

DX News

Serving Medium Wave DXers since 1933

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From the Publisher: Lots of stuff opening up now post-Covid and the annual Madison-Milwaukee DX get-together is on for this year – August 21, to be precise. See page 19 for details.

We're pleased this issue to be able to include most of Gary DeBock's recent comprehensive survey of the latest Ultralight portable DX receivers. But for space reasons we have to hold the last few pages for next issue. In addition, we have some graveyard DX records from Tim Hall that we're holding for next time – which will be in 4 weeks.

As you can see below, work is progressing rapidly on the 42nd Edition of the NRC AM Log, and Wayne is accepting preorders now for August delivery.

Volume 88 DXN Schedule

No	D'dline	Print	19	Aug. 15	Aug. 24
18	July 18	July 27	20	Sept. 12	Sept. 21

Membership Report

"This will be my 61st year with the club." – Ken Chatterton.

"Thanks for your hard work. I truly enjoy it." – Michael De Roo

New Members: Welcome to Vincent Cavaseno, Mashpee, MA.

Rejoining Members: Welcome back to Sheldon Kane, Boynton Beach, FL.

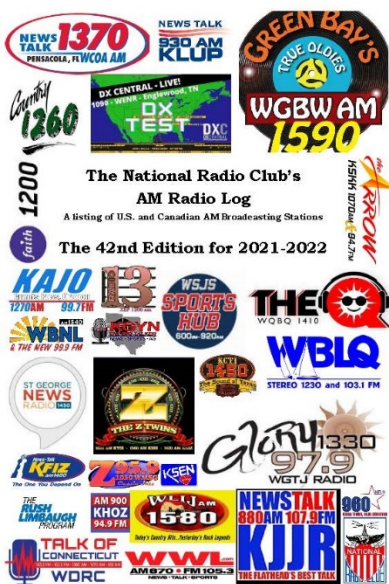
Renewing Members: Thanks for the ongoing support of Allan Anderson; John Bishop; Kenneth Chatterton; Mike Clancy; Gerald M. Conkling Jr.; Michael J. De Roo; Tom Dimeo; Joseph Donnelly; Timothy R. Hall; Steven Hinman; Michael Hunter; Ray Offutt; Robert C. Pote; Peter Ryder; Robert Schaffernoth; Jeffrey Snyder; David Sullivan; Gary Whittaker; and Gary Zeigler.

NRC AM Radio Log – 42nd Edition

Now accepting preorders for shipment August 2021

The National Radio Club, the World's Oldest and Largest Broadcast Band DX Club is proud to announce the publication of the 42nd edition of the AM Radio Log. The AM Radio Log is a source for information on AM Radio Stations in the United States and Canada. The Log contains 304 pages of individual station data and cross references and an additional 12 pages of instructions in 8-1/2" x 11" size, 3-hole punched U.S. loose leaf format. This publication fits nicely into a 1" three-ring binder. Reference lists include State/Provinces in frequency order, listings of regional groups of stations in the groups section and a comprehensive list of FM translators that are now simulcasting with AM broadcasters.

Order by snail mail by check or money order in US funds, Colorado Residents please add 8% Sales tax (or your local Colorado sales tax rate, if lower) to National Radio Club, P.O. Box 473251, Aurora, CO 80047-3251 or order using your Pay Pal account at <http://www.nationalradioclub.org/>



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AM Switch

David Yocis, 9412 Ferry Landing Ct., Alexandria VA 22309, NRCDXNews@gmail.com
 Canadian info – Compiled by Shawn Axelrod, Dan Sys, and Jon Pearkins
 NRC AM Log updates from Wayne Heinen, amlog@nationalradioclub.org
 NRC AM Log data mining provided by Shawn Axelrod and Bill Hale

FCC and CRTC Decisions and Applications

CALL CHANGES

- 630 KUAM GU **Agaña** – Call change to KICH (May 18).
 1520 WTHE NY **Mineola** – Call change to WJDM (May 27).



NEW STATION WATCH

- 1120 CP NM **Peralta** – Assigned call letters KVVD; application to amend CP to D1 800 on 1100 kHz is still pending; CP still scheduled to expire Nov. 30, 2021.

STATIONS GOING DARK

- 1160 KMRV IA **Waukon** – License surrendered June 3.
 1410 KPRO TX **Marshall** – License surrendered May 30; station had been silent since May 27, 2020 after losing both towers and the transmitter building in a storm.
 1480 WVOI FL **Marco Island** – License cancelled by the FCC; station had been silent since Jan. 21, 2020 after a transmitter building fire.

CONSTRUCTION PERMITS (CPs) FOR EXISTING STATIONS

CPs fully licensed and on the air:

- 1080 KEMR NM **Moriarty** – Granted license to cover CP with D1 2500 (ch 2000), ex-1090 kHz and ex-CoL Milan NM, new site 35-00-33/105-54-59.
 1460 WMBA PA **Ambridge** – Granted license to cover CP with U1 110/120, existing site.

CPs completed; awaiting final licensing (usually being used on the air):

- 540 WRGC NC **Sylva** – Applies for license to cover CP with U1 5000/190, new site 35-23-29/83-14-57.
 700 KDAZ NM **Albuquerque** – Applies for license to cover CP with U1 450/55, ex-730 kHz, existing site; reported on the air.
 1110 KRPA WA **Oak Harbor** – Applies for license to cover CP with U4 9000/2500, adjust coordinates 48-16-55/122-42-25; granted PTA.
 1510 WGKB WI **Waukesha** – Applies for license to cover CP with D1 250, adjust coordinates to 43-01-04/88-11-441.

CPs granted:

- 1370 WCOA FL **Pensacola** – Granted CP with U2 5000/4400, correct coordinates to 30-26-58/87-15-47.
 1580 KQFN AZ **Tempe** – Granted CP for U1 24000/245, new site (diplexed with KSUN-1400) at 33-23-21/111-59-53. (6/10/2024)

Applications for CPs received:

- 800 WPJM SC **Greer** – Applies for CP with U1 1000/500, Valcom antenna at new site 34-56-09/82-11-37 (amends application reported last issue for U1 1000/530 at a different new site).
 1010 KXXT AZ **Tolleson** – Applies for CP with U7 23000/300 (ch 10000), new site (diplexed with KPXQ-1360) at 33-30-28/112-13-01.
 1220 WAYE AL **Birmingham** – Applies for CP with U1 1000/75, new site (diplexed with WJLD-1400) at 33-28-37/86-53-00.
 1280 WHTP ME **Gardiner** – Applies for CP with U1 250/40, existing site.
 1320 WJNJ FL **Jacksonville** – Applies for CP with U1 5000/80, new site (current WZAZ-1400 site; WZAZ has CP to move from this site) at 30-19-43/81-41-42.
 WVNZ VA **Richmond** – Applies for CP with U1 720/14, CoL to East Highland Park VA, new site (triplexed with WBTL-1450/WULT-1540) at 37-32-39/77-20-47.
 1340 WLSG NC **Wilmington** – Applies for CP with U1 1000/1000, new site 34-16-02/77-53-34.

- 1420 KMOG AZ Payson – Applies for CP with U2 3000/500, existing site.
 1530 WLAK WI New Holstein – Applies for CP with D1 550 on 1520 kHz, existing site.
 1540 KGBC TX Galveston – Applies for CP with U4 3600/185, replace 2 towers, adjust coordinates 29-18-55/94-48-20.

Application to amend existing CP received:

- 1480 WDYS IL Geneva – Has a CP with D1 250, CoL to Somonauk IL at new site 41-40-06/88-34-06; applies to amend CP to U1 250/140 at the same new site and CoL.

SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY (STA)

STAs granted:

- 790 WAEB PA Allentown – Granted STA, U1 900/375, tower maintenance.
 830 WKTX OH Cortland – Granted STA, D1 10, transmitter problems.
 880 WSLK VA Moneta – Granted STA, D1 150, 138' LW at 37-10-01/79-37-49.
 1200 KFNV ND West Fargo – Granted STA, U1 10000/3250 during CP construction.
 1230 WEEX PA Easton – Granted STA, U1 320/1000 pending completion of CP.
 1420 WOC IA Davenport – Granted STA, parameters at variance, unexplained pattern issues.
 1440 WLWI AL Montgomery – Granted STA, U1 5000/250, vandalism at one tower.
 1470 KMNQ MN Brooklyn Park – Granted STA, U4 3500/3500, transmitter issues.

