

DX News

• Serving DX'ers since 1933 •



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From the Publisher: Thanks to Wayne Heinen and James Niven, the archive of scanned *DX News* issues on www.e-dxn.com has been steadily expanding. And with more volumes now available, "DX Time Machine" can now expand to include a 75-year anniversary segment. Our first installment might be entitled "Plus ça change . . ."

Also in this week's issue is the 2009-2010 NRC Treasurer's report, courtesy of Dick Truax. And a review of the latest Tecsun Ultralight that many will find of interest.

Please note that, with the transfer of DXAS audio subscription duties from Fred in Lima to Wayne in Aurora, ALL subscription, delivery, and publication ordering now runs through the P.O. Box in Aurora. No need to write separate checks, send separate letters, etc., - it's all a one-stop shop! The back page now hopefully reflects this all properly - so everything you need should be there!

One more issue, then we skip a week - so your editors have the Friday after the masthead date off!

Editor Needed: The DX Audio Service - the audio wing of the NRC - is looking for someone to read AM SWITCH. Volunteer should have the ability to record to MP3 and e-mail/FTP for publication, and have a semi-professional microphone & system for recording. Straight reading, no production. Column needs to be recorded on the 15th of the month. Please contact Fred Vobbe at 706 Mackenzie Dr, Lima OH 45805. w8hdu@hf-antenna.com. 419-228-8835 (work).

DX News Publishing Schedule, Vol. 78

Deadline	Masthead	21	Feb. 18	Feb. 28
12 Dec. 10	Dec. 20	22	Feb. 25	Mar. 7
13 Dec. 26	Jan. 3	23	Mar. 4	Mar. 14
14 Dec. 31	Jan. 10	24	Mar. 18	Mar. 28
15 Jan. 7	Jan. 17	25	Apr. 1	Apr. 11
16 Jan. 14	Jan. 24	26	Apr. 22	May 2
17 Jan. 21	Jan. 31	27	May 27	June 6
18 Jan. 28	Feb. 7	28	July 1	July 11
19 Feb. 4	Feb. 14	29	Aug. 5	Aug. 15
20 Feb. 11	Feb. 21	30	Sept. 9	Sept. 19

DX Time Machine

75 years ago ... from the December 15, 1935 DX News: The new Canadian government is contemplating abolishing the CRC and replacing the \$2.00 levy on radio receivers with a tax on radio tubes; the NRC's Board of Directors met to discuss the subject: "How we might do something to eliminate the interference the 'All Nighters' are giving us."

50 years ago ... from the December 10, 1960 DX News: Alan Merriman of Alexandria, VA reported the new British Honduras Broadcasting Service station on 830 kc/s.

25 years ago ... from the December 9, 1985 DX News: Bob Hoffman of Ocean City NJ was selling a Martens loop for \$85 as "new, unused, the last Martens loop imported by Paul Swearingen."

10 years ago ... from the December 11, 2000 DX News: The Rev. Jim Renfrew, IDXD editor, detailed the sins of contributors who fail to follow proper formatting, but promised forgiveness to those who do follow proper formatting.

NRC AM Radio Log, 31st Edition

Updated for the 2010-11 DX Season



The Log is unbound and three-hole punched for standard binders.

Price: To the United States, \$19.95 to members, \$25.95 to non-members

To Canada, \$24 to members, \$33.50 to non-members; add \$3.50 for

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CO residents add 3.5% sales tax.

AM Switch



Bill Hale w_r_hale@sbcglobal.net

6124 Roaring Springs Drive

North Richland Hills, TX 76180-5552

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

CALL LETTER CHANGES

Old Call

None this week.

New Call

CPs ON THE AIR

1460 KHOJ MO St. Charles – Is now on the air with U4 5000/210.

ACTIONS

1020 CKVH AB High Prairie – Is silent, as their programming is now on CKVH-FM 93.5 MHZ.

1240 KRJY CA Sacramento – Is operating under a Special Temporary Authorization with U1 250/250 as they have lost the use of their transmitter site are operating from a 200' long wire antenna oriented SSE to NNW.

1440 KMAJ KS Topeka – Coordinate correction to 39-01-07/95-34-22.

1490 KRSN NM Los Alamos – CP granted for U1 1000/1000 (no change) from a new tower utilizing a folded unipole antenna at 35-53-38/106-17-35. They have been operating from a temporary site under an STA since 2006.

1490 WAZZ NC Fayetteville – Coordinate correction to 35-04-06/78-54-09.

APPLICATIONS

740 KBRT CA Avalon – Applies for D3 50000/191 moving to the former site of KPLS-830 at 33-21-36/118-22-18 and building four new towers.

AM on FM

740 WNOP KY Newport – WNOP-FM 89.5 Versailles, Indiana and WHSS 89.5 Hamilton, Ohio

DISMISSALS

1240 ----- CO Carbondale - Application for a new station

1350 ----- PA Geistown - Application for a new station

1450 ----- NV Tonopah - Application for a new station

1580 ----- CA San Luis Obispo - Application for a new station

LICENSE CANCELLATIONS/CALL LETTERS DELETED

1290 WCFI FL Ocala - License cancelled; call deleted [had been silent since 2004]

1320 KEWA HI Ewa Beach - CP for a new station cancelled; call deleted

1360 WMFC AL Monroeville - License cancelled; call deleted

HEAR AND THAR

✿ **Returning to the airwaves: WLVE-610 Winchester, Virginia** (see item below); **WASP-1130 Brownsville, Pennsylvania.**

✿ **News of interest from Perry Crabill** – “After reading in DXN about WLVE-610 airing in Winchester, VA, I listened for it for several days, with no results. I thought it strange because I live just outside Winchester. I finally called the local Clear Channel office and talked to Mark Kesner, their engineer. He confirmed the idea that the brief on-the-air operation with an STA was to keep the license valid. Clear Channel has no plans to put the channel back on the air on a permanent basis, but need to retain the license long enough to facilitate its sale to interested parties.”

✿ **Fines: \$10,000 assessed to WQOR-750 Olyphant, Pennsylvania** for failing to maintain a management/staff presence at their main studio.

✿ **Thanks to Shawn Axelrod, (the aforementioned) Perry Crabill and Wayne Heinen.**

GRAVEYARD DX ACHIEVEMENTS – UPDATE

+ record held by a DXer in USA/Canada where a Canada/USA record exceeds that mileage

1230 kHz

<u>Station</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>DXer</u>	<u>DX Location</u>	<u>Miles</u>
WABN VA	Abingdon	Kraig Krist	Manassas, VA	+282
KDYM WA	Sunnyside	Ron Schiller	Coeur d'Alene, ID	180

1340 kHz

<u>Station</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>DXer</u>	<u>DX Location</u>	<u>Miles</u>
KYLT MT	Missoula	Ron Schiller	Coeur d'Alene, ID	+142

1450 kHz

<u>Station</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>DXer</u>	<u>DX Location</u>	<u>Miles</u>
KEZJ ID	Twin Falls	Ron Schiller	Coeur d'Alene, ID	+372

***Domestic DX* Jim Tedford** Radio_Enthusiast@hotmail.com
Digest – West 20310 Bothell-Everett Highway B4
 Bothell, WA 98012-8133

U.S./Canadian Loggings from Pacific/Mtn/Central Time Zones. All times ELT.

