford  
September 14, 1991

What should have been an enjoyable experience, trying out my new Drake R8 receiver, has turned into a giant headache.

After placing a phone order with Drake on August 30, I waited patiently for the R8 to arrive. I should have become suspicious when it did not show up a few days after Labor Day. But I did not. And again I should have become suspicious when I found a Fed Ex notice of attempted delivery at my home on September 11. There is no Fed Ex office in Ruston, so it was either take

time off from work and drive the 70 mile round trip to the Fed Ex office in Monroe, or take time off from work and wait for Fed Ex at home. I did the latter. When Fed Ex delivered the R8 about 10:30 on the morning of September 12 I should have taken a close look at the Fed Ex label on the box, but again I did not. When one orders a product from a company, one expects the product to be delivered directly to one. Only later as I was repacking the R8 to ship it back to Drake did I discover that "my" R8 had been shipped to someone in California, and that that someone had shipped it to me. Clearly there is something terribly wrong in Drake's shipping department and with the procedures they follow. There is no way anyone in their right mind would accept delivery on a \$1000 piece of equipment from a third party when it was supposed to be shipped directly from Drake to the customer. As yet Drake has not explained how this unaccepted situation came about.

Since I had not yet noticed that "my" R8 had been in the hands of an unknown person or unknown persons in California, my evaluation of the R8 started on a promising note. I connected an amplified ferrite rod loop antenna and checked out the daytime MW band. No digital circuit or display noise! At least none unless you brought the loop within a few inches of the display. It seemed to be a winner for MW listeners. Actually I should mention that at first I thought previous reviews were wrong in this regard because I got quite a lot of display noise with the ferrite rod loop powered from an AC power supply. But when I switched over to a battery, all the display noise went away. Apparently some display noise couples through the power cords when using an AC power supply to power an amplified loop.

Next I switched over to my 2 foot balun loop. Gain was a bit low using the R8 50 ohm antenna input, so I switched over to the 500 ohm antenna input and found that gain was fine. This is not the fault of the R8. The U-310 amp gain for the circuit of my balun loop depends on the load it sees. I do wish that Drake had used an SO-239 or BNC connector for their 500 ohm antenna input instead of the quick release push-in terminals. I had to use a BNC to binding post adapter and two short lengths of wire to connect the loop coax output to the R8. But on the other hand, at least all of my high dynamic range loop amps will work directly with the R8.

After satisfying myself that the R8 emits little or no display noise in the MW band, I changed over to my noise reducing inverted L antenna to tune up and down the MW band looking for any anomalies. Right away I found one: a curious bagpipe-like het around 1590 KHz. What was it? Was it being emitted by the R8 and being picked up by the inverted L antenna, or was it due to some other cause. A quick check with an R-390A showed that it was not being emitted from the R8. Closer examination of the het on the R8 revealed it to be an image of my super local KRUS on 1490 KHz. Ugh! The image was actually about 1592 KHz, which indicated that the R8 50 KHz IF was not properly aligned. Next I connected a signal generator to the R8 and measured the image rejection at 700 KHz (image at 802 KHz) and at 1300 KHz (image at 1402 KHz). In both cases the image rejection was about 52 dB. Thus "my" R8 failed to meet Drake's image rejection spec of greater than 60 dB below 1.5 MHz.

I phoned the Drake people and was told that the problem was probably a defective 45 MHz crystal filter, and that they would be glad to have me return the R8 and fix the problem and return it to me. At first I agreed, but later changed my mind (as you will understand when you read the following). In my opinion Drake has the wrong policy with regard to defective equipment. I had purchased this R8 because of the 15 day money back guarantee. But what should one do when one discovers a serious problem with the R8 during the first hour of use? There is no way a customer should have to play "Fix It" with the Drake service department. A defective receiver should be replaced immediately by Drake, at no expense to the purchaser, and the 15 day money back policy started over with the second receiver.

Oh well, I thought, I'll play around with the R8 the rest of the day before I box it up and return it to Drake to be fixed. Next I decided to measure the image rejection above 1.5 MHz. Drake's spec for that is greater than 80 dB. I got 52 dB again. Disgusting! So I called them again to report this problem. They seemed to think that again it was the 45 MHz crystal filter. Hmmm. I don't understand how a single problem, such as a defective 45 MHz crystal filter, can cause two widely different departures from Drake's specs. Perhaps if Drake had provided a schematic with the R8 I could figure it out. That is another thing I don't like about these early R8 receivers. You don't get a schematic. Does that mean that the design is not fixed yet?

Anyway, I pressed onward with my evaluation of this ill R8. Maybe the dynamic range would be OK, thought I to myself. No such luck. The dynamic range measured 88 dB, at least 3 dB below Drake's spec of greater than 90 dB. Well, what about the 3rd order intercepts? The 20 KHz spacing 3rd order intercept almost made it at +5 dBm (Drake says greater than +5 dBm), but

the narrow (5 KHz spacing) 3rd order intercept could not be measured because of synthesizer phase noise. A bad situation was getting progressively worse.