Application for STAs received:

- 1560 WFME NY New York – Applies for STA, U1 12500/12500, tower of WFMU-91.1/WNSH-94.7 at 40-47-18/74-15-19; has lost licensed site.

Extensions of prior STAs granted (mostly for an additional 6 months):

- 580 WKAQ PR San Juan – Granted STA extension, U1 10000/4500.
 590 KUGN OR Eugene – Granted STA extension, U4 1400/5000, night pattern 24 hours.
 730 WMNA VA Gretna – Granted STA extension, U1 250/7.
 770 WVNN AL Athens – Granted STA extension, D1 7000.
 790 WKRD KY Louisville – Granted STA extension, night parameters at variance.
 860 KTRB CA San Francisco – Granted STA extension, U1 50000/5000, licensed day site.
 930 KIUP CO Durango – Granted STA extension, reduced day power.
 940 WXNK WI Shell Lake – Granted STA extension, reduced power (was using D1 50).
 WIPR PR San Juan – Granted STA extension, U1 2500/2500 from a WKAQ-580 tower.
 1020 KCKN NM Roswell – Granted STA extension, night pattern 24 hours.
 1030 WOSO PR San Juan – Granted STA extension, D1 300, unipole at 18-26-55/66-04-37.
 1130 KSDO CA San Diego – Granted STA extension, U1 2500/2500, LW at 32-43-51/117-04-59.
 1150 KWKY IA Des Moines – Granted STA extension, parameters at variance.
 1190 WPSP FL Royal Palm Beach – Granted STA extension, U4 2200/410, Cuba QRM.
 1310 WAUC FL Wauchula – Granted STA extension, U1 1250/125.
 1350 WOYK PA York – Granted STA extension, U1 5000/250.
 1360 WCHL NC Chapel Hill – Granted STA extension, night parameters at variance.
 WTAQ WI Green Bay – Granted STA extension, night parameters at variance.
 1370 WGIV NC Pineville – Granted STA extension, U1 25/25, 110' vert. LW 35-11-56/80-52-36.
 1410 WDOV DE Dover – Granted STA extension, parameters at variance.
 WELM NY Elmira – Granted STA extension, night pattern at variance or U1 5000/250.
 1430 WNEL PR Caguas – Granted STA extension, U1 2300/2300, portion of old tower.
 1490 KYWL MT Bozeman – Granted STA extension, U1 120/120, tower at 45-46-15/111-13-26.
 1510 WBSG PR Lajas – Granted STA extension, U1 250/250.
 1520 WINW OH Canton – Granted STA extension, D1 250 at 40-48-32/81-22-35.
 1580 WNTF FL Bithlo – Granted STA extension, D1 2500.
 1600 WEHH NY Elmira Heights-Horseheads – Granted STA extension, U5 5000/42½.
 WWRL NY New York – Granted STA extension, U1 6250/1250.
 1690 WIGT VI Charlotte Amalie – Granted STA extension, U1 400/400.

Applications to extend previously granted STAs received from WHYN-560 Springfield MA, KGSV-660 Oildale CA, KEJY-790 Eureka CA, KECR-910 El Cajon CA, KDHL-920 Faribault MN, WNNR-970 Jacksonville FL, WCSZ-1070 Sans Souci SC, KAAY-1090 Little Rock AR, WIMA-1150 Lima OH, WFYL-1180 King of Prussia PA, KHTS-1220 Canyon Country CA, WREV-1220 Reidsville NC, WLNR-1230 Kinston NC, KKDZ-1250 Seattle WA, KNSS-1330 Wichita KS, WHGM-1330 Havre de Grace MD, WENA-1330 Yauco PR, KNTB-1480 Lakewood WA, WHTX-1570 Warren OH, and WNYG-1580 Patchogue NY.

SILENT STATIONS

Formerly silent stations informing the FCC they are back on the air:

- 730 WJYM OH **Bowling Green** – Silent Apr. 13; back on the air May 26.
- 750 KMMJ NE **Grand Island** – Silent Aug. 1, 2020; back on the air May 25.
- 880 WSLK VA **Moneta** – Silent June 24, 2020; on the air with STA June 8.
- 1140 WPNS FL **Destin** – Silent Mar. 31; back on the air June 9.
- 1230 KOBB MT **Bozeman** – Silent May 25, 2020; on the air with STA May 22.
- 1300 WJYP WV **Saint Albans** – Silent Mar. 24; back on the air June 3.
- 1340 KJMU OK **Sand Springs** – Silent Oct. 1, 2020; back on the air May 24.
- KOLE TX **Port Arthur** – Silent Feb. 19; back on the air May 3.
- 1400 WHTD GA **Elberton** – Silent June 30, 2020; back on the air May 26.
- KBCK MT **Deer Lodge** – Silent Nov. 17, 2020; back on the air with 200 Watts May 21.
- 1490 KPCQ ID **Chubbuck** – Silent June 15, 2020; on the air with CP (using automatic program test authority) June 14.



Stations informing the FCC that they are silent:

- 1150 WONG MS **Canton** – Silent June 8, transmitter lost in fire.
- 1240 WEBJ AL **Brewton** – Silent June 9, lost transmitter site.
- 1270 WMLC MS **Monticello** – Silent May 23, lightning strikes to transmitter.
- 1280 WDSP FL **De Funiak Springs** – Silent June 9, lost transmitter site lease.
- 1400 WHTD GA **Elberton** – Silent (again) June 4, pending move to Clayton GA.
- 1490 KEYG WA **Grand Coulee** – Silent June 3, tower to be demolished.

NRC AM Log Updates

This will be the last AM Radio Log Updater until after the release of the ARL 42nd edition in August 2021!

The *Log* adds another network – Radio America (RA) – which features talk shows The Dana Show, Advice Line, Chad Benson, Sara Carter, Grape Encounters Radio, Doctor Hoffman, On Air with Doug Jen and Victoria, Veterans Chronicles, and What's Cookin' Today.

- 570 CKGL ON **Kitchener** – Slogan to "CityNews 570," networks to CP/CS. (DS)
- 600 WRQX OH **Salem** – Format to TLK (ex-C&W), slogan to "The Patriot." (RI)
- 660 CFFR AB **Calgary** – Slogan to "CityNews 660." (DS)
- 680 WPTF NC **Raleigh** – Format to NWS/TLK (ex-C&W Vol 88 Issue 13); drop slogan. (GC)
- CFTR ON **Toronto** – Slogan to "CityNews 680." (DS)
- 750 KMMJ NE **Grand Island** – Format to SS:REL (ex-REL/GOS); slogan to "Mt Bridge Espano Radio," drops networks. (StIntel)
- 770 WBCN FL **North Fort Myers** – Format to SPT (ex-NWS/TLK), networks to ESPN; Group to Grp= ESPN Southwest Florida (ex-Grp= News Talk & More). (RInk)
- 780 WIIN MS **Ridgeland** – Slogan & Group to Grp= Blues 93.1. (FCC)
- 820 WMTT NY **Horseheads** – Format to REL (ex-CLR); Group to Grp= Family Life (ex-Grp= 95 the Met). (RI)
- 840 KXNT NV **North Las Vegas** – Networks to C/BNN/RA/DR/CMP/BRR/C2C. (RI)
- 870 WLVP ME **Gorham** – Slogan to "Memories 870." (TF)
- 900 KHOZ AR **Harrison** – Slogan to "The Original." (WH)
- 930 KIUP CO **Durango** – Slogan & Group to Grp= ESPN for the Four Corners (ex-Grp= ESPN – Four Corners). (WH)
- WBEN NY **Buffalo** – Networks to A/P/(RA)WW1/C2C. (RI)
- 960 KROF LA **Abbeville** – Adds // KPEL-FM-96.5. (JN)
- 970 WDUL WI **Superior** – Slogan to "CBS Sports Radio 970." (StIntel)
- 980 KMBZ MO **Kansas City** – Networks to A/CMP/RA/P/BRR/C2C. (RI)
- WPRE WI **Prairie du Chien** – Slogan & Group to Grp= Prairie's Own. (NP)
- 1040 WLCR KY **Mount Washington** – Adds // W235CZ-94.9. (FCC)
- 1080 WTIC CT **Hartford** – Networks to C/BNN/RA/WW1/P/CS/Jr/C2C. (StIntel)
- 1090 KAAZ AR **Little Rock** – Format to REL/GOS (ex-GOS/REL). (StIntel)
- 1130 CKWX BC **Vancouver** – Slogan to "CityNews 1130." (DS)
- 1140 WRVA VA **Richmond** – Networks to A/Vn/RU/P/WW1/DR/MRN/PRN/C2C. (RI)
- 1180 KLAY WA **Lakewood** – Delete slogan; adds // K297CA-107.3. (FCC)
- 1210 WPHT PA **Philadelphia** – Networks to C/BNN/RA/P/WW1/DR/C2C. (RI)
- KMIA WA **Auburn-Federal Way** – Adds // K221FJ-92.1. (NWB)