Reporters

JDS-MN	Jeff Steffes, Watertown, MN	Kenwood R-2000, Quantum QX Loop
JW-CO	John Wilkins, Wheat Ridge, CO	Drake R-8, 4-foot box loop.
RS-ID	Ron Schiller, Coeur d'Alene, ID	Palstar R30, Quantum Loop and Grundig 350, Kia Soul car radio.
SP-WI	Sheryl Paszkiewicz, Manitowoc, WI	Grundig Satellit 800 with internal antenna.
WH-CO	Wayne Heinen, Aurora.	Kiwa Loop Drake R8B, E/W Flag, N/S Flag, Dual TG-1 Termination Gizmo w/DX Engineering RPA-1 preamp and Mini DXP5.

Station News

1450 KBBS WY **Buffalo** – 11/17 0100 – Out of what sounded like C&W (a switch from listed OLD) music "You're listening to 1450 AM KBBS Buffalo Wyoming and Big Horn Mountain Radio Network" to ABC News. A call to the station confirms they are now running a Classic Country music format. (WH-CO)

DX Logs (All Times ELT)

660 KTNN AZ **Window Rock** – 11/23 2300 – Out of C&W music "KTNN AM 660 Window Rock" to CNN News mixing with one or more XE's. (WH-CO)

670 WSCR IL **Chicago** – 11/22 2106 – Out of Monday night football "You're listening to... SportsRadio 670 WSCR Chicago" this in phase null of local KLTT. (WH-CO)

740 KRMG OK **Tulsa** – 11/27 0721 – Commercials; Lake Country Chevrolet, Go to Meeting dot com and Rush Limbaugh on AM 740 and 102.4 FM, into Station ID: "Six-Twenty-Three KRMG." (JDS-MN)

750 WNDZ IN **Portage** – 11/27 0730 – Sign on for the day with female voice "Good morning this is WNDZ Chicago, Portage, broadcasting...followed by Spanish music?" (JDS-MN)

760 WJR MI **Detroit** – 11/27 0737 – Two male announcers discussing college football scores and highlights, into commercials with refs to Michigan, followed by "News talk Seven-Sixty WJR." (JDS-MN)

780 WBBM IL **Chicago** – 11/27 0752 – "Chicago's only source for news WBBM" followed by talk about the upcoming Chicago Bears game, followed by "WBBM news time Six-Fifty-Four." (JDS-MN)

KKOH NV **Reno** – 11/26 1859 – Local ad, then legal ID a few seconds past ToH: "On air, on line, on demand – this is NewsTalk 780 KKOH Reno and kkoh.com"; ABC news followed. Fair/good with WBBM partially nulled. (JW-CO)

- 800 **WDUX WI Waupaca** – 11/27 0807 – Songs; Bobbie Sue, The Oak Ridge Boys, I Walk the Line, Johnny Cash, into Station ID: “AM 800 WDUX.” **(JDS-MN)**
- 810 **WHB MO Kansas City** – 11/27 0818 – Talk about NASCAR and ASA stock car racing in Kansas City, into “You’re listening to the racing boys on Eight-Ten WHB.” **(JDS-MN)**
- 850 **WWJC MN Duluth** – 11/27 0835 – Contemporary Christian music, into Station ID: “AM 850 WWJC, The Light.” **(JDS-MN)**
- 880 **KRVN NE Lexington** – 11/27 0900 – ToH “Eight-Eighty KRVN Lexington Nebraska, It’s Eight O’ Clock” into national news. **(JDS-MN)**
- WMEQ WI Menominee** – 11/27 0857 – Commercial for JC Penney in Menominee, into “Rush Limbaugh from eleven till two on WMEQ.” **(JDS-MN)**
- 900 **KKRT WA Wenatchee** – 11/30 1128 – Washington National Guard spot; briefly atop CKBI, heard before here. **(RS-ID)**
- 910 **KJJQ SD Volga** – 11/28 0756 – Country song by male artist, followed by “Where the country classics live, KJJQ, Volga, Brookings, is The Ranch 910 AM.” **(JDS-MN)**
- 960 **CFAC AB Calgary** – 11/28 0813 – Station ID: “The Fan Nine-Sixty, Calgary’s Sports Radio” followed by The John Kincaid Show. **(JDS-MN)**
- 990 **CBW MB Winnipeg** – 11/28 0827 – Unknown song into “Those are the Weepy’s. This is the weekend morning show, I’m Karen Sanders. Temperature in Winnipeg is minus twelve going to minus three. It’s half past the hour.” Followed by news. **(JDS-MN)**
- 1160 **WCRT TN Donelson** – 11/28 1658 – Religion, ID, Bott R Net promos. **(SP-WI)**
- 1170 **KFAQ OK Tulsa** – 11/28 1704 – Cowboys basketball, Oklahoma promos; not common anymore but used to hear KVOO all the time. **(SP-WI)**
- 1220 **WHKW OH Cleveland** – 11/28 2127 – Talk program, phone number, ads, ID, Focus on Family ad. **(SP-WI)**
- 1230 **KKPC CO Pueblo** – 11/15 0758 – Mentions of Colorado Public radio and some program notes “KKPC Pueblo” and CPR programming. **(WH-CO)**
- KFUN NM Las Vegas** – 11/15 0305 – Out of local weather forecast “AM 1230 KFUN Las Vegas” into C&W music. **(WH-CO)**
- CJNL BC Merritt** – 11/30 1100 – Canadian News and weather, several mentions of PM Stephen Harper, tough copy under local KSBN, Spokane but very welcome! **(RS-ID)**
- 1240 **KAMQ NM Carlsbad** – 11/16 0500 – “KAMQ AM 1240 The Sports Authority” to ESPN programing. **(WH-CO)**
- 1260 **KDUZ MN Hutchinson** – 11/14 0758 – “... tune in to On the House Monday through Friday at 7:20 right here on Hometown radio KDUX your information station” Up briefly for **Newbie #8** this season. Taped for the collection too! **(WH-CO)**
- 1319.96 **KCLI OK Clinton** – 11/30 0659 – Legal ID by man: “The Voice of western Oklahoma, KCLI AM and FM Clinton-Cordell.” Not sure what followed. Fair at best in QRM. **(JW-CO)**
- 1320 **KAWC AZ Yuma** – 11/29 0958 – Gal with “KAWC Yuma” ID and weather forecast. Not very strong (730 watts) but fairly clear, since much of the eastern QRM had faded away. **(JW-CO)**
- KLWN KS Lawrence** – 11/30 0752 – Station promo and program notes; ID as “The news and talk of Lawrence – 1320 KLWN, radio you can depend on”; local spots followed. Fair/poor. **(JW-CO)**
- WILS MI Lansing** – 11/29 0733 – Up & down with news, weather, typical wake-up fare; mention of wils.com and “More compelling talk radio WILS” ID’s. Generally poor in the pileup. First log of WILS this season. **(JW-CO)**
- KOLT NE Scottsbluff** – 11/29 0859 – Male voice with legal ID at 0859:50: “The news on The Bluff is on 1320 KOLT Scottsbluff”; Fox news followed. Generally fair but fadey. **(JW-CO)**
- KHRT ND Minot** – 11/29 0829 – Soft religious music; male announcer at 0831 with “We are 1320 KHRT, the home for ..?..”; more music and chat followed. Fair peaks but mostly under the QRM. **(JW-CO)**
- KELO SD Sioux Falls** – 11/29 0854 – ID punching though: “...KELLO AM NewsTalk 1320 KELO”; spotty reception in the jumble. **(JW-CO)**
- KXYZ TX Houston** – 11/30 0359 – Legal ID in English, only partially readable; not sure what followed or in what language – was hearing English, Spanish, and Chinese on the frequency. **(JW-CO)**

