

DX News

Serving DX'ers since 1933



Volume 71, No. 19 - February 16, 2004 (ISSN 0737-1659)

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CPC Test Calendar
WRIB RI 1220 daily 0255-0305

possibly can!

DXN Publishing Schedule, Volume 71

Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date	Iss.	Deadline	Pub. Date
20.	Feb. 13	Feb. 23	26.	May 7	May 17
21.	Feb. 20	Mar. 1	27.	June 4	June 14
22.	Feb. 27	Mar. 8	28.	July 2	July 12
23.	Mar. 12	Mar. 19	29.	Aug. 6	Aug. 16
24.	April 2	April 12	30.	Sept. 10	Sept. 20
25.	April 16	April 26			

From the Publisher ... I have absolutely nothing clever to say this issue ... other than to remind NRC members, whom I know are busy, to support DXN columns by submitting often, to renew before the due date, to send in address updates before filing an address change with the USPS, to read the back page of DXN, and to DX as much as you

DX Time Machine

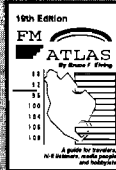
From the pages of DX News:

50 years ago ... from the February 13, 1954 DXN: Hal Williams, Seymour, CT told us that he had sent a reception report to the new WCIN-1480, Cincinnati, OH, and received a QSL card from WCKY-1530 in return. He sent a duplicate report to WCIN with a note on the envelope to the Post Office not to deliver it to WCKY.

25 years ago ... from the February 19, 1979 DXN: Hank Wilkinson, Santa Rosa, CA reported receiving

three of nine veries from five Aussies and four Zedders which he'd never verified before. He heard them all from January 10 through 29. Hank added, "I feel that the new frequency changes has (sic) 'opened' a new frontier for us."

10 years ago ... from the February 14, 1994 DXN: Pete Clarius, Staten Island, NY reported his latest catches: WNNZ, WWLG, WGHT, WLLV, WMVP, WCMF, WPHYT, WDCW, WVNJ, and WDIS, with 2151 heard and 1151 verified.



Bruce Elving's FM Atlas ...19th Edition
The world-famous guide which has served FM DX'ers for over 20 years is available from NRC Publications at the special price of \$19.00 for NRC USA/Canada members, \$22.00 USA/Canada non-members, \$25.00 for all others. NY orders, please add sales tax.

The NRC AM Radio Log, 24th Edition, including cross-referenced listings from 530-1700 khz., is compiled from both listeners' reports and official sources, making it the most accurate listing of U. S. and Canadian AM stations available. Unbound, three-hole punched for standard binders. \$19.95 to U. S. members; \$25.95 to U. S. non-NRC members; to Canadian members, \$23.00 (\$29.00 to non-NRC members). Airmail to members in western Europe (except Italy) and Australia, New Zealand, and Japan: \$29.00. All others contact us for exact prices. Order from: NRC Publications - Box 164 - Mannsville, NY 13661 (NY residents, please add sales tax).



AM Switch

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

	<i>Old call</i>		<i>New call</i>
790	WRIT	SC Bamberg-Denmark	WVCD
970	WVOJ	FL Jacksonville	WNNR
1060	KKDS	UT South Salt Lake City	KDYL
1570	WNNR	FL Fernandina Beach	WVOJ
1580	WMTI	PR Morovis	WEKO
1590	KUNX	CA Ventura	KKOM



GRANTS FOR NEW STATIONS

830	W	GA	Sandy Springs - New station will be U4 50000/2400. The day pattern uses 2 towers, while the night pattern uses six. Sandy Springs is a far north suburb of Atlanta.
1660	WFNA	NC	Charlotte - Station has been granted its operating license for U1 10000/1000.

GRANTS TO EXISTING FACILITIES

880	KGHT	AR	Sheridan - On the air with increased day power to become U2 50000/220 CH 31000.
930	WHLM	PA	Bloomsburg - CP granted for U1 1000/18.
980	KICA	NM	Clovis - Will add two towers and increase daytime to become U5 50000/172.
1230	WAMM	VA	Woodstock - On the air with increased nighttime power as U1 1000/1000.
1240	WGGA	GA	Gainesville - Will move to a new, shorter tower at N34-20-08 W83-47-32.
1420	WKCW	VA	Warrenton - CP allows them to build two new towers at a new site and increase day and night power levels to become U4 22000/60.
1470	WCHJ	MS	Brookhaven - On the air from a new site (N31-33-46 W90-26-51) with U1 1000/66.

APPLICATIONS FROM EXISTING FACILITIES

1070	WNCT	NC	Greenville - Applies to raise their day power, reduce the night power, and add CH operation. Would become U7 50000/8500 CH 50000.
1160	WMLB	GA	East Point - Licensed for U5 50000/160, station has a pending application for U7 50000/290 CH 50000 from a new location. This amendment reverts back to the original location with U5 50000/160 adding one tower to their array adjusting the day pattern.
1540	WADK	RI	Newport - Applies to add two towers to their site and add nighttime service. Would become U2 1000/20000.
1580	WVKO	OH	Columbus - Application covers an increase in day and night powers plus added CH operation. Would become U7 5000/290 CH 3000.
1640	KDIA	CA	Vallejo - Applies to raise nighttime power to become U2 10000/10000. They want to add three towers to their current site for the new night service, and raise a new tower at a second site for the day operation.
1640	KDZR	OR	Lake Oswego - Station had an application to increase night power to 10 kW using a directional antenna turned down. The FCC has agreed to reconsider the petition.

ENGINEERING AMENDMENTS TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS SUBMITTED

1140	KNEI	IA	Waukon - Station is licensed for D1 1000/0. They applied for U1 1700/30 and to move to 1160 kHz for which they were turned down. This amendment requests lower day and night powers, to become U1 530/26 on 1160.
1340	W	WV	Welch - Has a CP for U1 1000/1000. This amendment is to relocate the transmitter site with a much shorter tower.
1510	KROB	TX	Robstown - Station is licensed for D1 500/0. They have a CP for D1 500/0

at a new transmitter site. This amendment requests the tower height be adjusted to reflect the correct height, rather than the height in the original CP. New coordinates are N27-46-39 W97-37-55.