I tried out the notch filter, but it did not seem to work at all with on-the-air hets. I switched over to two signal generators and generated a stable well-defined het with the two signal generators to see if I could get any insight into the notch filter problem. It appeared that the notch on "my" R8 was so narrow that it notched only an extremely narrow range of the het spectrum, and so it would not significantly reduce the het. All it did was change the tone of the het.

Oops. This story is getting out of order, which is, I suppose, appropriate for the "out of order" R8 I was sent. While I was measuring the SW image rejection, I was tapping the side of the case with my finger (I was annoyed). Accidentally I tapped one of the case mounting screws and noticed that it was loose. I inspected the other case mounting screws and discovered to my surprise that they all were loose. Even worse, one of them had been "roughed up" or "gorilla-ed" as I like to describe this kind of abuse. Someone had been inside "my" R8 and that someone did not know how to use a Phillips head screw driver correctly!!! My annoyance went up another order of magnitude.

What next? I decided to try out some headphones. The front panel headphone jack was defective. It was difficult to insert the headphone plug completely, and the headphone plug did not make positive contact with the headphone jack. The headphone jacks on the R8 (there are two of them, one on the front panel and one on the rear panel for an external speaker) are apparently plastic encapsulated PC board mounted variety, not the old fashioned (and sturdy) type. Had someone damaged the headphone jack, or was it merely defective? I don't know. The rear headphone jack also seemed defective. Audio output from the front panel headphone jack seemed inadequate. Audio output from the rear headphone jack (for an external speaker) was adequate. Perhaps this R8 has a defective audio amplifier.

Could anything else be wrong? Yep. On strong AM signals there was an annoying "click" as the 1 KHz digit changed.

And "my" R8 was afflicted with the same "rogue het" that afflicted Richard Eckman's R8. (Could Drake have sent me Richard Eckman's reject without fixing it?) On strong AM signals (I didn't check SSB or CW) there was a weak but very definite het which varied in frequency and amplitude. The rogue het was much more apparent when I used an unmodulated RF source, i.e., a signal generator.

To confirm that the problems I experienced with "my" R8 are not common to all R8 receivers, I phoned a well-known DXer who owns an R8. Although he could not confirm that his R8 met Drake's specs, he had not observed any symptoms of substandard image rejection. His R8 did not have a rogue het, or defective headphone jacks, or annoying click when the 1 KHz digit changed in AM mode, or gorilla-ed case mounting screw, or defective notch filter, and his R8 was not shipped to him from a third party.

There is absolutely no excuse for a \$1000 receiver to have so many problems. Many of these problems could be detected in a few minutes with some very simple tests by a competent technical sitting at the end of the production line. It appears that Drake doesn't test their R8 receivers at all. Or if they do, then either their test equipment is defective, or their technician is incompetent.

What can an R8 owner do if he thinks he may have a defective R8? If he has an R8 with a defective headphone jack, or a rogue het, or an annoying 1 KHz click in AM mode, or a notch filter that doesn't work, or gorilla-ed case mounting screws, then it is obvious that he has a problem and he should send it back to the Drake service department to be fixed. If he thinks he has image problems, he should try to verify it. One does not need a precision signal generator to measure the image specs. Just about any old signal generator will do. The R8 S-meter is reasonably linear in the sense that each S-unit up to S-9 corresponds to about 6 dB, and signal strength above S-9 is read in dB. I used a precision signal generator, and also precision 10:1 (20 dB) sealed attenuators to doubly confirm that the R8 S-meter is (or should be if it is operating correctly) accurate. Pick some frequency, say 2.000 MHz, adjust the signal generator to give a 40 dB over S-9 reading, and then tune the R8 to about 2.100 Mhz. You should observe an image. If the image is not about S-2 or less, then you probably have a defective 45 Mhz crystal filter or whatever the problem is which causes substandard image rejection. (At least Drake told me that the image spec failure indicates that the 45 Mhz filter is defective. But since, according to Drake, the front end is varicap diode tuned, the image spec failure could also be due to front end tracking error, or perhaps some other cause.) Although measuring the dynamic range and 3rd order intercepts is not difficult, it requires two precision signal generators, and so is beyond the capabilities of most hobbyists.

I should add that the simple image test I described above will not give accurate results if your R8 S-meter is inaccurate. Here is a simple test which will give you some indication that your S-meter is OK: With an 80 foot inverted L antenna, 65 foot horizontal section about 20 feet above the ground or higher, and a 15 foot bare wire lead-in (no coax), at midday you should get about S-0 reading on a quiet day around 10 MHz with no signal tuned, just background noise. Unfortunately, in urban areas you may get several S-units of man-made noise. Then at night you should get about 60 dB reading from a few super-strong 6 Mhz (49 meter band) or 9 MHz (31 meter band) SW AM broadcasters. If you use a considerably longer antenna, or a different antenna, this simple S-meter test will not be reliable.

My advice to prospective R8 purchasers is caveat emptor, i.e., let the buyer beware. Most customers will not have an electronics laboratory in their home, like I do, and most will not have access to and ability to use the test equipment at an electrical engineering laboratory, like I do. If Drake offers to send me another R8 for evaluation on their 15 day money back guarantee policy, I will probably take them up on their offer. It is really a pity that they sent me a lemon, a fatally flawed R8.

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