- KFNZ UT **Salt Lake City** – 11/30 0259 – Legal ID by male voice: "Utah's Number One rated sports radio station, KFNZ Salt Lake City, 1320 K-Fan THE Sports Leader" and into scores. Fair. (JW-CO)
- CHMB BC **Vancouver** – 11/30 0302 – Tentative with man and woman talking in Chinese; into soft vocal music at 0303. Loop pointed right at Vancouver, so is probably them, unless KXYZ has Chinese, too. Noted next 2 hours, too, around ToH but ID remains elusive. (JW-CO)
- 1340 KWLE WA **Anacortes** – 11/30 1134 – Weather 48 degrees; Advertisement for Mount Vernon Tires then into Peter Gabriel record, briefly swamping the frequency, then disappeared. (RS-ID)
- 1450 KVSL AZ **Show Low** – 11/25 0400 – Faded out of the mud with "Star 1450 AM KVSL ... Show Low" then gone. (WH-CO)
- KOKO MO **Warrensburg** – 11/25 0407 – Out of Oldies music "1450 KOKO Co-co KOKO Warrensburg." (WH-CO)
- 1470 KSMM KS **Liberal** – 11/18 0900 – Out of OLD "KSMM The Rocket" fair. (WH-CO)
- 1480 KRAE WY **Cheyenne** – 11/21 0900 – "KRAE Cheyenne ESPN 1480" barely audible through KCFC-1490's IBOC, this is always a challenge with IBOC! (WH-CO)
- 1490 KRTN NM **Raton** – 11/19 0705 – Out of network news "KRTN 1490 AM Raton" up briefly sounded like they went to Rock music. (WH-CO)
- KNDC ND **Hettinger** – 11/19 0759 – Out of spot for Kennedy's Market, fresh turkeys at Kennedy's in Hettinger "News is next on KNDC Hettinger" to ABC News. (WH-CO)
- KQTY TX **Borger** – 11/18 1959 – Out of promo for Thursday night NFL football "... right here on AM1490 KQTY." (WH-CO)

Tentative/UNID

- 1230 UNID -- 11/15 0605 – "This is a test tone from Citadel Media" by female with tones and instructions between. Noted AN but finally was able to figure out what was said now. Suspect Oldies KSTC Sterling with automation problems. (WH-CO)

Thanks for everyone's contributions. See you next time. (JDT-WA)

Domestic DX **Mike Brooker** aum108@idirect.com *Digest – East* **99 Wychrest Avenue** **Toronto, ON M6G 3X8 CANADA**

U.S./Canadian Loggings from Eastern/Atlantic Time Zones. All times ELT.

REPORTERS

- MC-NJ **Mike Clancy, Jersey City** – DX-396
- HF-MI **Harold Frogge, Midland** - Drake R8B + 125 ft. bow-tie; 85 ft. RW & 180 ft. center-fed RW
- KK-VA **Kraig Krist, Manassas** - NRD-545, Kiwa loop
- KK-VA1 **Kraig Krist, Linden** – Tecsun PL-310
- TLK-FL **Terry L. Krueger, Clearwater** - JRC NRD-535; ICOM IC-R75; Hammarlund HQ-180A; Aqua Guide 705 Radio Direction Finder; Sony ICF-7600GR; GE SuperRadio III; RadioShack DX-399; Sony Walkman SRF-59; 1 X roof dipole; 1 X in-room random wire; RadioShack 15-1853 passive MW loop.
- JJR-MI **John J. Rieger, L'Anse** – CCRadio 2
- DY-WV **David Yocis, Shannondale** – R8B, Quantum phaser, LWs
- MKB-ON **Mike Brooker, Toronto** – Grundig G5, Grundig YB-400PE, Sony SRF-39FP, Panasonic RF-2200 (receiver emeritus)
- MKB-MI **Mike Brooker, Dearborn** – Sony SRF-39FP

UNID AND TENTATIVE

- 1100 UNID -- 12/3 2000 – This station is still here, poor-fair in WTAM phase null, with talk shows, IRN-USA news on the hour and half-hour, and beeps where the ToH ID should be. Has been heard with Roger Hedgecock during the 1900 hour

and 2000 hour this (Friday) evening, Dave Ramsey during the 2000 hour on Saturdays (11/27), and Cyberline with Mick Williams during the 2200 hour on Saturdays (11/20 and 11/27). Unneeded WCGA? Needed WGPA? Someone else? (DY-WV)

LOGGINGS

- 540 **WGOP MD Pocomoke City** – 11/27 1726 – Ad for organic seafood in Smithfield mentioning "call 410-968...open 7 days a week...." Area code 410 is Maryland. (KK-VA1)
- WWCS PA Canonsburg** – 11/28 0702 – In with typical Radio Disney programming. (KK-VA1)
- 550 **WGR NY Buffalo** – 11/15 0059 – Fair with fading. Sports talk host complaining that Randy Moss had said that he doesn't mind being a decoy. He should want to catch more passes. ID as "all sports all the time, Sports Radio 5-50 WGR, Buffalo." (MC-NJ)
- 560 **WFRB MD Frostburg** – 11/28 0704 – Ads for Teachers Federal Credit Union and Oakland Open MRI, PSA for USO, station promo "Talk radio 5-60 brought to you by Southern States in Oakland. Left on the dial, right on the issues." (KK-VA1)
- 600 **WSJS NC Winston-Salem** – 11/27 2003 – In mix with NC State basketball game v. Fairleigh Dickinson, "Carolina Journal Radio...Sunday...AM 6 hundred WSJS" station promo. (KK-VA1)
- 620 **WKHB PA Irwin** – 11/28 0729 – In mix with "KHB" jingle into "Voice of Faith" religious program. (KK-VA1)
- 630 **WPRO RI Providence** – 11/6 2105 – Station promo "you can depend on Accuweather exclusively on News Radio 630 WPRO and 99.7, then faded under WSNR-620 slop. (MC-NJ)
- 640 **WGST GA Atlanta** – 11/27 1716 – In mix with WWJZ, Fox news, "Fox news. We report, you decide" slogan. (KK-VA1)
- WWJZ NJ Mount Holly** – 11/27 1716 – In mix with WGST and sports talker. Typical Radio Disney programming. (KK-VA1)
- 670 **WIEZ PA Lewiston** – 11/28 0749 – In mix with talk and C&W stations with ads for "Adams Autobody... 7 miles from Lewiston", Michael's Appliance in downtown Lewiston, and Cowboy Jack's Ranch. Jingle with WIEZ ID. (KK-VA1)
- 680 **WPTF NC Raleigh** – 11/28 0755 – In mix with discussion about public education in North Carolina, station promo "Carolina's news maker. News radio 6-80 WPTF." (KK-VA1)
- 690 **WELD WV Fisher** – 11/28 0757 – In mix with Sunday morning religious programming, woman with "WELD AM 6-90, 101.7 FM... West Virginia" ID. (KK-VA1)
- 730 **WACE MA Chicopee** – 11/27 0752 – Over CFZM-740 slop with promos for various gospel programs, e.g. Victory Day Radio broadcast, Sunday at 9 AM. Also gave legal "WACE Chicopee-Springfield-Hartford" ID, though it wasn't quite ToH. (MKB-ON)
- 830 **WCRN MA Worcester** – 12/1 1733 – Caught "...and this is WCRN" ID under partially nulled WCCO, then gone. (MKB-MI)
- 840 **WCEO SC Columbia** – 11/28 0520 – In SS with "La Raza" slogan after each song. Thought it was Mexican, but a Google search confirmed this one per their website. Strong, with WHAS fading down under. (TLK-FL)
- 850 **KOA CO Denver** – 11/18 0100 – ToH ID: "This is your news source 850 KOA Denver and KOA.com, it's 11 o'clock" into news with local announcer followed by weather (Denver 32°, Boulder 28°). Very rare visitor. (MC-NJ)
- +++ 11/26 0653 – Toyota dealership spot, several "KOA dot com" plugs, "This is Colorado's morning show, 850 KOA." Clear, squeezed a bit from local 860 WGUL. (TLK-FL)
- WKGE PA Johnstown** – 11/26 0657 – Faded up for a moment over KOA with male, "AM 850 WKGE, Pennsylvania" ID. (TLK-FL)
- 890 **KTXV TX Mabank** – 12/2 1848 – Presumed with Vietnamese programming, mostly nonstop discussion, strong until around 2300 when WLS and others co-channel badly. At 0130, one clear mention of "Dallas" heard. Mabank is about 60 miles SE of Dallas, so presumed the source of Vietnamese here. (TLK-FL)
- 900 **CHML ON Hamilton** – 11/28 2030 – Over WFDF-910 IBOC slop with Montreal Alouettes v. Saskatchewan Roughriders Grey Cup game. With virtually no US television