LICENSE RENEWALS GRANTED

540	WFLF	FL	Pine Hills	1020	WRHB	FL	Kendall	1300	WTIR	FL	Cocoa Beach
550	WAYR	FL	Orange Park	1020	WOQI	PR	Adjuntas	1300	WFFG	FL	Marathon
550	WPAB	PR	Ponce	1030	WWGB	MD	Indian Head	1300	WQBN	FL	Temple Terrace
570	WTBN	FL	Pinellas Park	1030	WOSO	PR	San Juan	1310	WYND	FL	Deland
580	WDBO	FL	Orlando	1040	WLWJ	FL	Boynton Beach	1310	WDCT	VA	Fairfax
590	WAFB	FL	Clewiston	1040	WWBA	FL	Pinellas Park	1320	WJGR	FL	Jacksonville
590	WDIZ	FL	Panama City	1050	WJCM	FL	Sebring	1320	WAMR	FL	Venice
590	WLVA	VA	Lynchburg	1060	WIXC	FL	Titusville	1320	WSKN	PR	San Juan
600	WBWL	FL	Jacksonville	1070	WFRF	FL	Tallahassee	1330	WJNX	FL	Fort Pierce
600	WAEI	PR	Mayaguez	1070	WIWS	WV	Breckley	1330	WWAB	FL	Lakeland
610	WIOD	FL	Miami	1070	WMIA	PR	Arecibo	1330	WBEY	FL	Milton
610	WVTJ	FL	Pensacola	1080	WVCG	FL	Coral Gables	1330	WCVC	FL	Tallahassee
610	WEXS	PR	Patillas	1080	WHOO	FL	Kissimmee	1340	WTAN	FL	Clearwater
620	WDAE	FL	St. Petersburg	1080	WLEY	PR	Cayey	1340	WWFL	FL	Clermont
630	WUNO	PR	San Juan	1090	WNVY	FL	Cantonment	1340	WR0D	FL	Daytona Beach
640	WJNA	FL	Royal Palm Beach	1090	WSOL	PR	San German	1340	WPBR	FL	Lantana
660	WORL	FL	Altamonte Springs	1110	WTIS	FL	Tampa	1340	WTYS	FL	Marianna
680	WRMD	FL	St. Petersburg	1110	WVJP	PR	Caguas	1340	WITS	FL	Sebring
680	WCAW	WV	Charleston	1120	WNWF	FL	Destin	1340	WFSH	FL	Valparaiso-Niceville
680	WAPA	PR	San Juan	1130	WWBF	FL	Bartow	1340	WHAP	VA	Hopewell
690	WOKV	FL	Jacksonville	1130	WOIZ	PR	Guayanilla	1340	WWNA	PR	Aguadilla
710	WQKI	SC	St. Matthews	1140	WRMQ	FL	Orlando	1340	WSTA	VI	Charlotte Amalie
710	WKJB	PR	Mayaguez	1150	WNDB	FL	Daytona Beach	1350	WDCF	FL	Dade City
720	WRZN	FL	Hernando	1150	WTMP	FL	Egypt Lake	1350	WCRM	FL	Fort Myers
730	WWTK	FL	Lake Placid	1160	WBQN	PR	Barceloneta-Manati	1360	WHNR	FL	Cypress Gardens
730	WMNA	VA	Gretna	1170	WKFL	FL	Bushnell	1360	WCGL	FL	Jacksonville
740	WQTM	FL	Orlando	1170	WAVS	FL	Davie	1360	WKAT	FL	North Miami
760	WEFL	FL	Tequesta	1170	WSOS	FL	St. Augustine	1360	WHBG	VA	Harrisonburg
760	WORA	PR	Mayaguez	1170	WLEO	PR	Ponce	1370	WCOA	FL	Pensacola
770	WWCN	FL	North Fort Myers	1190	WIXL	FL	Pine Castle-Sky Lake	1370	WAXE	FL	Vero Beach
770	WYRV	VA	Cedar Bluff	1190	WPSP	FL	Royal Palm Beach	1370	WIVV	PR	Island of Vieques
790	WLBE	FL	Leesburg-Eustis	1190	WBMJ	PR	San Juan	1380	WMTD	WV	Hinton
790	WPNN	FL	Pensacola	1200	WPTK	FL	Pine Island Center	1390	WAJD	FL	Gainesville
790	WAXY	FL	South Miami	1200	WGDL	PR	Lares	1400	WELL	FL	Fort Lauderdale
800	WPLK	FL	Palatka	1210	WNMA	FL	Miami Springs	1400	WIRA	FL	Fort Pierce
810	WYRE	MD	Annapolis	1210	WHOY	PR	Salinas	1400	WJGC	FL	Fort Walton Beach
810	WKVM	PR	San Juan	1230	WGGG	FL	Gainesville	1400	WZAZ	FL	Jacksonville
840	WXEW	PR	Yabucoa	1230	WZNO	FL	Pensacola	1400	WPRY	FL	Perry
850	WRUF	FL	Gainesville	1220	WJAX	FL	Jacksonville	1400	WSDO	FL	Sanford
850	WFTL	FL	West Palm Beach	1220	WOTS	FL	Kissimmee	1400	WZHR	FL	Zephyrhills
850	WABA	PR	Aguadilla	1230	WONN	FL	Lakeland	1400	WWIN	MD	Baltimore
860	WGUL	FL	Dunedin	1230	WSBB	FL	New Smyrna Beach	1400	WIDA	PR	Carolina
870	WQBS	PR	San Juan	1230	WWSO	FL	Quincy	1410	WMYR	FL	Fort Myers
890	WFAB	PR	Ceiba	1230	WZNO	FL	Pensacola	1410	WRSS	PR	San Sebastian
900	WSWN	FL	Belle Glade	1230	WABN	VA	Abingdon	1420	WDJA	FL	Delray Beach
910	WTWD	FL	Plant City	1240	WBGD	FL	Chipley	1420	WBRD	FL	Palmetto
910	WPRP	PR	Ponce	1240	WPNY	FL	Cross City	1420	WAOC	FL	St. Augustine
930	WFJX	FL	Jacksonville	1240	WINK	FL	Fort Myers	1430	WTMN	FL	Gainesville
930	WLSS	FL	Sarasota	1240	WFOY	FL	St. Augustine	1430	WOIR	FL	Homestead
930	WRVC	WV	Huntington	1240	WALO	PR	Humacao	1430	WLKF	FL	Lakeland
930	WYAC	PR	Cabo Rojo	1250	WQHL	FL	Live Oak	1430	WLTG	FL	Panama City
940	WLQH	FL	Chieftand	1250	WHNZ	FL	Tampa	1430	WNEL	PR	Caguas
940	WRFX	FL	Miami	1250	WJIT	PR	Sabana	1440	WWCL	FL	Lehigh Acres
950	WTLN	FL	Orlando	1260	WFTW	FL	Fort Walton Beach	1440	WPRD	FL	Winter Park
950	WCTN	MD	Potomac-Cabin John	1260	WISO	PR	Ponce	1450	WWJB	FL	Brooksville
960	WKVN	PR	Quebradillas	1270	WRLZ	FL	Eatonville	1450	WMFJ	FL	Daytona Beach
970	WVOJ	FL	Jacksonville	1270	WNOG	FL	Naples	1450	WOCN	FL	Miami
980	WLUS	FL	Gainesville	1270	WNLS	FL	Tallahassee	1450	WBSR	FL	Pensacola
980	WRNE	FL	Gulf Breeze	1280	WGTX	FL	De Funiak Springs	1450	WSRQ	FL	Sarasota
980	WHSR	FL	Pompano Beach	1280	WTMY	FL	Sarasota	1450	WSTU	FL	Stuart
990	WPRA	PR	Mayaguez	1280	WCMN	PR	Arecibo	1450	WTAL	FL	Tallahassee
1000	WJBW	FL	Jupiter	1290	WPCF	FL	Panama City Beach	1450	WCPR	PR	Coamo
1010	WIOJ	FL	Jacksonville Beach	1290	WJNO	FL	West Palm Beach	1460	WBAR	FL	Bartow
1010	WQYK	FL	Seffner	1290	WRRA	VI	Frederiksted	1460	WZEP	FL	DeFuniak Springs

4 1460 WZNZ FL Jacksonville 1490 WDEP PR Ponce 1570 WOKC FL Okeechobee	1460 WLRP PR San Sebastian 1500 WPSO FL New Port Richey 1580 WNTF FL Bithlo	1470 WLWU FL Dunedin 1510 WWBC FL Cocoa 1580 WSRF FL Fort Lauderdale	1470 WWNN FL Pompano Beach 1520 WHIM FL Apopka 1580 WCCF FL Punta Gorda	1480 WZTK FL Arcadia 1520 WXYB FL Indian Rocks Beach 1580 WMTI PR Morovis	1480 WUNA FL Ocoee 1520 WEXY FL Wilton Manors 1590 WPSL FL Port St. Lucie	1480 WVOI FL Marco Island 1520 WVOZ PR San Juan 1590 WPUL FL South Daytona	1480 WKGC FL Panama City Beach 1530 WENG FL Englewood 1590 WXRf PR Guayama	1480 WMDD PR Fajardo 1530 WUPR PR Utuado 1600 WKWF FL Key West	1490 WWPR FL Bradenton 1540 WBS PR Guayama 1600 WQOP FL Atlantic Beach	1490 WND A FL Deland 1550 WAMA PR Tampa 1600 WOKB FL Winter Garden	1490 WAFZ FL Immokalee 1550 WKFE PR Yauco 1600 WLuz PR Bayamon	1490 WMBM FL Miami Beach 1560 WTVN FL Beverly Hills 1660 WCNZ FL Marco Island	1490 WEAG FL Starke 1570 WTWB FL Auburndale 1680 WLAA FL Winter Garden	1490 WTTB FL Vero Beach 1570 WPPC PR Penuelas 1700 WJCC FL Miami Springs
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ODDS AND ENDS

- In Issue 17 we had a item about WGRP-940 Greenville, Pennsylvania being off and the building deserted, etc, etc, etc. Well, it seems they have resurfaced. When heard, they seemed to be tracking CDs with Hot AC and rap type music, dead air between tunes with a beep-beep jammer audible in background, and not simulcasting their FM. Jerry Starr reports he always thought this beep-beep was the Cuban trying to jam the 940 in Miami, but it's audible all day at his location, so that may be something else. The only announcement was . . . "AM 940 WGRP Greenville is back. Stay tuned for details" heard every three or four songs. Their power level seems to change, varying from S-7 to +20. So don't take them out of your AM Log just yet. Also . . . last issue we had an item about WMTC-730, which I identified as being in Van Cleve, Kentucky. I've been chided for getting that wrong. It's Vanleve! One word. Sorry.
- KIMP-960 Mount Pleasant, Texas has been reported to have gone silent after losing its tower in high winds. Also on the 'silents' list is WYAL-1280 Scotland Neck, North Carolina and WLYV-1050 Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Turning on the power again is WDIS-1170 Norfolk, Massachusetts, reportedly is back on the air.
- The problems in Southern California and Arizona over the possibility of some new Mexican stations on, or close to, already established frequencies of US stations have escalated. The FCC is getting into the mix, but it will be a while before all the dust settles.
- Thanks, and a salude, go to Wayne Heinen and Jerry Starr.