- 1220 CFAJ ON **Saint Catharines** — Slogan to “Classic 1220.” (DXMid)
- 1230 KFPW AR **Fort Smith** — Delete // K244FJ-96.7. (RI)
- WENY NY **Elmira** — Group to Grp= Magic-FM (ex-Grp= WENY NewsTalk). (RI)
- 1240 WTAX IL **Springfield** — Slogan to “NewsRadio 1240 & 93.9,” adds // WQQL-93.9; delete // W228DL-93.5. (DXMid)
- KNEM MO **Nevada** — Slogan & Group to Grp= Double K Country. (FCC)
- 1250 KCFM OR **Florence** — Slogan & Group to Grp= The Soundtrack of Our Lives. (RI)
- 1260 WCHV VA **Charlottesville** — Networks to Fox/P/Ru/CMP/DR/C2C; slogan & Group to Grp= cVille 107.5. (FCC)
- 1270 WHLD NY **Niagara Falls** — Format to TLK (ex-SPT); slogan to “Talk 1270,” networks to WW1/CMP. (RI)
- 1280 KDKD MO **Clinton** — Format to TLK (ex-CLR); slogan to “Ag 1280 The Voice of the Golden Valley,” networks to Fox/Mo/P/WW1/RER. (StIntel)
- 1290 KBMO MN **Benson** — Adds // K278CX-103.5. (NP)
- 1300 WXRL NY **Lancaster** — Slogan to “Real Country 1300 AM & 95.5 FM.” (SK)
- KKOL WA **Seattle** — Format to SS:MEX (ex-BIZ); slogan to “La Patrona,” adds // KNTS-1680. (irca)
- 1310 WOKR NY **Canandaigua** — Format to AC/EZL (ex-C&W); slogan to “Music that makes you feel good.” (SK)
- 1320 WDSA AL **Dothan** — Format to TLK (ex-SPT), drops nets. (WH)
- 1330 KNSS KS **Wichita** — Networks to Fox/WW1/RA/P/BRR/C2C. (RI)
- 1340 WBNC NH **Conway** — Format to NOS (ex-AC/EZL). (TF)
- 1350 WINY CT **Putnam** — Slogan to “Community Radio.” (nrc-am)
- WOAM IL **Peoria** — Group to Grp= WOAM Group. (StIntel)
- 1360 WOEN NY **Olean** — Slogan to “The Ride 96.3,” delete Grp= The Ride 101.9 & 96.3. (RI)
- 1370 KAST OR **Astoria** — Adds // K278CW-103.5. (StIntel)
- KJCE TX **Rollingwood** — Networks to C/BNN/CMP/RA/WW1/DR/P/BRR/RER. (RI)
- 1390 WRIG WI **Schofield** — Slogan to “93.9 the Game.” (StIntel)
- 1450 WENI NY **Corning** — Slogan to “The Patriot,” adds // W277DG-103.3; delete Grp= WENY NewsTalk. (RI)
- WWSC NY **Glens Falls** — Format to CLR (ex-TLK); slogan to “93 WSC The Legend,” drops nets. (RI)
- WYNY PA **Milford** — Format to AC/EZL (ex-AC); slogan to “Lite 106.9,” nets to C. (RI)
- KNET TX **Palestine** — Drop slogan; networks to Tx/P/Ru/DR/WW1/RER. (StIntel)
- 1480 KPHX AZ **Phoenix** — Format to CLR/C&W (ex-SS:Ranchera); Group to Grp= KPHX Group (ex-Grp= Radio Casa). (WH)
- KNTB WA **Lakewood** — Delete // K221FJ-92.1. (NWB)
- 1490 WRLA GA **West Point** — Drop slogan. (StIntel)
- KRUS LA **Ruston** — Format to CHR (ex-CLR); slogan to “Hitz 96.3.” (StIntel)
- WTIQ MI **Manistique** — Slogan to “Maverick 98.5,” adds // W253CG-98.5. (RI)
- WCDO NY **Sidney** — Slogan & Group to Grp= Tri-county Heartbeat. (FCC)
- WOSH WI **Oshkosh** — Slogan to “News Talk Radio.” (StIntel)
- 1510 WJOT IN **Wabash** — Format to NWS/TLK (ex-CLR); drop slogan, delete // WJOT-FM-105.9. (StIntel)
- KCTE MO **Independence** — Slogan to “ESPN Kansas City.” (StIntel)
- 1530 KDSN IA **Denison** — Slogan to “Hive 105.” (DXMid)
- 1580 KAGE AR **Van Buren** — Slogan to “Red Dirt 97.1,” adds // K244FJ-96.7. (RI)
- KBLA CA **Santa Monica** — Format to UC:TLK (ex-SS/Brokered). (RI)
- WTTN WI **Columbus** — Slogan to “Devil Radio 92.7.” (DXMid)
- 1590 WGGO NY **Salamanca** — Format to REL (ex-CLR), delete slogan, networks; Group to Grp= Family Life (ex-Grp= 98 Rocks). (RI)
- 1590 KDAV TX **Lubbock** — Adds // K222CQ-92.3; delete // KNNK-100.5. (FCC)
- 1600 WRPN WI **Ripon** — Format to AC/EZL (ex-CLR/TLK); drops nets, adds // W226CQ-93.1; delete Grp= Your Hometown Stations. (RI)
- 1630 KVAM WY **Fox Farm** — Group to Grp= KPHX Group (ex-Grp= La Jota Mexicana). (WH)
- 1640 KDZR OR **Lake Oswego** — Format to SS:MEX (ex-BIZ/TLK); slogan to “La Patrona,” drops networks. (RI)
- 1680 KNTS WA **Seattle** — Adds // KKOL-1300. (irca)

New Groups

Grp= Blues 93.1 – WIIN-780, W225BK-93.1, W271DF-102.1 (FCC)

Grp= cVille 107.5 – WCHV-1260, WCHV-FM-107.5, W300DV-107.9 (FCC)

Grp= Double K Country – KNEM-1240, KNMO-FM-97.5, K260DP-99.9 (FCC)

Grp= ESPN Southwest Florida – WBCN-770, W268AH-101.5, W282BY-104.3 (RIInk)

Grp= Family Life – WMTT-820, WMTT-FM-100.9, WGGO-1590, WPHD-104.9, WENY-FM-97.7, W267CJ-101.3 (RI)

Grp= KPHX Group – KPHX-1480, KVAM-1630, K234AH-94.7, KFCY-88.1 (WH)

Grp= Magic-FM – WENY-1230, W294BU-106.7, 106.9 (RI)

Grp= Prairie's Own – WPRE-980, W282BU-104.3, W258DW-99.5 (NP)

Grp= Tri-county Heartbeat - WCDO-1490, WCDO-FM-100.9, W222CR-92.3 (FCC)

Grp= The Sound Track of Our Lives – KCFM-1250, K276IH-103.1, K281AH-104.1 (RI)

Grp= WOAM Group – WOAM-1350, W225DC-92.9, W298BH-107.5 (FCC)

Group Name Changes

Grp= ESPN - Four Corners becomes Grp= ESPN for the Four Corners

Group Changes

Grp= Radio Casa drops KPHX-1480 Phoenix

Grp= 99.1 the River deletes KMRV-1160 (NP)

Deleted Groups

Grp= ESPN 1230/1390 (RI); Grp= News Talk & More (RIInk); Grp= 101 the Met (RI); Grp= The Patriot (RI); Grp= The Ride 101.9 & 96.3 (RI); Grp= Your Hometown Stations (RI)

WPTF-680: WPTF is News & Talk M-F and use a variety of programming on weekends including "All Star Country Weekend" Sat & Sun 1800-Midnight. (Gerry Conkling, Jr.)