coverage of the CFL's version of the Super Bowl, this was the best I could do to catch the game live during my annual Greater Detroit visit. **(MKB-MI)**

- CKBI SK Prince Albert** – 11/27 0800 – Poor but over anything with ID and news by man. **(JJR-MI)**
- 920 WBAA IN West Lafayette** – 11/27 0705 – Over CKNX/CFRY mix with NPR news, local weather, “you’re listening to AM 920 WBAA” ID by woman into more NPR programs. **(MKB-ON)**
- CFRY MB Portage la Prairie** – 11/27 0710 – Creaming usual CKNX with C&W songs, slogan “Real Country Radio CRY”, Canadian Tire ad, detailed weather for all of Manitoba, with very cold local forecast (currently -22°C or -8°F in Portage, with high of only -16C!). **(MKB-ON)**
- CKNX ON Wingham** – 11/27 1741 – Country version of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town”, man with “CKNX AM 9-20” ID. **(KK-VA1)**
- 960 WERC AL Birmingham** – 12/3 1732 – Briefly on top with Wall Street report, “coming up...traffic and weather together on AM 960 and FM 105.5 WERC”, then lost to pest WFIR. **(MKB-ON)**
- WRFC GA Athens**– 12/3 1723 – Presumed with sports talk, ID as “Sports Radio 960” and “960 the Ref,” good briefly with WERC, WFIR, others. **(DY-WV)**
- WPRT KY Prestonburg** – 12/3 1633 – Local weather sponsored by Appalachian Wireless, temperature given for Williamson, ID as “Talk Radio Network,” into Dave Ramsey. More local ads at 1649, mentioning “East Kentucky Broadcasting” and “downtown Pikesville.” **(DY-WV)**
- 1130 WCLW NC Eden** – 12/3 1825 – “You’re listening to WCLW, Eden, North Carolina,” fair with WBBR phase nulled. **(DY-WV)**
- 1190 WOWO IN Fort Wayne** – 11/27 1754 – PSA for quitting smoking, station promo, “on the web it's WOWO dot com. All day news talk 11-90 WOWO.” **(KK-VA1)**
- 1200 WRTO IL Chicago** – 11/29 1659 – Was hoping to ID the religious station challenging WCHB, but caught SS announcement mentioning Chicago and “This is WRTO...” EE ID, then continued in SS. IL #56. **(HF-MI)**
- 1230 WGRY MI Grayling** – 11/26 1818 – Oldies in mix with WABN, “AM 12-30 WGRY” ID into Christmas song. **(KK-VA)**
- KTRF MN Thief River Falls** – 11/27 0807 – Poor over graveyard mess with many ads, addresses and local phone numbers. **(JJR-MI)**
- WABN VA Abingdon** – 11/26 1818 – Oldies in mix with WGRY and talk, ID by man as “WABN AM 12-30... 103.3...” **(KK-VA)**
- 1290 WHIO OH Dayton** – 11/27 2050 – Slogan “News talk radio WHIO,” ad for Dayton Tires. **(KK-VA1)**
- CJBK ON London** – 11/27 1758 – In mix with ad for Lexus of London, “This is news talk CJBK London” ID. **(KK-VA1)**
- 1300 WGDJ NY Rensselaer** – 11/27 1759 – Woman talking about hockey, “WGDJ 13 hundred” ToH ID into ABC news. **(KK-VA1)**
- 1310 WTZN PA Troy** – 12/3 1800 – Fighting off WDTW/CIWW mix with Sears Auto Center ad, “AM 1550 WTTC and 1310 WTZN Troy” double-dip ToH ID into ESPN sports talk, then lost to CIWW. **(MKB-ON)**
- 1340 WOOW NC Greenville** – 11/28 2229 – Clear ID “Your station for . . . , WOOW,” fair in the mix. **(DY-WV)**
- 1390 KCLN IA Clinton** – 11/27 0829 – Poor under others with local news, ads, station promo. Not common. **(JJR-MI)**
- 1400 WKPT TN Kingsport** – 11/30 1829 – In WKAV mix with oldies, slogan “Super hits of the tri cities WKPT.” **(KK-VA)**
- WKAV VA Charlottesville** – 11/30 1829 – Out of mix with WKPT and others, woman with “WKAV Charlottesville Virginia...” ID. **(KK-VA)**
- 1420 WIMS IN Michigan City** – 11/17 1859 – Poor but clear behind station doing University of Akron football game (*likely WHK-Cleveland. Mike*), with ID as “you’re listening to the Talk of the South Shore, WIMS, Michigan City” into CBS news. **(MC-NJ)**
- 1450 WFTR VA Front Royal** – 11/27 1711 – “AM 14-50 WFTR” ID by man, into C&W song. **(KK-VA1)**
- 1490 WBCB PA Levittown** – 11/11 1605 – Fair-good with “WBCB news time is 4:05” into local weather. **(MC-NJ)**
- 1510 WLAC TN Nashville** – 11/27 1805 – Local weather, “your 15-10 WLAC forecast...” **(KK-VA1)**

- 1540 **KXEL IA Waterloo** – 11/27 2056 – In mix with CHIN's China Radio International, sports talk discussing basketball, "KXEL" ID by man. **(KK-VA1)**
- 1550 **WBFJ NC Winston-Salem** – 11/28 1715 – "This is WBFJ Winston-Salem, North Carolina, ending its broadcast day," clear but poor in the mix remaining after WMRE powered down at 1700. **(DY-WV)**
- WITK PA Pittston** – 11/28 1630 – With local WMRE phased to nothing, out of Bible study from Houston TX, ID "WITK Pittston-Scranton, radio that changes the way you live," into another REL program with man complaining about perverts. Good over presumed WIGN. **(DY-WV)**
- 1600.05 **WKZK SC North Augusta** – 11/26 0648 – Southern black gospel, male with canned "Here comes another hour on WKZK" ID. Heting WKWF-Key West (sports talk format). WKZK has been off-frequency for ages. **(TLK-FL)**
- 1680 **KRJO LA Monroe** – 11/28 0620 – Good with old urban soul/pop hits, "Old Skool 1680 AM" slogan. Confirmed slogan on a Google search hit of their website. **(TLK-FL)**
- 1700 **KBGG IA Des Moines** – 11/30 0813 – Over UNID local TIS/HAR with sports talk, promo for Iowa Energy NBA-D League basketball on "AM 1700 the Champ." **(MKB-MI)**
- KVNS TX Brownsville** – 11/28 0606 – Good with Elton John's "Step Into Christmas" followed by slogan "One classic hit after another, 1700 KVNS" into "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago. **(TLK-FL)**

International DX Digest

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Loggings of stations outside the Lower 48 and Canada. All times UTC.