GRAVEYARD DX UPDATE

1450 kHz:										<u>Miles</u>
WCLM VA Highland Springs	Les Rayburn	Helena, AL								611
Totals:	1230	1240	1340	1400	1450	1490	Total			
Les Rayburn Central Alabama	9	10	12	8	8	7	54			

Domestic DX Digest

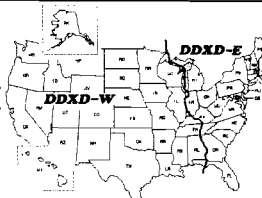
West: Harry Helms ak6c@earthlink.net

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

East: Ginnie Lupi ginnie@nrctxas.org

PO Box 4014 - Clifton Park, NY 12065-0850

(Division line is between East and Central time zones)



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

DDXD-West

RANDOM STUFF

- Looks like the end-of-season DX doldrums are here. But, as the loggings below testify, there is still some good DX to be heard.
- One effective DXing strategy is to "camp" on a certain frequency and see what surfaces. Take a look at what Pat Griffith nailed on 740 and Brice Winkleman logged on 1400 for proof!!
- Let your fellow NRCers know what you're hearing regardless of which frequencies you're camping on! Please follow the format you see below, including all pertinent information—frequency, call, state, city, date and time of reception, and details of your catch. Please use ELT for all times, regardless of your local time zone.

REPORTERS

- BK-CA** Bob Karchevski, Sunnyvale. Realistic DX-398.
- BW-OK** Bruce Winkleman, Tulsa. Drake R8, Quantum phaser, two 90-foot random wires.
- DP-HI** Dale Park, Honolulu. Sangean ATS-818CS, Terk AM1000 loop.
- JJR-WI** John J. Rieger, South Milwaukee. Icom R75, GE Superadio III, Kiwa loop, MFJ-959B.
- KR-AZ** Kevin Redding, Mesa. Kenwood R-1000, 60-foot wire, Grundig S350.
- LOY-IL** Eric Loy, Champaign. Drake R8, Quantum QX loop. (Welcome! Ed.-NV)
- PG-CO** Patrick Griffith, Westminster. Drake R8, Kiwa loop.
- WH-CO** Wayne Heinen, Aurora. Drake R8B, N/S flag, E/W flag, SuperPhaser, a few random wires.
- Ed.-NV** Mr. Editor, Las Vegas. Drake R8B, Sony ICF-2010 w/ Kiwa filters, Quantum loop & phaser.

FREQUENCY CHALLENGE RESULTS—1160 kHz

- 1160 **KSL UT** Salt Lake City. 2/1 0652. "When Radio Was" featuring oldtime radio serial "Boston Blackie"; at 0659 ID "KSL Salt Lake City," jingle "Newsradio 11-60," Temple Square bell tolling; station disclaimer, into PhotoReading infomercial (no CBS nx). Poor to good. (DP-HI)



UNID, HELP REQUESTED, ETC.

- 740 **UNID ??** ??? 2/1 0109. Wide variety of NOS. "The only station with Dean Martin, the Beatles, Barbara Streisand, and your all time favorites, AM 7-40." (PG-CO) (Probably CHWO. Good luck on ever hearing a REAL ID -pls.)
- 740 **UNID ??** ??? 2/1 0208. Female in UNID oriental language heard for several minutes. Looped NE-SW from Denver. (PG-CO)

REGULAR DX LOGGINGS (times in ELT)

- 580 **KANA MT** Anaconda. 1/27 0800. Brief ID over KUBC. New for me. (WH-CO)
- 600 **KTBB TX** Tyler. 1/27 2201. Dominant with Longview HS BKB and local announcers and spots, may not have powered down as was really loud throughout the BKB game. (WH-CO) I'm convinced night power limits are about as well observed as the 75 MPH speed limit is observed on Interstate 15 from North Las Vegas to Mesquite! (Ed.-NV) in other words, night power limits are just friendly suggestions you can disregard if you wish. (Ed.-NV)
- 600 **WREC TN** Memphis. 1/28 0205. Ending news with brief ID on the E/W Flag antenna. (WH-CO)
- 600 **WSNL MI** Flint. 2/4 0315. Fair atop mix of stations with contemporary Christian music, ID as "Victory 600 WSNL". New here. (LOY-IL)
- 660 **KTNN AZ** Window Rock. 2/3 0500. Fair in/out w/1-o-n-g fades w/WFAN. "Mid.Trucking Radio Network," legal ID, NBC news. Relog. (JJR-WI)
- 690 **CBU BC** Vancouver. 1/29 1318-1330. Several mentions of "Canada" by male & female having a discussion. Also heard "CBC Radio." (BK-CA)
- 700 **KALL UT** Salt Lake City. 1/30 1421 with the Jim Rome Show talking about basketball and Kobe Bryant. Weak under strong splatter from KMIA. Had to use 2.8 kHz filter to hear. (KR-AZ)
- 730 **CHMJ BC** Vancouver. 1/29 1300. Several "AM 7-30 MO-JO Radio," but no call letters heard. (BK-CA)
- 730 **KKDA TX** Grand Prairie. 2/4 0225. Out of song "That's What The Blues Is All About," then ID as "AM seven thirty is Soul 73, KKDA." (PG-CO)
- 740 **KCBS CA** San Francisco. 2/1 0150. "When the weather gets nasty depend on traffic and weather every 10 minutes on KCBS." (PG-CO)
- 740 **KRMG OK** Tulsa. 2/1 0200. "News Talk 7-40, KRMG." Female announcer pronouncing the call letters very slow and deliberately. (PG-CO)
- 740 **KTRH TX** Houston. 2/1 0203. "News Radio 7-40, KTRH" ID. (PG-CO)
- 750 **KERR MT** Polson. 1/29 1307-1310. C&W music then VID, also "Your Paul Harvey Station." (BK-CA)
- 770 **KJCB LA** Lafayette. 1/31 0145-50. Fade up with urban gospel, local PSA liner. Phone call confirmed it was them. New here. (LOY-IL)
- 970 **KCFO OK** Tulsa. 2/1 2200. ID "Christian Talk Radio AM 970 KCFO Tulsa" and lost to XEJ. (WH-CO)
- 1120 **KMOX MO** St. Louis. 1/29 0515 with weather and ID. Heard in a null of KANN and very weak. (KR-AZ)
- 1230 **KWTX TX** Waco. 1/24 2342 dominating frequency with "News Talk 1230" and Michael