Future of 900 WGHM and 1590 WSMN Nashua in Jeopardy: The City of Nashua plans to buy a parcel of land that includes the 900 WGHM/1590 WSMN transmitter site for development of a public dog park. According to the proposed purchase and sale agreement (the city's buying the parcel from Millyard Associates) the lease for the radio tower will remain in force for two years. Director Cummings gave an update at the PEDC meeting, and the proposed P&S is on the city's web site as R-21-144. Director Marchant commented that the dog park would only occupy about an acre's worth of the parcel, so there would be space for other uses as well. [Paraphrased by Bruce Conti from the Nashua Civic Facebook Group]

From Radio Insight

Rush Limbaugh Replacement Show: Premiere Networks has found not one, but two replacements to take over the Rush Limbaugh Show. Clay Travis (who currently hosts mornings on Premiere's "Fox Sports Radio") and Buck Sexton (who currently hosts an early evening show for Premiere) will take over the 12-3pm eastern slot with "The Clay Travis & Buck Sexton Show" beginning Monday, June 21 according to the Wall Street Journal. Travis, who recently sold his Outkick.com to Fox, has hosted mornings on Fox Sports Radio since 2016. The former lawyer previously co-hosted middays on Cumulus Media Sports "104.5 The Zone" WGFX Nashville. He will continue to host his two podcasts and the daily gambling show "Fox Bet Live" on FS1. Sexton currently hosts "The Buck Sexton Show" fed by Premiere in the 6-9pm slot. Sexton has hosted the show since February 2017. He previously hosted a TV show on Blaze and has served as a commentator for CNN and Fox News following a career with the CIA and NYPD in their counterterrorism units. Sexton also currently hosts a local hour from 6-7pm for 710 WOR New York. Since the February death of Limbaugh, the show has lost many of its affiliates as companies including Cox Media Group and Cumulus launched internal options while many other stations switched to other syndicated options. The new program will still have iHeartMedia's stable of talkers including WOR, KEIB Los Angeles, KTRH Houston, KFYI Phoenix, WOAI San Antonio, and WTAM Cleveland as launch affiliates.

Radio America – The Dana Show: Audacy and Radio America announced a multi-platform deal that will broadcast Dana Loesch's nationally syndicated "The Dana Show" in eleven Audacy markets (*some replacing the Rush Limbaugh show-wh*). Audacy will also become the exclusive audio streaming provider for "The Dana Show." In addition, Audacy and Loesch will collaborate on the co-development and production of her first ever original on-demand podcast.

Our Thanks to our Contributors and Various Media Sources: (DS) Dan Sys; (DXMid) DX Midamerica; (FCC) FCC; (GC) Gerry Conkling; (irca) IRCA IO-list; (JN) James Niven; (NP) Northpine.com; (nrc-am) NRC Google Group; (NWB) Northwest Broadcasters; (RI) Radio Insight; (RIInk) Radio Ink; (SK) Steve Kennedy; (StIntel) StationIntel.com; (TF) Tony Fitzherbert; (WH) Wayne Heinen



Domestic DX Digest – West

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Loggings of U.S. and Canadian stations by DXers in the Central, Mountain, Pacific, Alaska, and Hawaii-Aleutian time zones – All times are Eastern Local Time (ELT)

- Please submit all reports in the format seen below: Frequency, Calls, State, City, Date and Time in frequency order, please. Send either within an email, or as an attachment in plain text or RTF. All times are Eastern Local Time (ELT)!! In some cases, minor editing may occur. Reports older than 30 days may be excluded at the editor's discretion. Your cooperation is much appreciated.
- If you wish to have your email address added to your credit line in the Reporter's area, let us know specifically that it's OK. That way, if you begin to receive spam emails and you attribute that to your address being printed here, we are relieved of that responsibility.
- Welcome aboard to all the new members, plus welcome back to all former members. I note that many of you live in the "DDXD-West Listening Area"! It would be great to hear from you in the way of the DX you've heard lately. A few rules apply (see above), but it's pretty straightforward. Just follow the examples seen here. One or 100 ... send them in! We're looking forward to receiving your reports!

Please observe the following upcoming deadlines for DDXD-West:
Issue 18 – Friday, July 16, 2021; Issue 19 – Friday, August 13

--- REPORTERS ---

RA-CA	René Auvray Gardena, California Receiver: 2020 Toyota Corolla radio
SB-CA	Stephanie Battaglino Palm Desert, California Receiver: Perseus with Jaguar Pro; Antenna: Wellbrook ALA 1530 LNP or W6LVP loop mounted on a Hy-Gain AR-500 rotor at 25 ft., RPA-2 Preamp, ANC-4 Phaser (other equipment noted with logging)
RD-NE	Rick Dau South Omaha, Nebraska Receiver: Kenwood R-5000; Antenna: Quantum QX Pro loop
JJR-MI	John J Rieger L'Anse, Michigan Receiver/Antenna: Grundig Satellit 750/ Terk AM1000 loop; Sangean ATS-909X stock; (The Terk loop can/does phase the Grundig antenna)
JJR-WI	John J Rieger South Milwaukee, Wisconsin Receivers: Icom IC-R75, MFJ-959B tuner/preamp, Sangean ATS-909X stock; Antenna: Kiwa loop
JW-CO	John Wilkins Wheat Ridge, Colorado Receiver: Drake R-8; Antenna: 4-foot box loop

--- UNID AND UNID HELP ---

UNIDS

- 910 unID ?? - 6/7 0430 – Poor, but alone. 'ESPN Radio All Night.' This after ESPN promo. Vancouver, WA only ESPN I know of on 910. NO WAY can I count this unless something more local is heard. Possibly a format flip elsewhere? With CKST and KGHL in from West, could KMTT be it? Dunno! Pointed out too, by fellow DXer: KBLG-MT or WTMZ-SC. (JJR-MI)
- 910 unID - 6/10 0526-30/0544-0548 – Poor, with ESPN promo after promo, "ESPN-2 ESPN app," "ESPN-U. Sports Center at 0530." Lost to WGTO at 0551. No sign of usual WFDF. No WSUI. The 'nice' thing is the 910 ESPNer is being heard here, too (in addition to L'Anse). Sadly, they only will hopefully say Calls, LID at Top-of-Hour. Checks otherwise have been fruitless. Lost in L'Anse and stumped in South Milwaukee . . . (JJR-WI)
- 910 unID - 6/15 0516-0530 – Poor, with ESPN blather, promos, five seconds for calls to be inserted twice . . . Nothing! (JJR-WI)
- 940 unID ?? - 5/27 2256-2258 – Heard a Top 40 song that may have been from the disco era (Donna Summer?). Then KFIG Fresno starting to come through. (RA-CA) [I can't help with this 'Top 40' station, unless it's bumper music for 'Coast-to-Coast.' But the C2C web site's affiliate list shows no stations on 940 (at least that I noted) – Ed.]
- 1340 unID ?? - 5/27 0106-0107 – With what sounded like a disco track by Donna Summer, but faded into QRM. (RA-CA) [Thinking this 'disco' tune might have been bumper music for 'Coast-to-Coast,' I checked their web site for music used that morning . . . and it appears that no cut that specifically could have been Donna Summer, nor any female that I recognized with 'disco,' was used. So, I cannot be of any help – Ed]

- 1340 unID ?? - 5/27 0107-0108 – QRM at first, then suddenly George Noory with ‘Coast-to-Coast slowly gaining strength. News items about former President Trump and a shooting in San Jose, California V.T.A. RA-CA) [“V.T.A.” ??? . . . My two cents . . . I would guess that was KWCY Cathedral City as my old 40th edition AM Log lists them as carrying C2C – Ed]
- 1430 unID ?? - 5/27 0109-0110 – A country station and a SS station fighting it out. Finally heard KMRB San Gabriel. Was this KMRB? [my Log lists KWST as being ‘SS:Rel’ and KMRB as “Chinese’ – Ed.]

UNID HELP

Last Issue (16) René Auvray of Gardena, California offered this unID:

750 unID - 4/27 2303-2309 – With Spanish music. Likely an ‘XE’?, but where?