"Country #103 heard from the Cape, Northern Ireland-1341 is definitely the recent highlight," wrote Marc DeLorenzo in reaching a new milestone. "Other than that and Greenland-720, a lot of routine TA's - but I still get a thrill out of those also!"

"I haven't seen a logging of Radio Progreso in IDXD since issue #77-19," inquired Bill Dvorak in reference to his 890 log report. "As far as you know, is this Progreso outlet still CMDZ Chambas? Usually it is very difficult to hear this station here, as it has to go right through WLS. However, it was doing very well, at times outperforming WLS here, a very rare occurrence indeed."

Trans-Atlantic DX

- 171 **MOROCCO** *R.Mediterranee Internationale*, Nador (35°03'N 2°55'W) NOV 26 2134 – Loud and clear with North African jazz music - flute, tabla, just a little female vocal. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 189 **ICELAND** *Ríkisútoarpíð*, Gufuskálar (64°54'N 23°55'W) NOV 26 2136 – Strong with man in Icelandic and Red Hot Chili Peppers' hit "Under the Bridge." [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 198 **ENGLAND** *BBC Radio 4*, Droitwich et al. NOV 26 2141 – Good with news story on Egyptian history. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 252 **IRELAND** *RTÉ Radio 1*, Clarkestown NOV 26 2145 – Good with David Gray hit "Babylon." [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 531 **ALGERIA** *Chaîne 1*, El Ain Beida (35°49'N 7°19'E) NOV 24 2059 – Good with discussion between man and woman in Arabic, parallel to 549 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 531 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros NOV 27 2144 – Fair over Algeria with female dance tune similar to Lady Gaga, ID "Radio Cinco, todo noticias," into "Luka" by Suzanne Vega, parallel to webstream via delicast.com. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 549 **ALGERIA** *Chaîne 1*, Les Trembles (35°17'N 0°34'W) NOV 27 2141 – Loud and clear with discussion in Arabic; parallel to a weaker 531 kHz. By far the most reliable TA here this fall. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 558 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros DEC 3 2358 – Good; talk parallel 585 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 585 **SPAIN** *RNE1* Madrid (40°28'N 3°52'W) NOV 20 2138 – Fair with fútbol match in Spanish. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 603 **FRANCE** *France Info*, Lyon-Tramoyes (45°53'N 4°57'E) NOV 20 2144 – Fair with football match in French. [DeLorenzo-MA]

- 603 **SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros NOV 20 2146 – Good over France with ID and news by man and woman in Spanish. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 612 **MOROCCO** *SNRT* Sebaa-Aioun (33°54'N 5°23'W) NOV 27 2156 – Fair with North African group vocal with violins and drums. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 621 **CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN** *RNE1* synchros, Santa Cruz de Tenerife et al. NOV 27 2202 – Fair ending news, music bridge, into Spanish teletalk; parallel to webstream via delicast.com. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 639 **SPAIN** *RNE1* La Coruña et al. NOV 19 2141 – Good with Spanish teletalk over second TA in unknown language. Two IDs heard, "Radio Nacional" and "Radio Nacional de España." [DeLorenzo-MA] DEC 3 2359 – Good, well over a fluttery unID signal; talk leading up to news parallel 585 kHz. [Conti-NH]
- 684 **SPAIN** *RNE1* Sevilla (37°12'N 5°55'W) NOV 27 2212 – Good with fútbol in Spanish parallel to 639 kHz. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 693 **UNITED KINGDOM** *BBC Radio 5*, Droitwich et al. NOV 24 2200 – Good with discussion on soccer and cricket matches on "Five Live Sports." At 2203 ID, "This is BBC Radio Five Live" and into news on protests in London, government deficit in Ireland, etc. [DeLorenzo-MA] DEC 3 2203 – Excellent, synchro echo; "...on Five Live" mentioned in news update. 2236 more Five Live IDs into news break; still an excellent signal but with unID music way under. [Conti-NH]
- 720 **GREENLAND** *KNR* Simiutaq NOV 20 2157-2200 – Fair with jazz instrumental followed by light bumper music then, at 2200, news by woman in apparent Danish. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 747 **CANARY ISLANDS // SPAIN** *RNE5* synchros NOV 20 2203 – Fair with news in Spanish by alternating man and woman. [DeLorenzo-MA] DEC 3 2239 – Good; Earth, Wind & Fire "Fantasy" into talk. [Conti-NH]
- 747 **NETHERLANDS** *Radio 5*, Flevoland (52°23'N 5°25'E) NOV 20 2208-2210 – Good over RNE5 with classical music and woman in Dutch; parallel to webstream via delicast.com. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 756 **GERMANY** *Deutschlandfunk*, Braunschweig & Ravensburg DEC 3 2250 – Excellent; news/talk in German, at one point with an English sound bite accompanied by German translation. [Conti-NH]
- 774 **SPAIN** *RNE1* synchros NOV 27 2222 – Loud and clear with fútbol match in Spanish parallel to webstream via delicast.com. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 855 **SPAIN** *RNE1* synchros NOV 27 2225 – Fair with fútbol match in Spanish parallel to 639, 684, 774, etc. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 882 **UNITED KINGDOM** *BBC R.Wales*, Washford (51°10'N 3°21'W) NOV 27 2235 – Fair with Johnny Mercer song, birthday greeting to a 70 year old man, and another old standard tune "Don't Rain On My Parade" by a current group called Only Men Allowed; parallel to webstream via delicast.com. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 909 **UNITED KINGDOM** *BBC Radio 5* Live synchros NOV 19 2152 – Fair with sports report on football (soccer) back in the late 60's and early 70's. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 1215 **UNITED KINGDOM** *Absolute Radio* synchros NOV 26 2157 – Fair with Rockwell hit "Somebody's Watching Me" under unID TA with man in unknown language – probably *VOR* Kaliningrad. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 1341 **NORTHERN IRELAND** *BBC Radio Ulster*, Lisnagarvey (54°30'N 6°04'W) NOV 19 2158-2203 – Poor but clearly parallel to webstream via delicast.com with rock music, local news on two Belfast men arrested for sex crimes, ID at 2203, "BBC Radio Ulster" and back to rock music. Country #103 heard from Cape Cod and one I have been chasing for years! Both 693 and 909 *BBC5* were strong at this time. [DeLorenzo-MA]
- 1521 **SAUDI ARABIA** *BSKSA* Duba (27°20'N 35°45'E) NOV 24 2103 – Fair with woman in Arabic. [DeLorenzo-MA]

Pan-American DX

- 670 **CUBA** *CMQ R.Rebelde*, Arroyo Arenas (23°00'N 82°30'W) NOV 23 0405 – Ending slow Spanish music, familiar cuckoo-cuckoo type interval signal and mentions of Rebelde. Mixing with WSCR in local KLTT phase null. [Heinen-CO]
- 760 **MEXICO** *XEEB* Ciudad Obregón, Son NOV 23 0804 – Weak Mexican national anthem under phased KKZN, "Esta es XEEB La Preciosa..." and full data ID. New slogan from the July 2008 "Qal R Man" Mexican list at nrcdxas.org. New station for me and taped for the collection. [Heinen-CO]
- 890 **CUBA** *R.Progreso*, unknown location NOV 30 0601 – Man talking, music and ID "Radio Progreso, Cadena Nacional, la onda de la alegría... (unreadable) la Habana Cuba..."