- Savage Show, dominates overnite recordings as well. (BW-OK)
- 1250 KDEI TX Port Arthur. 1/31 2200. Weak with ID string of network stations. "Radio Maria." Call change for me. (WH-CO)
- 1250 KHIL AZ Willcox. 2/1 0300. Ending C&W music with legal ID. Lost under KKHK. (WH-CO)
- 1340 KAND TX Corsicana. 1/23 2200 w/nice clear CLID in local KTFX null, my first logging on 1340 other than KTFX in nearly 20 years thanks to the Quantum Phaser. (BW-OK) Phasing sure is a handy tool; wonder what we could've heard back in the 1960s/70s if it had been widely used? (Ed.-NV)
- 1350 KRNT IA Des Moines. 1/31 0000. Full ID heard throughout the evening with Talk earlier and later NOS music. (WH-CO)
- 1400 KCLA AR Pine Bluff. 1/13 0300. Heard "the voice of [...] Arkansas KCLA" in the furball. (BW-OK)
- 1400 KEYE TX Perryton. 1/11 0500 in the jumble with quick "KEYE Perryton." (BW-OK)
- 1400 KEYL MN Long Prairie. 1/13 0259. Surfaced with "right here on KEYL." (BW-OK)
- 1400 KVRP TX Stamford. 1/13 0358. Nice CLID and mention of Stamford. (BW-OK)
- 1450 KQYX MO Joplin. 1/30 0000 with "NewsTalk 14-90 KQYX Joplin." (BW-OK)
- 1450 KWBE NE Beatrice. 1/30 0500. Quick "KWBE Beatrice" by YL in the jumble. (BW-OK)
- 1450 KWBW KS Hutchinson. 1/29 0203 with a rarely heard s/off announcement, giving address, ownership and s/on time of 0500 weekdays, 0630 Saturday and 0700 Sundays and "join us now for our national anthem" into choral SSB. (BW-OK) Hearing a "real" s/off with the "Star Spangled Banner" today is almost as rare as hearing a "real" equipment test! (Ed.-NV)
- 1590 KRQX TX Mexia. 2/2 0000. On top with "KYCX 104.9 FM" and "Texas Bred and Texas Proud" to unID network news. (BW-OK)
- 1660 KXTR KS Kansas City. 1/29 0900. Classical Music to full legal ID "AM 1660 KXTR Kansas City." On day power by now and over pest KXOL. First time I've actually ID'd this one. (WH-CO)
- 1660 KRZX TX Waco. 1/29 0400. Long Dual ID for 1580/1660 KRZI/KRZX and return to SPT, another try for a QSL from this holdout. (WH-CO)
- 1690 WRLL IL Berwyn. 2/1 2339 w/"Real Oldies 16-90" and mention of Chicago into Oldies. (BW-OK)

DDXD-East

2004 Clear Channel Challenge Schedule



1200 kHz – Listen February 11 – 17, due February 18
1210 kHz – Listen February 18 – 24, due February 25

Upcoming Challenges

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

REPORTERS

- MKB-ON Mike Brooker, Toronto – Grundig YB-400PE, Panasonic RF-2200.
- MC-NJ Mike Clancy, Jersey City – DX-396.
- BC-PA Bruce Collier, York - Sony 2010 with KIWA mods; terminated BOG @ 220 degrees, unterminated @ 45 degrees and N/S, MFJ 1025 phaser.
- JF-ON Jeff Falconer, Clinton - AOR AR7030+, 130' east EWE / 130' west EWE or Drake R8B with 45' GAP vertical, MFJ-1026 phaser, etc.
- MH-NC Mike Hardester, Jacksonville – Toyota Camry Car Radio.
- RL-MI Rich Line, Sterling Heights – R8B, R30, R75 Palomar loop/amp.
- IEN-GA Ira Elbert New, III, Watkinsville - AWA CSD-FD89.
- AO-FL Al Ogrizovich, Jacksonville – Crane Radio Plus and Justice Loop.
- JR-NY Jim Renfrew, Byron – Drake R8, longwires, Quantum Phaser.
- RR-NC Rick Robinson, Hendersonville – Icom R75 and Quantum Phaser, Quantum QX Pro loop antenna and 3 BOG antennas.
- JV-NY John Vervoort, Bronx – Grundig YB-400PE and Sony ICF-SW7600GR.
- JW-MD Jim Weber, on the Beltway – Car Radio.
- JW*MD Jim Weber, Elkridge – Grundig S350.
- JW-VA Jim Weber, on the Beltway near Springfield – Car Radio.
- LW-NY Leslie Wood, East Meadow – Sony 2010, Radio Shack Loop.

CLEAR CHANNEL CHALLENGE – 1160 kHz

- 1160 WEWC FL Callahan – 2/3 1759 – SS music programming, many mentions of Jacksonville in ads. Spanish accented TOH ID "11-60 AM WEWC" Fair in null of WJFJ. (RR-NC)
- WKGE GA East Point – 1/30 0749 - GA traffic info, truck explosion on I-20. (JW-VA) + 2/3 1752- Oldies programming, Peter, Paul and Mary, "Leaving on a Jet Plane", Atlanta traffic reports, "Music Radio 11-60, WKGE" Good in null of WJFJ. (RR-NC)
- WYLL IL Chicago – 1/28 0110 - Clear call letters. New! (BC-PA) + 1/30 0003 – over ESPN sports talker (presumably WYNS, see below) with promo for Loyola Ramblers college basketball "on the home of the Ramblers, AM 1160 WYLL, Chicago's Word" into "Hope in the night" gospel talk show. (MKB-ON) + 1/30 1822—Announcement for Apostolic Church of God in Chicago, Religious programming, "AM 1-60 WYLL" ID. (RR-NC) + 2/1 1945 - Picked up briefly while going around the north part of the Baltimore beltway (Reisterstown). Discussion of Mel Gibson movie then into program involving Christian counseling. Lots of IDs approaching the hour. (JW-MD) + 2/3 0105 - heard calls in promo at :05 into talk show (religious, I think). Relog, but this time in the freq challenge window! Used to hear the old WJJD pretty regularly 25 years ago before they signed off. (BC-PA)
- WBOB KY Florence – 1/30 0735 – ID. (JW-VA) + 2/3 2120 - "News talk 1160 WBOB" ID. 990 watts. (RL-MI)
- WVNJ NJ Oakland – 1/28 2051 – "Thanks for listening to eleven-sixty WVNJ." At 2103 "This is Bergen, Rockland, and Westchester County's choice for America's best music, eleven-sixty WVNJ." Dominant, as is always the case, mixing with WABY-NY and WYNS-PA. (JV-NY) + 1/29 0452 - ID heard near Greenbelt, MD. Heard again at 0518 near Chevy Case. OK during morning ride around the beltway – including NJ traffic info, weather report, then American standards. (JW-MD)
- WOBM NJ Lakewood Twp. – 1/29 0500 - "NJ's first news", ID and weather from someone named Allen. (JW-MD)
- WABY NY Mechanicville - 1/28 0000 - TOH ID. New! (BC-PA) + 1/28 2044 – "you're listening to Albany Hockey on AM eleven-sixty WABY and AM twelve-forty WVKZ." Then mentions of Saratoga County and the Capital Region. Under dominant WVNJ. (JV-NY) + 1/29 0318 - ID with "moon radio" identifier. (JW*MD)
- WJFJ NC Tryon – 2/3 1657 – Gospel and religious programming. "You're listening to 11-60 AM WJFJ Tryon, NC, 10,000 watts of fine Southern gospel". Local station 20 miles south, dominant daytime signal. (RR-NC)
- WCCS PA Homer City – 1/29 1648 – commonly heard pest with promo for Indiana University of Pennsylvania basketball, slogan "more variety for the workplace at the home of today's hits and yesterday's favorites", "WCCS" jingle. (MKB-ON) + 2/3 0440 - "Thanks to Indiana County making us your #1 radio station." (JW*MD)
- WYNS PA Lehighton – 1/28 2046 – Mention of the Lehigh Valley. Mixing with WABY-NY and dominant WVNJ. New. (JV-NY) + 1/29 1600 - ID, numerous identifications ESPN radio. Constant sports programming; generally the dominant station on this frequency. (JW-MD) + 2/2 2126 – presumed over WCCS with Philadelphia Flyers v. Tampa Bay Lightning hockey, non-ID slogan "ESPN Radio 1230 and 1160, the Sports Monster". (MKB-ON)
- WAMB TN Donelson – 2/3 0651 - Tentative ID with weather report into Beatles tune "In My Life (I Love You More)". (JW*MD) + 2/3 1707- Big band music, announcements of upcoming Big Band concerts in Nashville. "AM 11-60. WAMB, Nashville". (RR-NC)
- WODY VA Fiedale - 2/3 2030 - Gospel music, "Your gospel connection, WODY". Fair signal, in WYLL null. (RR-NC)



STATION WEIRDNESS

910 WSTK NC Jacksonville - 1/27 1500 and 1/29 1300 - noted off air in early afternoon, but back on with regular programming by drive time. No comment on air about disruption. (MH-NC)