Tim Hall of Chula Vista, California writes to say: “René Auvray’s UNID-750 with ‘Spanish music’ is almost certainly KAMA El Paso, TX. They appear to have been blasting their day rig 24/7 for many years, and are a huge pest all over the US southwest. Listen for early-70s style jingles ‘siete-cincuenta Ka-ma!’ Of the two surviving Mexican stations on 750 (disregarding two replacement CPs for AMs that have moved to FM), XECSI gets out very poorly, and XEJMN is a daytimer.”

[I concur that KAMA is, indeed, the station in question. Their directional lobes (10 kW day/1 kW night) shoot both day and night signals due west from El Paso, so favor Southern California and points in between with a good signal. Since it appears René doesn’t have access to the internet, I suggest he purchase an ‘NRC AM Log’ and a ‘Pattern Book,’ as the data contained therein would come in handy to solve many of his unIDs – Ed.]



--- DX LOGGINGS ---

- 540 WXYG MN Sauk Rapids – 6/7 0540 – Poor, with “AC/DC on Album Rock 540 WXYG.” No CBK. (JJR-WI)
- 610 WPLO GA Grayson – 6/13 0542 – Chatter between slower SS songs. “La Bonita.” Only second time heard. Poor. (JJR-WI)
- 620 KTAR AZ Phoenix – 5/28 0700 – Legal ID and “ESPN 620” slogan. Fair. (JW-CO)
- 660 KTNN AZ Window Rock – 5/23 0622 – Heard (?) song, PSA, calls into chanting/ drums. KBHR in later. Poor. (JJR-MI)
- 680 WMFS TN Memphis – 5/26 0543 – Poor, with four minutes of ESPN hype, again @ 0556. NO nothing! Finally, the Legal ID @ 0600!!! (JJR-WI) [Those segments of “ESPN hype” are meant to give the local stations an opportunity to insert local ads or station promos . . . evidently WMFS has neither – Ed.]
- 690 WQNO LA New Orleans – 6/10 0533 – Very poor, with Rosary. Chasing and losing what I thought might be WNZK. That, then was lost. (JJR-WI)
- 740 WVLN IL Olney – 6/12 0546 – Very poor, with CBS Sports Radio and phone number. Through an unID. No CFZM. This is the most likely. (JJR-WI)
- 740 WNOP KY Newport – 6/10 0531 – Poor . . . no CFZM. Rosary being said. Assumed. (JJR-WI)
- 750 KAMA TX El Paso – 5/28 0714 – Mention of “kama750am.com,” then peppy Latino music. Fair signal, and alone on the frequency. (JW-CO)
- 790 WKRD KY Louisville – 5/31 0544 – Poor, with “University of Kentucky” mentions, then “Kentucky” mentions in PSA. “KRD” heard over the Country station I was chasing. (JJR-WI)
- 790 KGHL MT Billings – 6/2 0539 – “The Mighty 790 KGHL,” after Anne Murray song. “Montana Pork Producers” ad. Poor. (JJR-MI)
- 790 WCHQ TN Ashland City – 6/13 0536 – Poor, though alone, with quick “Q Country 103-9” sweeper between songs. (JJR-WI)
- 790 KFYO TX Lubbock – 6/4 0559 – “News Talk FM 95.1 and AM 790 KFYO!” Poor, but alone. (JJR-MI)
- 800 KQCV OK Oklahoma City – 6/4 0556 – Poor, with ‘Insight for Living.’ Calls ID included ‘95.7.’ Alone. (JJR-MI)
- 860 WMRI IN Marion – 6/12 0525 – Very poor, through weak (local) WNOV and CJBC. ESPN chatter. Only affiliate. (JJR-WI)
- 900 WATK WI Antigo – 6/12 0604 – “Classic Hits 98-7” between songs. Poor, with and under CHML. (JJR-WI)
- 910 WGTO MI Cassopolis – 5/26 0624 – “. . . in Cass County, call 269-445-XXXX.” MeTV FM. Not heard in a while. Poor. (JJR-WI)

- 910 KCJB ND Minot – 6/8 0523 – Poor, with “910AM KCJB” with ESPN wa-a-a-y under. WSUI nulled. Lightning crashes – back to sleep! (JJR-MI)
- 910 WCBN WI Hayward – 6/2 0636 – Very poor, with ‘Girls Just Wanna Have Fun’ by Cyndi Lauper. “96-9 The Cabin.” Rare! (JJR-MI)
- 960 KKNT AZ Flagstaff – 5/27 2256-2258 – With an ad for internet software, a Call ID mentioning ‘Salem Broadcasting,’ into (news item of) the ‘V.T.A. [again: V.T.A. ??? – Ed.] shooting. QRM from KTCK-1150. **First timer!** (RA-CA)
- 960 KMA IA Shenandoah – 6/7 0550 – Poor, with Star Spangled Banner and sign-on details for AM, FM 99.1. “. . . owned by KMA-land.” Over others. Nice to hear a sign-on. (JJR-WI)
- 990 KRMO MO Cassville – 6/15 0554 – Poor, with “AM 990 Weatherology forecast . . . high of 91.” Calls. No CBW. (JJR-WI)
- 1000 KFLG AZ Bullhead City – 5/20 0229-0242 – By itself with very good peaks with a mix of Gino Vanelli, Wilson Phillips, Chris Cross, and Steely Dan tunes. “Your music, your station K-Star FM” and “K-Star 99.3 FM” by male noted at 0229 and 0242, respectively. Supposedly a daytime-only operation – but . . . Copied this with my newly acquired XHDATA-808D with a cable-connected AN-200 loop. 1 kW at 137 miles. (SB-CA)
- 1010 KSIR CO Brush – 6/15 0553 – Poor, with ESPN Radio, now replacing WHIN. No CFRB, nor WPCN, hi. Assumed. (JJR-WI)
- 1010 WHIN TN Gallatin – 6/15 0541 – ‘Sucker’ by the Jonas Brothers, Legal ID for AM and FM translator into PSA. Poor. (JJR-WI)
- 1010 CBR AB Calgary – 6/11 0310-0318 – Weak, but briefly readable under local KXPS’s Amy Lawrence and-occasionally-KCHJ’s Ranchera music, with a female host talking about Luxembourg and then a male reporting on the troubles surrounding the upcoming Olympics in Japan. // stream. 50 kW at 1,201 miles. (SB-CA)
- 1020 KCKN NM Roswell – 6/2 0600 – Poor, with usual multi-station Legal ID, BUT laser shots added to each station now (those effects are new to the LID). (JJR-MI)
- 1040 KXPD OR Tigard – 5/23 0348-0403 – Fair, at times under WHO, with instrumental music dominated by what sounded like a pan flute or a flute. Matched the station’s stream. Listed at 200 Watts nights at 875 miles. (SB-CA)
- 1040 CKST BC Vancouver – 6/7 0529 – Very poor, though audience laughs every so often uNDER WHO indicated this Comedy format. (JJR-WI)
- 1050 WTKA MI Ann Arbor – 5/31 0605 – With “Ticket” sports. With WLIP running OC to 0610. Yikes! (JJR-WI)
- 1070 KNX CA Los Angeles – 5/23 0615 – Poor, with “Cars conked out, sitting sideways on the 1-10” . . . “temperatures in the high 40s – low 50s.” “Thousand Oaks” given, along with “Southern California’s most accurate . . . KNX 1070 News Radio,” then lost to WTSO. (JJR-MI)
- 1070 KILR IA Estherville – 5/29 0555 – Tuned in to hear “This is KILR Estherville Iowa” into talk. Lost to WTSO. One of my closest unheards. **First new log since 2/21. NEW!** (JJR-WI)
- 1110 WGNZ OH Fairborn – 6/12 0613 – Poor, though “Power & Light” slogan popped out. Information on ‘How To Give.’ No KFAB. (JJR-WI)
- 1140 KXST NV North Las Vegas – 5/27 2302-2302 – Ad/PSA for ‘Kars for Kids’ into Los Angeles Dodgers broadcast. Mention of “CBS Sports Radio.” KTCK-1150 QRM. **First timer!** (RA-CA)
- 1150 WIMA OH Lima – 5/29 0650 – “WIMA” into talk show, upon tuning in. No usual WHBY. Poor. (JJR-WI)
- 1190 CFSL SK Weyburn – 6/14 0515 – “Today’s Hits, Yesterday’s Country Favourites, AM 1190.” With WOWO. Poor. (JJR-WI)
- 1230 WFER MI Iron River – 5/29 0659 – “_7.9 WFER” out of nowhere! (I didn’t hear the ‘ninety’ of 97.9.) Poor. Chasing a different 1230. Rare. (JJR-WI)
- 1240 KFBC WY Cheyenne – 5/25 0807 – Ad for upcoming ‘Laramie County Fair,’ sports from Cowboy State Network, news, weather, ag report, etc. Fair, mixing with others. (JW-CO)
- 1260 WOCO WI Oconto – 6/3 0758 – Very poor, airing the ‘last day of school’ menu, weather, and local mentions. WPNW weak in back. Rare. (JJR-MI)
- 1300 WQPM MN Princeton – 5/23 0646 – “. . . the Big Q” sweeper between OLDies, way under WOOD. Very poor. (JJR-MI)