(unreadable)," back into music. Fair to good, under and at times over WLS at 131 miles, whose signal it has to go straight through. [Dvorak-WI]

1490 **MEXICO** XECJC Ciudad Juárez, Chih NOV 19 0202 – Faded up over the pack with man in Spanish mentions of Juárez and XECJC call sign ID. This off the north/south Flag. [Heinen-CO]

1560 **MEXICO** XEJPV Ciudad Juárez, Chih NOV 20 0358 – Out of religious music in Spanish, XEJPV call ID, mixing with KZQQ. [Heinen-CO]



RADIONET

Contributors

Bruce Conti, Nashua NH; WiNRADiO WR-G31DDC Excalibur, 7 x 19.5-m variable termination Split SuperLoop at 60°, 15 x 23-m variable termination north/south SuperLoop.

Marc DeLorenzo, South Dennis MA; JRC NRD-525, 75 x 75 x 60-ft east/west dual feedline Delta with remote variable termination, 350-ft north/south longwire, Mini MWDX-3 phaser.

Bill Dvorak, Madison WI; Drake R8B, Quantum QX-Pro loop.

Wayne Heinen, Aurora CO; Kiwa Loop, Drake R8B, east/west Flag, north/south Flag, Dual TG-1 Termination Gizmo with DX Engineering RPA-1 preamp and Mini DXP5.

73 and Good DX!

Treasurer's Report

From NRC Treasurer Dick Truax, here is the NRC financial statement for fiscal year 2009-10. The statement from fiscal year 2008-09 is included for comparison.

<u>Income Statement</u>			<u>Administrative</u>		
	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>			
Membership Dues	13,396.35	12,070.02	Telephone	0.00	3.77
NRC Domestic Log	8,095.70	8,612.80	Info purchase	590.95	514.45
Pattern Book	767.80	615.75	Supplies	150.33	1,704.93
Antenna Books	365.90	531.95	Miscellaneous	1,136.10	705.94
Receiver Books	0.00	16.95	Convention	<u>2,587.42</u>	<u>1,567.14</u>
Reprints	652.54	1,272.55	Total Administrative	4,464.80	4,496.23
FM Atlas	254.95	260.00	Total Expense	32,334.44	29,930.65
EDXN	1,382.00	2,055.00			
Convention	2,870.00	1,844.00	<u>Statement of Income</u>		
Loop Manual	163.70	150.40		<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Beverage Manual	112.35	132.80	Income (all sources)	29,643.29	29,463.81
DXAS	1,582.00	1,859.00	Bulletin/Publishing Costs		
Miscellaneous	<u>0.00</u>	<u>42.59</u>	Beginning Inventory	2,280.62	1,000.31
Total Income	29,643.29	29,463.81	Printing	19,355.95	17,230.02
			Postage	8,513.69	8,204.40
			Less ending inventory	<u>-1,528.23</u>	<u>-2,280.62</u>
			Net Costs	28,622.03	24,154.11
			Profit	1,021.26	5,309.70
			Administrative Expenses	-4,464.80	-4,496.23
			Net Profit (-Loss)	-3,443.54	813.47
			<u>Balance Sheet</u>		
				<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
			<u>Assets</u>		
			Inventory	1,528.23	2,280.62
			Cash	<u>18,560.49</u>	<u>20,945.13</u>
				20,088.72	23,225.75
			<u>Liabilities</u>		
			Deferred Dues	-6,110.55	-5,398.10
			Net Worth	13,978.17	17,827.65

Tecsun PL-606 AM-LW-FM-SW DSP Receivers Breakthrough AM DXing Capabilities in a Very Small Package

By Gary DeBock, Pullayup WA, USA November 2010

Introduction. Early last year China's Tecsun company radically altered the pocket radio market by its introduction of the innovative PL-300WT Ultralight radio model, the first to feature Silicon Labs' amazing Si4734 DSP chip. Although these initial radios had limitations both in AM sensitivity and in fixed 3 kHz DSP filtering, AM-DXing hobbyists were astonished at the remarkable selectivity already provided by DSP chip, and started to dream about a radio having the full range of Si4734 filtering options.

Both the Tecsun and Kchibo companies rushed to comply with our desires, with the latter company introducing its D92L and D96L models initially. Kchibo's introduction of these full-range DSP radios in the summer of 2009 caused a

sensation among hobbyists, who purchased large quantities of the preferred D96L model. These models came with several quirks like digital "chuffing noise," internally-generated heterodynes and unusual rechargeable batteries, but the awesome 1 kHz DSP selectivity seemed to compensate for all these minor inconveniences. The Tecsun company quickly upstaged the D96L with its introduction of the superb PL-310 shortly thereafter, however—a model which featured equivalent AM sensitivity, full-range DSP filtering, no digital "chuffing noise," and used standard AA batteries. Tecsun's PL-310 was followed shortly by the slightly smaller PL-380, a similar full-range DSP model with slightly less AM sensitivity, but which offered greater freedom from the DSP chip's "soft mute" annoyance.

Unknown to us, Tecsun had continued to work behind the scenes to design and create an unusually compact portable, the new PL-606, which would essentially combine the best features of all the full-range DSP Ultralight radios so far. This breakthrough model combines the class-leading PL-310 AM sensitivity with full-range DSP filtering (6, 3, 2 and 1 kHz), all in a compact package significantly smaller than even the PL-380 model. Assuming that thumb wheel tuning and the PL-310-like "soft mute" level can be tolerated, medium-wave DXers can finally have the ultimate Ultralight combination of sensitivity, selectivity and portability-- all for a price of \$39.50 (plus \$20 shipping, from Hong Kong to North America).

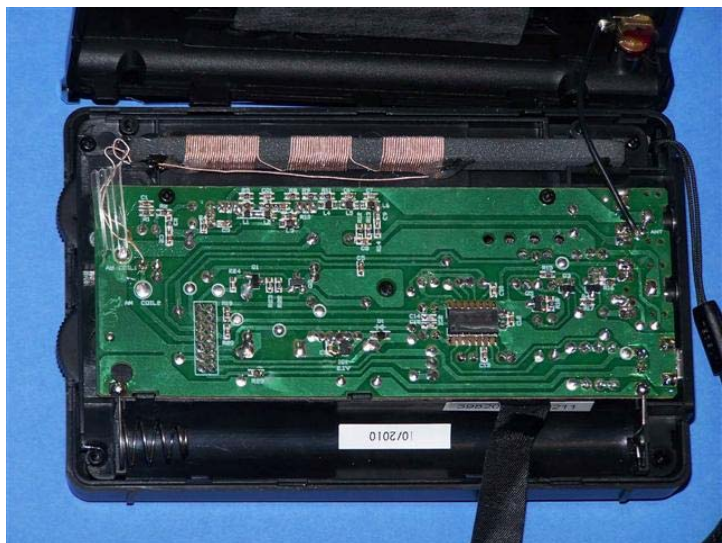


Physically, at 5" x 3.2" x 1" (125 x 80 x 25 mm) and weighing 6 ounces (175g), the new PL-606 resembles a slightly shrunken PL-380 model, with a more stylish, curved cabinet (and without the direct-entry keyboard). Several of the PL-380's cabinet design graphics are retained, as is the tuning thumb wheel (with its dual tuning rate, depending upon the rotation speed). The PL-380's three AA battery supply has been changed to a two AA supply in the newer model, however, allowing the PL-606 to have a significant size and weight advantage over its bulkier sibling (and an even greater advantage over the PL-310).