UNID AND PRESUMED

530 UNID TIS NC _____ - 1/28 1340 - rebroadcast of National Weather Service station, KEC84 (New Bern, NC), with male, and female, synthesized voices. Good level. Normally, Camp Lejeune uses this frequency to announce threat level conditions. (MH-NC)

580 UNID _____ - 1/28 2314 - Maybe Morris Sorenson can help with this one! Had local WHP semi-nulled and heard "Disco Duck" by Rick Dees into "Cracklin Rosie" by Neil Diamond at 2317. Any idea who might be playing 70's? I thought perhaps I had 50,000 watt CKY Winnepeg, which would be a new province for me, but I read on 100000watts.com today that they've moved to FM and gone silent. Might I have been lucky enough to have caught them on their last night? Or does anyone have another idea? (BC-PA)

1350 WTOUp OH Akron - 1/24 1940 - presumed with Cleveland Barrons hockey and "Fox Sports 1350" liners. (AO-FL)

1380 WSYBp VT Rutland - 1/23 2200 - presumed with CNN news on the hour. Talk/discussion. Fair, under WKDN. (LW-NY)

1640 UNID TIS NC _____ - 1/28 1350 - rebroadcast of National Weather Service station, KHB31 (Wilmington, NC), with male, and female, synthesized voices. Fair level. Normally, Camp Lejeune uses this frequency to announce threat level conditions. (MH-NC)

STATION LOGGINGS

580 WLES VA Lawrenceville - 2/3 0137 - Female legal ID at 0137 (?) "WLES, Lawrenceville, Virginia" into "Teddy Bear" by Elvis. Supposed to be 51 watts, but even if they're cheating at 500 day power, still a nice catch! Glad it was female voice, male might not have cut through. (BC-PA)

810 WTHV GA Hahira - 1/25 1700 - SNN News, "WTHV Solid Gospel" liner into southern gospel music. (AO-FL)

840 WBHY AL Mobile - 1/24 1755 - Religion in quick sign off announcement with mention of tuning into their FM outlet. (AO-FL)

850 WDJC AL Birmingham - 1/29 1200 - clear TOH ID "WDJC in Birmingham". At high noon, a daytime distance record for me at 738 miles! (BC-PA)

WREF CT Ridgefield - 1/29 1600 - went back to see if anything new had popped up since noon and was rewarded with a clear TOH ID "Oldies radio - oldies 850 WREF, Ridgefield" into "Pretty Woman" by Roy Orbison. Good signal, very listenable. (BC-PA)

WYLF NY Penn Yan - 1/29 1650 - came back for a 3rd helping and caught this one, I logged it a couple of times on my old DX-390/Spacemagnet2 setup, but never this early! Nostalgia. (BC-PA)

WFTL FL West Palm Beach - 2/2 1900 - Heard with promos for "Live 85" into TOH "WFTL... serving all... Palm Beaches" into news from the Sun Sentinel newspaper. I assume they are owned by that paper? Slogan is "Live 85". New 50kw day/24kw night DA2 authorization. New! (BC-PA)

920 CKNX ON Wingham - 1/18 2350 - "... on country 920 CKNX", followed by Alabama's "Send it on Down the Line". First time visitor surprised me when it managed to squeeze through interference from Providence (?) and moderate slop from WPAT-NJ. Signal fair/good then faded. (MC-NJ)

1030 WQSE TN White Bluff - 1/30 0645 - Southern Gospel music, promo with station ID. (AO-FL)

1060 WKNG GA Tallapoosa - 1/29 1756 - Country music into WKNG sign off and National Anthem. (AO-FL)

1070 WFLI TN Lookout Mtn. - 1/24 1907 - southern gospel and WFLI liners. (AO-FL)

1090 WCZZ SC Greenwood - 1/25 2017 - oldies with "crusin' oldies" liners and TOH ID. (AO-FL)

1130 WQIS SC Camden - 1/27 2355 - Clear call letters 3 times in promo liner—listed as daytimer - cheaters! But it's a new state! (BC-PA)

WLES GA Gainesville - 1/30 1200 - Spanish programming, EE TOH ID, "11-30 WLES, Gainesville, GA". Excellent daytime signal. (RR-NC)

1150 WRUN NY Utica - 1/16 2030 - // WIBX-950. "Blue Velvet" on "Unforgettable Sounds, WIBX 950." (LW-NY)

WCRK TN Morristown - 1/30 1456 - 50s and 60s oldies, "11-50 WCRK, Morristown" ID. (RR-NC)

1170 WAVS FL Davie - 1/27 1834 - Island music, mentions of Sunrise and Miami, with WAVS liners in DJ patter. (AO-FL)

1180 WHAM NY Rochester - 2/1 0006 - CBS Newscast at TOH. Good signal, with slight fading. "When the weather turns bad, turn to Rochester's premier weather station, Newsradio 1180 WHAM." (IEN-GA)

1200 WSML SC Graham - 1/25 2120 - sporting news radio and WSJS 600/1200 liners. (AO-FL)

WKOX MA Framingham - 2/3 1700 - fighting WCHB with top of hour EE ID: "AM 1200 WKOX Framingham-Boston" into SS "noticias Alpha-Omega" (likely a gospel news program). (MKB-ON)

WAGE VA Leesburg - 2/3 1906 - over Ottawa pest with CNN news, ID as "news, talk, sports, WAGE AM 1200 Leesburg" into Sporting News Radio sports talk. (MKB-ON)

1250 WARE MA Ware - 2/1 1653 - alone on east wire with oldies, ID "Providing a half century of service to the Quabog and Pioneer Valley, this is full service radio, the new AM 1250, WARE, Ware... Springfield" into AP News. (JF-ON)

WPRZ VA Warrenton - 2/1 1659 - bubbled up under WARE with end of program "Call WPRZ, 'Praise Radio AM 1250' with any comments at 349-1250". New! (JF-ON)

1290 WNBf NY Binghamton - 1/19 1923 - Binghamton basketball - Binghamton v. Hartford. (LW-NY)

1340 WYBC CT New Haven - 1/12 1815 - Yale basketball on "Yale Radio 1340 WYBC." (LW-NY)

1350 WGPL VA Portsmouth - 1/28 0030 - Black Gospel audible most nights with WOYK phased nulled, finally IDd the suspect with an image liner "your gospel connection" which matches logbook. (BC-PA)

1360 WCHL NC Chapel Hill - 2/5 0900 - Had local 1350 WOYK phase nulled to kill splatter - nice clean TOH ID "WCHL, Chapel Hill". New! (BC-PA)

1420 WVOT NC Wilson - 1/17 0106 - call letters noted during sports talk program. (JR-NY)

WCLV OH Cleveland - 1/23 2127 - "classic pops" music and WCLV IDs. (LW-NY)

1430 WENE NY Endicott - 1/25 1726 - "On sports radio fourteen-thirty The Team." I've been hearing this station every night underneath local WNSW-NJ ever since I started DXing from the Bronx, and have not been able to identify it until now. New. (JV-NY)

1460 WKDV VA Manassas - 1/29 1700 - over nulled CJOY with SS talk including slogan "Radio Universal", EE top of hour "WKDV Manassas" ID. (MKB-ON)

1500 WGHT NJ Pompton Lakes - 1/19 1157 - Tom Jones' "She's a Lady" followed by ID: "North Jersey Radio is WGHT - Pompton Lakes, Paterson, The Lakelands." Cold, sunny weather helped this one come in clear. Usually reception is poor. (MC-NY)

1570 WBGX IL Harvey - 2/5 0151 - "WBGX Gospel Express" IDs during a local preaching program with Rev. Jackson, 708 area code. New with these calls. (JR-NY)

1590 WARV RI Warwick - 1/12 1859 - Briefly on top, with time announcement on "Life Changing Radio WARV." Religious program followed. (LW-NY)

TIS, HAR

1610 WPPG958 NC Carolina Beach - 1/28 1412 - female announcer with visitor information for Carolina Beach, beach rules, and phone numbers to call for information. Surprisingly good signal for daytime at 59 miles. (MH-NC)

1620 WPSF938 NC Surf City - 1/28 1438 - male announcer with fire warning information for Pender County; ID only twice in 15 minutes; phone numbers and person to contact for information. Interspersed during announcement was a rebroadcast of National Weather Service station, KEC84 (New Bern, NC). As with 1610-WPPG958, an unusually good daytime signal level at 25 miles. (MH-NC)