- 1330 KYOZ WA Spokane – 5/23 0309-0313 – Very weak, but readable, in space created by quasi-local KWKW going off, coming back on, then going off again with Spanish male vocal music. Enough to compare to the station’s webstream. Listed at 23 watts nights at 958 miles. (SB-CA)
- 1330 KOVE WY Lander – 5/28 0758 – “We’ve got you covered . . . we play it all – 1330 Country KOVE,” then music to 0801 legal ID. Fair. (JW-CO)
- 1360 KKBJ MN Bemidji – 6/14 0530 – Poor, no WTAQ, with “5 minutes South of Bamidji on (Hwy) 71 in ad,” into ABC News. (JJR-WI)
- 1360 KKMO WA Tacoma – 5/22 0306-0326 – Fair, under KLSD’s Fox Sports, with Spanish music and “trece seisenta” mention by female between songs. // stream. 5 kW at 988 miles. (SB-CA)
- 1370 WLTH IN Gary – 5/26 0617 – Poor, with songs by Supremes and Stevie Wonder. Calls, chatter later (@ 0637). With WSPD. (JJR-WI)
- 1370 WLJW MI Cadillac – 5/23 0700 – Poor, with Legal IDs for AM and FM translators. Not common due to WSPD. (JJR-MI)
- 1370 KWRT MO Booneville – 6/15 0548 – Poor, with “. . . locally 98.7, regionally 1370 and 1370kwrt.com.” (JJR-WI)
- 1380 WMJR KY Nicholasville – 6/14 0606 – Very poor- but ‘Relevant Radio’ popped through WKJG . . . not for long . . . the only fit. (JJR-WI)
- 1410 KLEM IA Le Mars – 5/18 2143 – Fair, under WIZM, with brief “1410 KLEM” ID heard during syndicated “Delilah” program. Ad for ‘WinnaVegas’ casino at 2144, then into start of ad for ‘Langel’s Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning,’ but gone at 2145, presumably at power cut time. What helped me get this was that local pest KOBM-1420 was carrying a high school baseball game at the time (thereby cutting down on the splash) and KLEM is at nearly a 90 degree angle for me from KOBM’s tower -- a simple matter of turning the Quantum Loop 90 degrees from KOBM and hitting the LSB button on the R-5000. First new logging here since mid-March. (RD-NE)
- 1430 WRDN WI Durand – 5/29 0638 – Poor, with “. . . in the Durand plan rule book,” two PSAs, calls, and “Real Country.” Rare! (JJR-WI)
- 1450 KFSD CA Escondido – 5/30 0113-0143 – Bubbled up from a mix of Mike Gallagher on KZNU and KTIP’s Spanish music and talk, with religious talk on the ‘Fathers of Mercy’ program on John Paul II Catholic Radio. // stream. New format noted for me, ex-Music of the Stars. 1 kW pointed away from me at 63 miles. Airspy HF+ Discovery and Youloop. (SB-CA)
- 1450 KTIP CA Porterville – 5/30 0145-0157 – Fair with good peaks with a steady mix of Spanish music. “Hola! Que Tal? La Poderosa . . .” noted by male at 0157 between songs. 1 kW at 222 miles. Airspy HF+ Discovery and Youloop. (SB-CA)
- 1450 KBUN MN Bemidji – 6/2 0700 – With Legal ID for AM and FM 94.1. “SportsRadio . . . ESPN.” Very poor, thru others. (JJR-MI)
- 1460 WKAM IN Goshen – 5/31 0555 – Poor, with SS // 1580 WHLY, which was in too. WJTI off (again). (JJR-WI)
- 1510 KIFG IA Iowa Falls – 6/2 0650 – Poor, with PSAs for the ‘Iowa National Guard’ and Iowa Broadcasters Association.’ Assumed, as no calls were heard. (JJR-MI)
- 1530 WLAK WI New Holstein – 5/22 0658 – Poor, with ‘Shop Around’ by the Miracles // “True Oldies 1590 WGBW.” WCKY weak. (JJR-MI)
- 1550 KUAZ AZ Tucson – 5/22 0830 – “At this time KUAZ Tucson begins another broadcast day. KUAZ is a service of the University of Arizona . . .” Also mentioned was KUAZ-FM 89.1. Talk followed, probably from APR. (JW-CO)
- 1550 KQNM NM Albuquerque – 5/29 0759 – “KQNM Albuquerque, K255AU Corrales – listener-supported Relevant Radio 1550 AM and 98.9 FM.” Catholic news followed at 0800. Good peaks, mixing with KUAZ. (JW-CO)
- 1580 WAMW IN Washington – 6/15 0606 – Poor, with no CKDO. “WAMW weather with the temperatures in the 80s and humid.” Last 1580 log: 2014. NEW! (JJR-WI)
- 1590 WPVL WI Platteville – 6/2 0544 – Poor, with “ESPN Radio 1590 WPVL. ESPN Radio 1590 WPVL is owned & . . .” Up here . . . rare! (JJR-MI)
- 1640 WTNI MS Biloxi – 6/7 0541 – ‘106.3 Casino Radio’ said twice, blowing away more common WSJP. Poor. (JJR-MI)

KLEM
1410 am 96.9 fm



Domestic DX Digest – East

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Loggings of U.S. and Canadian stations by DXers in the Eastern & Atlantic time zones

All times are Eastern Local Time (ELT)

REPORTERS

- BC-NH** **Bruce Conti, Nashua** – Excalibur SDR, terminated SuperLoop 60° northeast, terminated 20 x 10-ft Delta 60° northeast with W6LVP amp.
- GMC- NC** **Gerry Conkling, Angier** – C. Crane 2E
- HJH-PA** **Harry Hayes, Wilkes-Barre** – C. Crane Skywave, ALA-1530 loop
- PS-ON** **Paul Snider, London** – Elad FDM-S2, Wellbrook ALA 1530 LN loop, MFJ-1020C tuner
- JW-PA** **Jim Weber, Oyster Point** – Grundig S350, Sony ICF-2010
- MKB-ON** **Mike Brooker, Toronto** – Grundig YB-400PE, XHDATA D-808, Sony SRF-39FP, C Crane Skywave, Tecsun PL-330, Panasonic RF-2200

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TIS/HAR/FISHING BUOY

- 1630 ---- RI** **Multiple locations** – 6/20 0100 – Fair; “This is WPQB669 Providence-Pawtucket and WQKY729 Cranston, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation...” **(BC-NH)**
- 1680 unID --** 6/18 2000 – Slow Morse code, possibly a fishing buoy, through another unID signal relaying coastal weather radio. **(BC-NH)**