Although the new PL-606 does bear a strong physical resemblance to the PL-380, it also shares many characteristics with the ultra-compact PL-360, a vertical form Ultralight radio which was introduced by Tecsun last spring. Like the PL-360 there is no front-panel indication that the radio even tunes the LW band, and the process of accessing the band is related to the selection of 9 kHz tuning steps. The PL-360's two AA battery supply is matched, and the digital tuning functions are very similar. The lessons learned by Tecsun in engineering the extremely compact PL-360 circuitry probably helped greatly in the PL-606 design, allowing the company to pack maximum performance in the smallest possible cabinet space.



Optimizing AM Sensitivity. To provide the best possible AM performance in the new PL-606, Tecsun installed the same 100 x 7.5 mm loopstick used in the class-leading PL-310 model. Taking up practically the entire length of the compact PL-606 cabinet (shown below), this long loopstick has proven its weak-signal effectiveness repeatedly in the larger model, allowing many PL-310 owners to take advantage of the narrow DSP filtering to receive their first transoceanic stations from North America. The loopstick doubles as the PL-606 LW antenna, providing moderately sensitive reception of stations from 153- 513 kHz (which is somewhat less than the LW performance of the class-leading PL-310, which in turn is not quite competitive with that of the ICF-2010 and other large portables). In addition to the relatively effective long loopstick, the PL-606 also has the external SW-FM antenna plug-in jack (also found on the PL-310 model) and a screw-on plastic clamp attachment to extend the length of the SW-FM whip antenna from the stock 21.25" up to 38.25". The Tecsun company does



seem to have made extensive efforts for fairly competitive performance on all four bands, especially in such a compact package. In the intensely competitive ULR world the new PL-606 is likely to warmly received, and welcomed as a breakthrough in four-band DXing versatility.

Digital Tuning Functions. The PL-606 features most of the advanced digital functions of the other Tecsun DSP models, with the exception of direct frequency entry (to conserve space, there is no keypad). Besides the ETM (easy tuning mode), ATS (auto-tuning storage) and Auto-scan modes, there are 550 station memories available, including 100 for the AM band. All of the standard Si4734 DSP chip capabilities are utilized, with display functions of frequency, RSSI, S/N, temperature (Celsius or Fahrenheit), clock, and battery condition. As in the other Tecsun DSP models, the tuning thumb wheel operates with a dual rate (either 1 kHz or 9/10 kHz), depending upon the rotation speed of the operator's thumb. This system works somewhat differently than in the PL-310 model, with the PL-606's 1 kHz tuning rate sticking around unless the rotation speed is fast indeed—causing some owners to feel that quick changes from the low band to high band are somewhat inconvenient (of course, placing several band-edge stations in memory would help to provide a quick solution). The PL-606 has four DSP filtering options available (6, 3, 2 and 1 kHz), dropping the somewhat superfluous 4 kHz filtering option available in the PL-310 and PL-380 models. Like the other Tecsun models the PL-606 also has an alarm function that can awaken you with either a

buzzer or your favorite radio station, along with a snooze function.



Included Accessories. The Tecsun PL-606 shipping package includes the radio, two AA rechargeable batteries, a USB connector cable (to charge the batteries from a computer), a plug-in LW and SW wire antenna, a screw-on extension to the SW-FM whip antenna (to extend its length from 21.25" to 38.25"), a soft carrying case and a wrist strap (attached to the radio). A colorful shipping box is also part of the package, which at the current time does not include the English Owner's Manual (usually sent by the eBay seller "Anon-co" as an email attachment, and is also available at the following link:

<http://www.mediafire.com/?msaaidp58598crt>.

FOUR BAND PERFORMANCE COMPARISONS

MW Performance Test. The new PL-606's AM sensitivity and selectivity was thoroughly compared to that of the PL-310 and PL-380 models in daytime DX performance tests, in the typical suburban environment of Puyallup, WA (about 40 miles south of Seattle). Various fringe stations were used to accurately judge the performance of all three models, as well as the inconvenience of any "soft mute" signal drop off in weak-signal situations. Ratings are from 0 to 5, with "5" being the best possible rating.

AM SENSITIVITY (All three models using the 2 kHz DSP setting)

STATION	PL-606	PL-380	PL-310
610-KONA	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
650-CISL	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
750-KXL	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Good (3)
810-KTBI	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
980-CKNW	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Good (3)
1110-KBND	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
1320-CHMB	Trace (1)	Nil (0)	Trace (1)
1550-KKAD	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Good (3)
1640-KDZR	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)

AM Sensitivity Summary: The new PL-606 model has weak-signal performance equal to that of the Ultralight class-leading PL-310, which is to be expected because of the identical loopsticks. Both of these models have a slight AM sensitivity advantage over the PL-380, with its smaller loopstick. However, because the PL-380's soft mute threshold is set at a less active level, there are fewer occasions of weak-signal drop out when using that model than with the PL-606 and PL-310. This leads to occasional rare situations where the PL-380 will maintain reception of weak stations while the PL-606 and PL-310 are silenced by soft mute.

AM SELECTIVITY (All three models using the 1 kHz DSP setting)

STATION	PL-606	PL-380	PL-310
560-KPQ	Slight KVI slop (4)	Slight KVI slop (4)	Slight KVI slop (4)
860-KPAM	Mod. KHHO slop (3)	(no reception)	Mod. KHHO slop (3)
960-KALE	No KJR slop (5)	No KJR slop (5)	No KJR slop (5)
1370-KAST	Slight KKMO slop (4)	Slight KKMO slop (4)	Slight KKMO slop (4)
1460-KARR	No KSUH slop (5)	(no reception)	No KSUH slop (5)

AM Selectivity Summary: All three models have equivalent 1 kHz DSP filtering, which provides outstanding selectivity adjacent to local AM pest stations. The practical DXing benefit of this advantage is greater in the PL-606 and PL-310 models, however, because of their slightly superior sensitivity—which allows reception of weaker fringe stations adjacent to local pests. As shown, the PL-380 had difficulty receiving 860-KPAM and 1460-KARR, presumably because of its smaller loopstick.

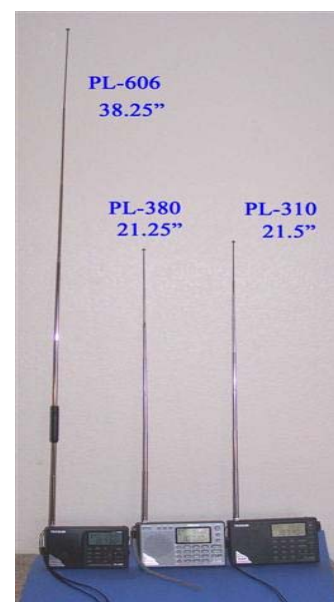
LW Performance Test: The new PL-606's LW sensitivity was tested against the PL-380 and PL-310 models by checking reception of weak-signal NDB beacons during evening hours (at 0530 UTC).