International DX Digest

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

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

Pan-American DX

- 580 **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** Montecristi JAN 13 2336 - "Radio Montecristi" ID and lively Latin American music. [Chernos-ON]
- 620 **CUBA** CMGN *R. Rebelde*, Colón JAN 14 2037 - Live sports (probably baseball) with *R. Rebelde* IDs and parallel 670 and 1180 kHz. [Chernos-ON]
- 700 **JAMAICA** RJR Hague JAN 13 2035 - Presumed with Jamaican-accented English. New. [Chernos-ON]
- 840 **CUBA** *Doblevé*, Santa Clara JAN 14 2200 - Several mentions of Cuba in live sports. Later, when game over, mentions Habana. [Chernos-ON]
- 960 **MEXICO** XEFAMA *La Fama*, Cd. Camargo, Chih JAN 24 0443-0530 - Found two Mexican stations battling a U.S. outlet, both Mexicans with music. At 0458, part of ID heard "FAM... 24 horas del día... 4—052—... La Fama." The other station was unidentified, but music on neither station sounded like what I've heard before on XEK. + JAN 30 0359:50 - "XEFAMA, Radio 960 La Fama, 960 kilohertz amplitud modulada, transmitiendo las 24 horas del día... (address), Correo Centro (more address) ...wats de potencia, teléfono 4 62 05 27... 4 61 56 20 (first number solid, second probably partial)... La Fama," and more. This time, XEFAMA was about even with the domestic station and no sign of the second Mexican. The first is the same phone number as ex-XECC, but the studio address is different. I note via *Corazón DX* that John Wilkins read the power as 10 mil wats. I think it's using 10 kW at night rather than listed 100-watt night power. [Callarman-TX]
- 1030 **MEXICO** XEMPM *R. Fama*, Los Mochis, Sin FEB 1 0317-0335 - At last this one was in reasonably well during music programming rather than its usual sports play-by-play. It was running up-and-down with two other Spanish-speakers, one doing music and the other doing talk programming. Heard "Ke Buena" slogan from the other music station (which I've got taped ID last month as XELJ, Lagos del Moreno) and at 0333:30 I was finally rewarded with XEMPM call letter ID. It was difficult to pull the full, lengthy ID out, but I'll try to transcribe it later. I do not know if the talk programming was from unneeded XEQR *R. Centro* this night, but I would like to find XEYC, the *R. Fórmula* outlet in Cd. Juárez, some night when it's doing local ID. [Callarman-TX]
- 1330 **MEXICO** XEAJ *Trece-Treinta Radio*, Saltillo, Coah JAN 27 0341-0404 - I'm bound and determined to get a full taped ID on XEWQ as well as XEAJ after getting fragmentary logs earlier this year on both. XEWQ used to be dominant with XEAJ heard occasionally, but more recently, this frequency at night has become a three-way dog fight with equal up-and-down signals from the two Coahuila stations and KFJ. XEWQ plays a fairly steady diet of ranchera music while XEAJ plays a more esoteric bag, with rock, Mexican hip-hop and one female vocal that seemed to have Chinese-like instrumentation. At 0401 XEAJ came up with partial ID preceded and followed by time and temperature in this format: Woman: "Son las diez con uno." Man: temperature once grados centigrado," then "Exitos (a couple of indistinguishable words) Trece-Treinta Radio, cinco mil wats de potencia... Colonia Universidad, Saltillo, Coahila (strange talk in weird voice)." Unless the call letters were contained in the latter, I still need them. I think there is more to the new slogan, but it is no longer "Radio Bonita," as listed, and the 5 kW power is an increase from listed 2 kW. [Callarman-TX]
- 1450 **MEXICO** XECU *R. Ranchito*, Los Mochis, Sin FEB 1 0359-0402 - Heard an XE call (couldn't get the next letters) at 0359:30, then short ranchero theme and slow, dramatic full ID followed, though I could not pick out much of it. The male announcer did announce the call letters XECU slowly and proudly and then, after a few words, spelled out XEORF. This leads me to believe that when I heard the XEORF call in Chandler, Arizona, in December, just at tune in but before I could get the tape turned on, it was the second part of the ID announcement. I am guessing that, like the XEPQ-XEYJ-etc. chain, this outfit from time to time mentions its affiliates' calls. XECU remains listed on 1450, XEORF on 950 in all lists. It would be helpful if someone closer to Los Mochis could tape this guy during an ID so we could see if my latest guess on this one is correct? At any rate, I think I'm safe now in claiming XECU as a definite log. 10 kW at 874 air miles from Krum. [Callarman-TX]
- 1560 **MEXICO** XEJPV *R. Vida*, Cd. Juárez, Chih JAN 31 0358-0401 - I've been checking top-of-the-

hour periodically to get full ID on tape, finally connected at 0400 this night, after raucous gospel medley in Spanish, then continued with another gospel music program. (I haven't yet transcribed the ID.) Appeared to be another Spanish-speaker there, but I have also heard on other nights an Asian language station, probably the one in the Houston area, among the jumble here. [Callarman-TX]

John speaks: I need to do some sunrise DX. I'd like to get XEETCH on its new 700 frequency. Tonight (FEB 1 0157) I heard again the "Radio Mexicana" slogan between otherwise segued songs. XELX in Zitácuaro remains the best bet for those still needing Michoacan, and at 1020 at 0351-0354 I had fairly good signal with slow, romantic tune, the "Radio Centro" jingle, then another similar tune. XEKH remains the best bet for those still needing Querétaro. There are a couple of other Mexican targets on this frequency when KDKA can be nulled and the Oklahoma station is a non factor. I've never heard Roswell in Krum.

Contributors

John Callarman KA9SPA, Krum TX; NRD-525 and RS Loop.
<JohnCallarman@msn.com>
Saul Chernos, Burnt River ON; Sangean AT5909 with Radio Shack loop and east-west 1000-ft longwire.
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International News

DJIBOUTI: On 3 Feb at 2130 on 1431 kHz the dominating station is *R. Sawa*. I checked some *R. Sawa* frequencies on SW and MW but didn't find any parallel stream. Possibly this is the new Djibouti station. [Jari Savolainen, Kuusankoski, Finland, via Mark Connelly, HCDX]

MEXICO: "I just got a communication from the CE at XEROK, who is also the CCU CE in El Paso. He says 800 XEROK had a bad ATU, and never replaced it. They are doing that right now, and will be back at 150 kW by the end of February using three Harris Destiny 50's in parallel... 51 amps of antenna current!" [David Eduardo, via Robert Foxworth, am@nrcdxas.org]

73 and Good DX!

DX'er's Notebook

Shared tips, topics, and Internet info

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WFOY

You may remember that in December I included a request from Paul Courson looking for information on past verifications of WFOY-1240. In late January I received this update from Paul:

Dave, I wanted to give you an update after you were so kind as to pass along to your readers my request for verification letters of reception of WFOY, 1240Kc, from its old location next to the Fountain of Youth in St. Augustine, Florida. Thanks to your mention in the Nov. 8, 2003 issue of the *DX'er's Notebook*, I have received four such letters dating back nearly 40 years, and spanning a distance from Canada to the United Kingdom. Not bad for a 250 watt "graveyard" station! You folks have good ears.

As I noted in my original request, we have rescued their old transmitter, a 1951 Collins 300-G, and it is now at a museum in the Maryland-D.C. area. In December, we illuminated the transmitter ceremoniously for an annual ham radio event known as the "Heavy Metal Rally," featuring transmitters like this that weigh at least 250 pounds and produce power of at least 250 watts. In the final days before the operating event, we had a bit more work to do before the old Collins could be fully on the air, but we did operate with its little sister, another Collins, model 32V2.

We applied for and received a special call sign, W3R, for operation from the museum on the short-wave ham bands, and there is now a website, logbook, profile, and photographs of the station that you and your readers might enjoy seeing.

HtmlResAnchor <http://www.qrz.com/callsign/W3R?>

Wintertime is prime, no-static season to hear the "tall ships" running AM on our 160 meter ham band, just above the Standard Broadcast band. We can be heard running vintage BC transmitters and other high quality AM stations around 1885Kc, 1925Kc, and 1945Kc. Please give us a listen.