LOGGINGS

- 690 KSTL MO** **Saint Louis** – 6/19 2237 – Coming in well tonight with urban gospel, “Jubilee 690” slogan at 2238, more music. Day power? Fair to very poor. **(PS-ON)**
- 690 WELD WV** **Fisher** – 6/2 0438 – Interesting slogan ID at this time: “The way to solve all your problems, listening to WELD!” Then a call sign ID and “Don’t Stop Believing” by Journey. Coming in fairly well during the period with a call sign ID again at 0449: “690 AM WELD Radio.” **(JW-PA)**
- 860 WSBS MA** **Great Barrington** – 6/20 0501 – Good; “The music you love, and information you need, only from your hometown station in the Berkshires, WSBS Great Barrington, W231AK Great Barrington, and streaming online worldwide on the free WSBS app and at WSBS dot com, a Townsquare Media station, Red Sox baseball on your hometown station 94.1 FM WSBS.” **(BC-NH)**
- 1230 WCMC NJ** **Wildwood** – 6/19 0359 – Slogan “New Jersey’s station for non-stop bebop and doo-wop.” Many call sign IDs for WMID at 0401. Front and center on 1230 at this time. **(JW-PA)**
- WBLQ RI** **Westerly** – 6/20 0400 – Over WGUY; “This is Stereo 1230 WBLQ Westerly-Stonington, a Diponti Communications station.” **(BC-NH)**
- 1240 WBAS MA** **West Yarmouth** – 6/20 0000 – Under WSKI; “Good morning, it’s 12 midnight,” Bath postal address, “These are the memories stations, WJTO 730 Bath... WJIB 740 Cambridge-Boston, WBAS 1240 West Yarmouth...” **(BC-NH)**
- WSNJ NJ** **Bridgeton** – 6/17 0405 – Presumed, mention of 99.9 and signal strength leads me to believe WSNJ was the source. Lots of stations coming in. **(JW-PA)**
- WGVA NY** **Geneva** – 6/20 0400 – Fair; “106.3 and 1240 WGVA Geneva, Finger Lakes News Radio,” and CBS news. **(BC-NH)**
- 1290 WPVD RI** **Providence** – 6/18 2000 – Over WKBK; “This is The Public’s Radio 89.3 FM HD WNPN Newport, 102.7 FM HD WNPE Narragansett Pier, 88.1 FM WELH Providence, and also on... everywhere The Public’s Radio dot org, WPVD Providence.” An hour later WKBK Keene was dominant. **(BC-NH)**
- 1340 WSTJ VT** **St. Johnsbury** – 6/20 0100 – Fair; “You’re listening to The Notch network of radio stations, 106.3 WMTK Littleton, 104.1 WSTJ St. Johnsbury... and 103.1 WIKE Newport,” classic rock, parallel 1490 WIKE. **(BC-NH)**
- 1350 WNLK CT** **Norwalk** – 6/20 0100 – Under CKAD; EWTN sounder, presumed WNLK Veritas Catholic Network. **(BC-NH)**
- WRNY NY** **Rome** – 6/20 0500 – Over WINY; “WTLB Utica, WRNY Rome, this is ESPN Radio Utica-Rome, now on 96.5 FM.” **(BC-NH)**

- 1360 CKAD NS **Middleton** – 6/20 0101 – Fair; “AVR, today’s best country.” (BC-NH)
- 1360 WKMI MI **Kalamazoo** – 5/28 2200 – ID as “Accurate News, Conservative Talk, WKMI.” Ad for Oxford Gold Group then ABC News at ToH. Very good signal. (HJH-PA)
- WYOS NY **Binghamton** – 5/28 0200 – Very clear callsign ID at this time with mention of Binghamton and CBS Sports Radio. (JW-PA)
- WHBG VA **Harrisonburg** – 6/8 2030 – Fair signal with PSA from Harrisonburg, Rockingham Community Services Board. (HJH-PA)
- 1370 WVLY WV **Moundsville** – 6/12 0500 – ID sequence at this time. I missed the AM call sign but got WKKX and 97.7 as well as a mention of Moundsville. Not sure of the programming; there were several stations coming in. (JW-PA)
- 1400 WJZN ME **Augusta** – 6/20 0101 – Fair; “This is Augusta’s classic rock station, Capital 95-9.” (BC-NH)
- 1430 WDJS NC **Mount Olive** – 6/7 1425 – Christian oriented music, singing W-D-J-S jingle at 1445. Heard what sounded like Louis Armstrong singing “Let My People Go.” At 1500 ToH ID: “1430 WDJS-Mount Olive and 102.5 W273DV-Goldsboro.” This is a 5 tower in a row directional station all the time with 10 kW daytime and 5 kW at night with their main signal going East-South East at all hours. I’m hearing them with only a fair signal on the day power. (GMC-NC)
- 1440 WMAX MI **Bay City** – 6/16 2228 – EWTN mention by female announcer, religious talk program. Fair occasionally to very poor with WMKM dominating. // to avemariaradio.net stream. (PS-ON)
- 1450 WVOM ME **Rockland** – 6/20 0400 – Poor; “The Voice of Maine” multi-station ID and Fox news. (BC-NH)
- WPNO ME **South Paris** – 6/20 0200 – Poor; ID as “105-5 and 95-7 WIGY.” (BC-NH)
- WKAL NY **Rome** – 6/20 0500 – Poor; “103.3 FM 1450 AM WKAL...” ToH ID and Townhall news. (BC-NH)
- WWRI RI **West Warwick** – 6/18 2000 – Fair; local ad string, George’s Transmission on Route 117 in Coventry, Iggy’s Boardwalk Lobster and Clam Bar in Warwick, WWRI Classic Rock ID. (BC-NH)
- WSNO VT **Barre** – 6/18 2300 – Under CHOU; “105-7 The Beat” slogan. (BC-NH)
- CFAB NS **Windsor** – 6/18 2100 – Over/under CHOU; “...in Windsor, CFAB 1450 AM.” (BC-NH)
- 1460 WKAM IN **Goshen** – 6/9 2247 – Ad or promo read by female announcer with mentions of Indiana, more ads/promos with one mentioning Goshen at 2253, into music, ToH ID “This is WKAM...” and mention of South Bend, Indiana. Fair occasionally to very poor in station mix including usual WHIC, WBNS and CJOY. No WKDV heard tonight. // to Tune In stream. First time heard at this location. (PS-ON)
- 1470 WNYN NY **Ithaca** – 6/6 0400 – Fair signal with a clean ID at this time, oldies format and mention of 94.1 FM. Also audible the following morning along with one or more other oldies stations. (JW-PA)
- 1490 WIKE VT **Newport** – 6/20 0100 – Poor; “You’re listening to The Notch network of radio stations...” with ID’s for 106.3 WMTK Littleton, 104.1 WSTJ St. Johnsbury, and 103.1 WIKE Newport, classic rock, parallel 1340 WSTJ. (BC-NH)
- 1510 WWHN IL **Joliet** – 6/19 0015 – On after sunset with urban gospel, announcer asking his Alexa questions (loud beeps after the questions were very audible), “Comfortable Radio, Joliet, Illinois WWHN” ID, “Night Train” by James Brown, announcer talk again. Poor to very poor mostly under WLAC. // to Simple Radio stream. (PS-ON)
- 1520 WMLM MI **Saint Louis** – 6/20 0016 – C&W music heard under WWKB, clearly heard “Real Country” slogan at 0017, more music. Very poor. (PS-ON)
- KOLM MN **Rochester** – 6/18 2337 – Tuned in to “1520 The Ticket” slogan, into ads and PSAs, CBS Sports Radio mentions. Fair to poor mostly under WWKB. First time heard at this location. (PS-ON)
- 1530 WLCO MI **Lapeer** – 6/16 2218 – On after sunset again giving WCKY a run for their money. Classic rock, IDing as “Lapeer’s US 103.1.” Fair to poor. (PS-ON)
- 1560 KGOW TX **Bellaire** – 6/13 0100 – Over WGLB; woman in Vietnamese, then canned ID by man in EE, “KGOW 1560 AM Bellaire-Houston, Texas,” with fanfare, and back to woman in Vietnamese. Often received, but first time caught with ID. (BC-NH)



- 1570 WYTI NC Rocky Mount – 6/3 0513 – Call letter ID at this time followed by male announcing the local weather. Station promo for “Weekend in the Country” program. Full ID, including mention of 104.5 at 0517. (JW-PA)
- 1590 WGGO NY Salamanca – 6/5 0602 – Caught “...and on WGGO Salamanca,” fighting usual WAKR/WHGT mix. (MKB-ON)
- 1690 CJLO QC Montreal – 6/18 2000 – Good; “You’re listening to CJLO 1690 AM in Montreal, for CJLO news I’m Allison O’Reilly.” (BC-NH)

International DX Digest

Bruce Conti, 46 Ridgefield Drive, Nashua NH 03062-1174

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For loggings of stations outside the U.S. and Canada

All times are Universal Coordinated Time (UTC)