LW SENSITIVITY (All three models using the 2 kHz DSP setting)

STATION	PL-606	PL-380	PL-310
328 LAC	Nil (0)	Nil (0)	Trace (1)
350 NY	Trace (1)	Nil (0)	Fair (2)
368 SX	Trace (1)	Nil (0)	Fair (2)
371 ITU	Nil (0)	Nil (0)	Trace (1)
404 MOG	Fair (2)	Trace (1)	Good (3)

LW Sensitivity Summary: Although the PL-606 shares the same loopstick with the PL-310, the latter model had a definite advantage in LW sensitivity during reception of these beacons (presumably because of different front end LW components). The PL-380 was noticeably less sensitive on LW than either the PL-606 or PL-310 models.

FM Performance Test: Note: The PL-606 package includes a screw-on plastic clamp attachment to extend the length of the whip antenna from the stock 21.25" up to 38.25". According to the FM testing here, this does provide a significant boost for the radio's fringe FM station reception, although it is very important to ensure a solid electrical connection (inside the plastic clamp) between the stock whip antenna tip and the metal base tip of the extender antenna. When the PL-606 has this accessory fully extended (photo at right), the composite whip antenna is much longer than those of either the PL-380 or PL-310 models—resulting in superior reception of fringe FM.



The following tests were made to compare the FM sensitivity of the new PL-606 model (both with the stock 21.25" whip antenna, and also with the 38.25" extension) against that of the PL-380 and PL-310 models. The comparison tests were performed in the typical suburban environment of Puyallup, WA (about 40 miles south of Seattle), under normal FM conditions around local noon on November 27, 2010.

FM SENSITIVITY (All three models using the 2 kHz DSP setting)

STATION	PL-606 (stock whip)	PL-606 (ext. whip)	PL-380	PL-310
98.5 CIOC	Good (3)	Very Good (4)	Fair (2)	Good (3)
100.3 CKKQ	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
102.1 KPQ	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)
103.3 KKCW	Trace (1)	Fair (2)	Nil (0)	Fair (2)
104.1 KAFE	Trace (1)	Fair (2)	Nil (0)	Trace (1)
107.3 CHBE	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Trace (1)	Fair (2)

FM Sensitivity Summary: Without the whip antenna extension, the PL-606's FM sensitivity was found to be about equal to that of the PL-310 throughout the band, and slightly superior to that of the PL-380. With the 38.25" whip antenna extension the PL-606's reception of FM fringe stations was significantly increased, so that it provided better reception than the PL-310 (or any other Ultralight radio) on all FM frequencies.

SW Performance Test: Once again, the PL-606 was tested against the PL-380 and PL-310 using both the stock whip antenna, and the 38.25" extended system. The Ultralight radio class SW reception leader, the Eton E100, was also included to provide relative reception comparisons. With the exception of 7.506-WRNO (received at 0230 UTC), all stations were received between 2215-2245 UTC in Puyallup, WA.

SW SENSITIVITY (All DSP models using the 2 kHz DSP setting)

STATION	PL-606 (stock)	PL-606 (extended)	PL-380	PL-310	E100
7.506 WRNO	Fair (2)	Fair (2)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Good (3)
9.980 KSDA	Good (3)	Good (3)	Good (3)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)
11.665 R. Japan	Fair (2)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Very Good (4)
11.740 WYFR	Good (3)	Good (3)	Good (3)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)
15.115 WYFR	Fair (2)	Fair (2)	Fair (2)	Good (3)	Very Good (4)

SW Sensitivity Summary: It's fairly obvious that the extended whip antenna fails to boost the PL-606's SW reception like it does on the FM band. All of the DSP models had fairly equal SW sensitivity throughout the spectrum, but the PL-310 and PL-380 excelled on one frequency each. The Eton E100 had unsurpassed SW reception on all frequencies, and should still be considered the Ultralight radio class leader on shortwave, despite its lack of DSP filtering.



The whip antennas' orientation and proximity to external windows made a significant difference in the SW reception results of all models, and although the PL-606 package does include a plug-in wire antenna for boosting SW and FM reception (and a cabinet jack for connecting it to the radio), this accessory was not tested during this radio comparison. Dedicated SW enthusiasts could probably use this accessory to provide PL-606 SW (and FM) reception results superior to those above, especially if the wire is strung in an elevated space, clear of obstructions.

Tecsun PL-606 Verdict: Today's DSP-enhanced pocket radios provide AM-DXing capabilities that would have seemed like science fiction only a few years back. Whereas the original models like the PL-300WT were compromised by limited DSP selectivity and AM sensitivity, both of those shortcomings have been overcome. Tecsun's efforts to pack maximum DXing effectiveness into the smallest possible cabinet have paid off, and the new PL-606 is a unique combination of AM sensitivity, selectivity and portability.

At \$39.95 (plus shipping) the radio is an outstanding value for either domestic or international AM-DXers, and is superbly prepared for either mission. The 1 kHz DSP selectivity from the Si4734 chip reduces domestic splatter to a very narrow minimum, while the generous 100 mm loopstick has already proven itself repeatedly with sensitive AM reception in the PL-310 model. By

providing both capabilities in such a compact, inexpensive radio, Tecsun may well have created the ideal Ultralight model for travelers, or casual AM-DXers without external antennas.

The PL-380 model retains a slight edge over the new PL-606 for 9-kHz split DXers with effective antennas, primarily because of its less annoying soft mute threshold (which allows 1 kHz off-tuning without a severe DX signal drop off). Certain DXers may also prefer the direct-entry keypads in the PL-380 and PL-310 models, and the round tuning knob in the PL-310.

LW-DXers will probably still prefer the PL-310 because of its sensitivity advantage (and simple LW selection process), but FM-DXers will probably be quite impressed with the PL-606's innovative screw-on whip antenna extension, which performed quite well in the relative tests here. Like the PL-310 model, the PL-606 also does include a plug-in jack for connection of external FM and SW antennas, which should continue to encourage antenna experimentation among Ultralight radio enthusiasts on both bands.

Finally, the compact portability of the new PL-606 makes it very easy to pack along in a shirt pocket, purse, or most anywhere else. Tecsun's generous accessory package certainly augments the value of the \$39.95 purchase, with the two rechargeable AA batteries, and the USB cable for charging from a computer. The plug-in FM/ SW wire antenna is also useful, as well as the innovative screw-on whip antenna extension. The entire package seems like a timely bargain as the holiday season approaches, and should provide plenty of four-band DXing excitement this winter for dedicated Ultralight radio enthusiasts, as well as those wishing to try out one of the fastest growing segments of the AM-DXing community!



73 and Good DX to All,
Gary De Bock

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PL-606 Owner's Manual (courtesy of Anon-co) <http://www.mediafire.com/?msaeidp58598crt>
 Tecsun PL-606 "First Impressions" Article <http://www.mediafire.com/?qp24b5b4pfjufj6s>
 (and in *DX News*, Nov. 15, 2010 (vol 78 no 7), page 16)

The NRC Antenna Pattern Book

The sixth edition of the NRC AM Station Antenna Pattern Book now for the first time includes daytime and "graveyard" antenna patterns.

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