TAPING DX

Many DXers have been taping their DX for quite some time...some to use the tapes as a form of verification, some to be able to replay their tape to try to squeeze something identifiable out of the mess that is the AM band in the early 21st century, and some to be able to DX through a period of time

12 when they would normally not be awake or available to do so. A group of DXers on the listserv are taping a certain frequency throughout the night each hour from approximately :58 until 1:07 (my best listening periods for identifiable information, others modify the start or ending time). This allows the DXer to play back these tapes at a more convenient time to ascertain what, if anything, was heard. It also allows some to "clean up" the tapes using various audio programs to try to get the best audio possible, in an effort to ID that station that couldn't be made out clearly in the spur of the moment. Beginning with this column, we'll take a look at several methods and computer programs that are used in these efforts through discussions on the listserv over the last few months.

Tom Kenny, NJ2DX <nj2dx@yahoo.com>

Hello All, I've gotten back to doing some AM DXing. I used to do such back in the 70s...I purchased Total Recorder and have been thinking of setting up some overnight recordings at the TOH to catch IDs. I was thinking TOH is probably about 5 minutes before and after the hour but thought maybe it doesn't need to be that broad.

Is there any regulations about how close to the TOH a station should ID. Maybe there isn't such a rule just that they ID at least once an hour any time within the hour. Any way any advise on the best timeframe to catch IDs would be appreciated.

Les Rayburn, N1LE, Birmingham, AL <les@highnoonfilm.com>

Tom, Welcome back to a great hobby! I've been using Total Recorder for the past two years, and it's really increased my enjoyment of the hobby. At first I recorded about four minutes before and after the TOH, but that resulted in some very large file sizes. Since then I've narrowed this to about two minutes before and after. Without a doubt, I miss some ID's but this seems to catch the majority of them.

I find most stations, especially syndicated ones, tend to ID very near to their newsbreaks. I'd imagine that 80% of all my loggings take place within 30 seconds of the TOH.

I also use a free program called "Nyst Time" to automatically sync my PC clock with the Naval Observatory, several times each day. This keeps me in time with the stations. Obviously I've got a high speed Internet connection in the shack. Another piece of freeware you may want to look at is called "Silent Bob".

Doug Smith, W9WI, Pleasant View, TN <w9wi@earthlink.net>
From 47CFR73.1201(a):

"Broadcast station identification announcements shall be made:

- (1) At the beginning and ending of each time of operation, and
- (2) hourly, as close to the hour as feasible, at a natural break in program offerings."

(1) means that you are to ID every time you sign on and sign off. Of course the many stations that operate 24/7 *never* sign on or off so (1) doesn't apply to them!

Some stations seem to interpret (2) as indicating you can ID as much as 20 minutes before/after the hour. Luckily most of the worst offenders are FM. (luckily, unless like me you DX FM too<grin>!)

My TR recordings run from 30 seconds before the hour to 30 seconds after. I *have* missed an ID or two from stations that ID more than 30 seconds from the hour, but I've found it a reasonable compromise against having to spend more time reviewing the recordings. If you have more time to listen, you may want to record a wider window.

You may also want to consider the accuracy (and stability) of your computer's clock. What your computer thinks is 7:00:00PM and what the National Bureau of Standards thinks is 7:00:00PM may be very different<grin>. I recommend using automatic time setting software on the computer Total Recorder is installed on. If you have Windows XP, it's built into the operating system. Recording a wider window will compensate for modest errors in clock settings.

Bruce Winkelman, AA5CO, Tulsa, OK <bdwink@cox.net>

Hi, Tom. I've used Total Recorder to record from 0:58 to 0:07 across the TOH with some success. One of my DXing interests is the Mexicans and I have found a number of the XE's ID at around 0:02 after the hour. I record until 0:07 in hopes of catching some local information (ads, local news and weather etc.) after network news ending at 0:05 that could help with an ID.

Doug Smith, W9WI, Pleasant View, TN <w9wi@earthlink.net>

Les brings up a good point about file sizes. You can compensate to some degree by being sure you're recording in mono, and by selecting a lower data rate. (I tried 8KHz for awhile but that's too low-fi for my tastes) In theory you can install MP3 or OggVorbis compression plug-ins but I've had trouble making compressed recordings through the scheduler.

I use "AboutTime" (<http://www.arachnoid.com>). It tolerates dialup connections, setting the clock whenever it's able to find the time servers. It does unfortunately have the annoying habit of opening its configuration file in Notepad every time the computer boots!

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

Charles Hutton <charlesh3@msn.com>

Doug: I've used TR with scheduled mp3 recordings with no trouble other than the slightly non-intuitive user interface. Perhaps it's a configuration thing - if you want to send your exact settings, I'd plug them into my system.

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

I started running:55 to:05; then moved to:58 to:06, and I'm now going to expand that to:07. I rarely hear ID's prior to:58, but have just missed some at:06.

I use mp3 with the lame codec, 32kbit, 32 kHz yielding about 1.875 megabytes for 8 minutes, which is entirely manageable because I only save clips form within those.

Tom Kenny, NJ2DX <nj2dx@yahoo.com>

Thanks for all the feedback. Looks like:55 -:05 may not be the best. From all your advise I'm thinking of moving to:57 -:07 as my TOH schedule in Total Recorder.

Right now I'm not too worried about the size of the audio files, however I did find that I spent a fair amount of time converting the WAV files into MP3 so I could put the files on a USB drive to bring to work so I can listen to them during lunch time... To avoid having to do the conversion I'll look into how to get TR to record to MP3 format rather than WAV.

Regarding other software I do use TrueTime WinSync which keeps my computer (with cable modem) within a second or so of accurate time!

Not sure what Silent Bob would do for me that TR isn't already doing. However since TR has great scheduling capability I'd like to be able to QSY (change frequency) my ICOM radio. I did a search on the web for a DOS ICOM frequency change program but couldn't find any thing. I'd love to be able to monitor a certain frequency through out the night but also QSY for the WRIB test and then back to my main target frequency. Heck maybe I'd even load up the schedule with some of my favorite SW programs and record them off the air as well. I might have to write a simple visual basic program to do this if nobody knows of any software that I can integrate with TR's scheduling.

Thanks again for all the advice. TR will certainly add enjoyment beyond my live monitoring time.

Les Rayburn, N1LE, Birmingham, AL <les@highnoonfilm.com>

Many of us use the Total Recorder software for automated recording of TOH ID's, etc. They've just announced the release of edition 4.1 which now supports Ogg Vorbis compression resulting in much smaller files, and also has a visual representation of the sound file-which allows you to literally "see" the file.

This is a very useful feature, has it visibly shows things like "fades" and program changes such as a switch from music to voice, just by looking at the waveform.

There is also a new feature called "split" which allows you to record and then "split" the audio on the fly into a new file. This is handy for attended monitoring sessions.

Complete details are available at: http://www.highcriteria.com/press_rel_TR41.htm

Chris Black, Cape Cod, MA <n1cp@comcast.net>

I am using version 4.4. Although I have not mastered most of the features, I am very pleased with it so far. One quick question. What is the best format to use for recording AM radio without creating unnecessarily large files? There are so many to choose from it is a bit intimidating.

Adam Myrow <amyrow@midssouth.rr.com>

I'd say that MP3 and OGG Vorbis are the two main formats out their. MP3 has the advantage of working on many portable players, but IMHO, OGG Vorbis provides better sound quality for a similar file size. How good the recordings sound depends on both the sampling rate and compression used. I do my recordings at 22050 HZ 16-bit mono and compress with OGG Vorbis at what it calls Quality 5. That usually runs between 48 and 56 KBPS, depending on the source. Vorbis is a variable bitrate encoder, so a source with a lot of noise will tend to encode at a slightly higher bitrate overall than one where the signal is pounding in. The difference is usually negligible. With this format, a 3-minute audio clip is about 1.2 MB in size and I can't tell the difference from the original.

Les Rayburn, N1LE, Birmingham, AL <les@highnoonfilm.com>

While we're on the subject of Total Recorder; I like to record high quality.wav files (sometimes I use noise reduction software to help recover ID's) but I also like to convert these to.MP3 and move them to a USB Flash Keychain drive to review at work.

Currently, I have to open these files one at a time and then convert it to.MP3. Is anyone aware of a good and hopefully, free piece of software that will batch convert.wav to.mp3?

Håkan Sundman, Helsinki, Finland <hsundman@kolumbus.fi>

"Acoustica MP3 to Wave Converter Plus" might be what you are looking for. See www.acoustica.com. It works both way, also batch convert.

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Pete Dernbach, Manchester, MO <walace2fan@earthlink.net>
Try Cdex, <http://cdexos.sourceforge.net/>. It's open source and free. I used it to turn my CDs in to MP3s.

To convert a batch of files from your hard drive you will need to select the group, more than one, but not continuous - ctrl+left mouse button or everything on the list between two files - shift+left mouse button, Then drag them into the program.

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

Anyone know if there's an inexpensive and not-overly-complex piece of software which will allow equalization of an mp3 file and also allow you to save the end result as a new file? I've been using the "Amazing Slow Downer" touted in the article last Spring on high-tech DX, but it is only for playback - changes can't be saved. I really don't want to get into the complexity or expense of something like Cool Edit (which is now part of the Adobe line).

Dave Gardiner, Chester, PA <DG02816@aol.com>

Russ...Try RipEditBurn from Blaze Audio...it's 39.95 and does EQ'ing. www.blazeaudio.com

Les Rayburn, N1LE, Birmingham, AL <les@highnoonfilm.com>

Russ asked about using software to process recorded audio. Fortunately, in my line of work I have access to some great software, including a program called Sound Forge 7.0.

It's the industry standard for noise reduction, and we use it often to help clean up the dialogue that we record during filming. The program supports a variety of plug-ins, including one called "Noise Reduction 2.0". I use this plug in often to clean up clips.

There are also built in plug-ins using Direct X including one called "Time Stretch" that works like the "Amazing Slow Downer" on steroids. The best part is that any changes to the file can be previewed first, and then saved. You can even do multiple steps of "UNDO" should you make a mistake.

The software is expensive, selling for a little over \$400 bucks with the Noise Reduction add on, but I see it often on ebay for half that. Also, I have used versions of this software all the way back to version 4.0...all would work fine for cleaning up AM noise. Older versions of the software sell on ebay for less than \$50 bucks sometimes. Just try to get the Noise Reduction 2.0 plug in to go with it.

An important thing to keep in mind with any digital editing is "garbage in-garbage out". Even doing simple things like boosting the volume level of a clip, or adding EQ also add noise to the digital file. If you start out with a small, highly compressed file to begin with, these changes will quickly add distortion to the clip you're trying to improve.

Since I end up processing a lot of my clips, I've decided to record them in Total Recorder at the highest possible quality level. 48khz at 16 bits in mono. This results in large file sizes but also gives me the lowest possible noise floor to work with. I save the final clips as.mp3 files and then archive them on my hard drive (backed up to CD-ROM about twice a year).

Keep in mind that in the film industry, we record nearly all our audio now at an even higher rate of 96khz with 24 bits. This is considered the de-facto standard now...with 128khz just around the corner. A good, easy to understand article to explain all this is on the Total Recorder web site at:

www.highcriteria.com. Click on the link to "Primer on PC Audio".

Everyone who uses a PC to record their catches should have at least a basic understanding of the effects of compression and processing on intelligibility of human speech.

We all know how easy it is to mistake a "C" sound for a "B" sound for instance. Manipulating digital files correctly can make this an easier task, but you also run the risk of adding noise and compression artifacts that will only confuse the issue more.

I do think that new tools like these are an "arrow in the quiver" for modern DX'ers. While we suffer from band crowding, IBOC and the like...we also have tools that DX'ers would have killed for in the past. Imagine if you'd have had this mailing list, cellular phone DX tips, Internet station look ups, Real Audio Streaming of station audio, etc. in the 50's or 60's.

Sound processing software can go a long way towards combating some of the problems we now face. BTW, for those who don't want to fool with any of this, I'm happy to try to "clean up" clips. Just send me the highest possible quality you have...and I'll see what I can do.

Mark Durenberger <Mark4@durenberger.com>

Les is correct; it's the greatest! A word of caution, however, if you try to buy this used on E-bay: you may have trouble using it on a different computer than the computer(s) owned and registered by the original purchaser. Beware! The best bet is to buy it yourself...though it may cost more than \$400 when NR2 is included.

<http://mediasoftware.sonypictures.com/>

Randy Stewart, Springfield MO <jrs555t@smsu.edu>

For what it's worth, Sound Forge & Vegas are the preferred digital production/editing software here at KSMU.

We'll have more on this topic next time...

Musings

of the Members

Thoughts from NRC members ... the opinions expressed in this column are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors, publishers, or the National Radio Club, Inc.

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

Here is the official NRC column which comes in from the outside once a week! When sending your items in, please keep them radio and DX related; trips to the grocery store won't be accepted. And here we go:

Perry Crabill, 225 Milam Drive, Winchester, VA, 22602, w3hqx@arrl.net

I have just discovered the AM-DX.COM Western Hemisphere List on the Internet and wish that I had heard about it earlier. Perhaps it's one of those things that everyone else knew about except me. Among other things, it lists all hemisphere countries by frequency, including those in South America; also, it lists the US and Mexico by state and Canada by province, along with the other countries individually. I especially appreciate having the listing by states. The site is at <<http://www.am-dx.com/fcclist.htm>>. Harry Helms in DDXD-West has been mentioning the possibility of daytime skywave propagation DX during the winter. This reminded me that Jeff Kitzke has told me that when he was living in Rochester, NY, years ago, he could hear KFI in the afternoon at 4 o'clock. Does anyone else have any history of daytime loggings of that nature to report? In fact, does anyone on the East Coast ever log KFI at night these days? Some of my investments in the stock market have turned sour in recent years. After reading in AM Switch about stations raising their power to 50 kilowatts and/or adding towers to increase their coverage, I wonder if I should be investing in companies that sell high-power transmitters and antenna arrays. Then, too, there are a number of stations creating different sites for day and night operation; this must also be good business for those manufacturers.

Jerry Starr - Hubbard OH jerry@nrcdxas.org

Hello all. Time for my once-every-five-year Musing. The NAB at its winter meeting unanimously decided that the "dramatically improved audio quality" of AM IBOC far outweighs the potential for reducing coverage of adjacent frequency stations and is requesting the FCC to permit nighttime AM IBOC. So DX while you still can. Locally WGRP-940, silent for a year, has returned to the air with a sporadic schedule. This long time family owned hometown operation was sold several years ago and the new owners were promptly slapped with a \$15,000 FCC fine for violations of the tower lighting, marking and registration rules. Obviously the new owners were primarily interested in acquiring their FM station WEXC and in January 2003 took the AM silent. Now it would appear they have a LMA with the new owners of WMVL-FM (101.7) in Linesville, PA to time broker the 940 facility. Over the past few weeks 940 has been on with first a simulcast of 101.7, then a CD player tracking cuts and a bizarre mix of rap, Christian rock and '80's oldies with occasional announcements that the "new WGRP is coming, stay tuned for details". The past two days they have been off the air again so who knows what is going on here. We're getting ready to head south for our NASCAR activities and to get away from what has been the 4th snowiest winter on record here in Trumbull County, OH, will be monitoring on the way and will report anything unusual. 73 de starr

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

Gee, with a report from Jerry, I'm wondering if one will turn up now from RON MUSCO (Mr. Tact) and even ALAN MERRIMAN? While in NJ on 2/5, listening to WGHT-1500, at 2:22PM, they mentioned "now some adjustment time" and signed off for about 10 minutes! I was just below Harriman NY at the time; WTOP was at a fair level. So you never know when your local might be going off for some adjustments. If anyone is still in need of tubes, please let me know; I still have sources for getting them. New members, MUSINGS is a GREAT column for you to send along your introduction to the club, we'd appreciate hearing from you too! And GOOD LUCK to BRUCE COLLIER with his new position at WHYL-960.

Promote the NRC and DX News and help us grow!

Planning to attend a DX or hobby gathering? Why not include DX News in your plans? Upon request, we'll send you a packet of up to 50 recent DXN's to be given free to attendees. Just send a postcard to NRC - P. O. Box 5711 - Topeka, KS 66605, or e-mail <pls@nrcdxas.org>. Packets are sent by Media Mail rate, so please allow 10-15 days for delivery. Help keep the NRC on the grow!