TRANS-ATLANTIC DX

- 531 ALGERIA *R.Algérienne*, F’kirina Wilaya d’Oum El Bouaghi JUN 20 0200 – Fair, signal 10-15 dB stronger than adjacent 530 kHz; time pips with the last at a higher pitch, then unfamiliar fanfare into news, presumed Algeria but it didn’t sound like *Jil FM*. At 0300 not as strong; same time pips and fanfare into news. [Conti-NH] *From Ydun Ritz via WRTH Facebook group and Jari Lehtinen via NRC Facebook group, 531 and 891 changed to Radio Algerie International.*
- 1476 BENIN TWR Parakou JUN 13 0500 – Carriers of this and 1566 kHz in and out barely audible, most certainly TWR Benin. [Conti-NH]
- 1566 BENIN TWR Parakou JUN 9 0500 – S5 signal with trace of music, carrier off at 0505:53 UTC. There has been a lot of discussion about the carrier going off around 0505. From Mauno Ritola of WRTH, the schedule after 0500 (day 1 is Sunday): 0500-0505 1 7 Songhai; 0500-0505 2 3 Twi; 0500-0505 4 5 6 Moore; 0505-0520 1 Moore; 0505-0520 7 Songhai. So until 0520 only on Sat and Sun. Parakou sunrise is 0529 UTC, close to the earliest of the year; varies less than a semihour later into winter. [Hauser-BR]
- 1618 unID JUN 19 0200 – Poor, s5 signal but too noisy to be readable, likely a Dutch pirate. [Conti-NH]

PAN-AMERICAN DX

- 540 MEXICO XETX Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chih. APR 24 0137-0140 – Poor, underneath XESURF; ranchera music and then in between songs, copied “La Ranchera de Paquime” by male and back to more ranchera music. Quickly faded. Listed at 700 watts nights at 545 miles. [Battaglino-CA]
- 1270 MEXICO XEAZ Tijuana, BC APR 27 0210-0212 – Poor and brief under dominant local KGAY; Spanish talk by female and “primer sistema de noticias” mention. Parallel stream. 500 watts at 94 miles. New. [Battaglino-CA]
- 1500 MEXICO XEDF México, DF APR 27 0249-0257 – Poor/fair underneath KSJX; Spanish talk, male caller and female host followed by “Fórmula Noticias” and “Grupo Fórmula” mentions by male. Parallel stream. Listed at 5 kW nights, but as many Mexican AM’s are want to do, could have been running day power of 50 kW, at 1,462 miles. [Battaglino-CA]

CONTRIBUTORS

Stephanie Battaglino, Palm Desert CA; Perseus with Jaguar Pro, Wellbrook ALA 1530 LNP or W6LVP Loop mounted on a Hy-Gain AR-500 rotor at 25 ft.-ish, RPA-2 Preamp, ANC-4 Phaser.

Bruce Conti WPC1CAT, Nashua NH; WiNRADiO Excalibur, terminated SuperLoop 15 x 23-m at 60° northeast, terminated Delta 3-m apex x 6-m base with W6LVP amp at 60° northeast.

Glenn Hauser, Caruaru, Pernambuco, Brazil; KiwiSDR.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JAPAN: Forty-four of the 47 commercial AM radio stations across Japan plan to switch to FM broadcasting by fall 2028 to improve business performance by reducing the cost of operating both AM and FM broadcasting services, it was announced on June 15. The move to FM broadcasting will be made by all AM radio stations except those in Hokkaido and Akita Prefecture in northern Japan. AM broadcasting services are scheduled to start being suspended as early as fall of 2023 as part of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications test of switching to FM, meaning that AM broadcasting services will shrink in phases from 2023 onwards.

Though AM broadcasting has a longer range, it has faced challenges, such as requiring large-scale facilities including an antenna at least 100 meters tall and high maintenance costs as they age. Furthermore, AM and FM radio channels broadcast the same programs through FM complement broadcasting, known as Wide FM, as part of disaster prevention measures, causing overlapping facility costs. As advertising revenue has been falling among commercial AM broadcasters, they requested the communications ministry in 2019 for system reform that would allow them to switch to lower-cost FM broadcasting, and the ministry has approved this reform.

Tokyo-based TBS Radio Inc., Nippon Cultural Broadcasting Inc. and Nippon Broadcasting System Inc. have announced they will halt AM broadcasting in fall 2028 at the earliest. Overall, 21 of the 47 AM broadcasters are set to participate in the ministry experiment, and of the 21, 14 will take part with their broadcast relay stations. Even after the transition to FM by fall 2028, some broadcasters will continue AM programming as a supplementary measure. FM broadcasting is hard to receive in mountainous and other remote areas, and Wide FM radio requires a receiver corresponding to certain frequencies. A 2019 government survey showed, however, that the distribution rate of Wide FM receivers was only at 53%.

TBS Radio Chairman Kiyohiko Irie told a June 15 news conference, "We must quickly act to promote (Wide FM) receivers. We have decided to announce our plans soon to gain understanding from our listeners. While it's each broadcaster's decision whether to switch to FM, each of us are going to use this opportunity to address the challenges." The broadcasters plan to release annual progress reports on the ministry-led experiment. [Tomofumi Inagaki and Yuka Matsubara, Cultural News Department, via Mike Terry, DXing.info Facebook group]

UNITED KINGDOM: The Medium Wave Circle, Europe's premier MW DX club, has launched its new website at www.mwcircle.org. All of the content is either new or completely revised and updated. New features include access to the full archive of Medium Wave News, an archive of the European MW Guide, and an excellent introduction to medium wave DX'ing. [Stuart Heathcock and Steve Whitt, MWC]

73 and Good DX!

Unreported Domestic Stations

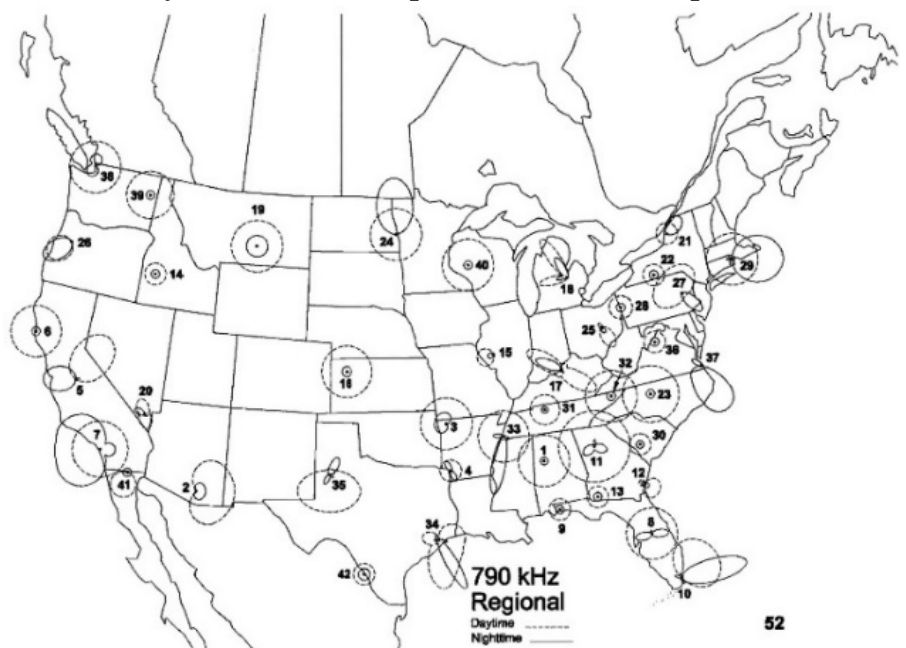
One station was reported to DDXD this issue for the first time since at least Volume 67 (1999-2000): WDJS-1430. We will also drop from the list recently defunct KPRO-1410, but we'll add KDAZ-700 which is now on the air on a new frequency. Net, we are down 1 and so 258 stations in the United States and Canada remain unreported to DDXD during this period, exclusive of low-powered TIS/HAR and LPRT stations. Can you log and report one for next issue? The most recent list was published in issue #1 – if you'd like an updated list by e-mail, send a request to the publisher at NRCDXNews@gmail.com.

NRC Antenna Pattern Book 8th Edition

The 8th Edition of the NRC *AM Station Antenna Pattern Book* is now available. This all-new edition was prepared by Bill Hale and accompanies the 2018 (39th Edition) of the National Radio Club's *AM Radio Log*. The book comes shrink wrapped in 8½ by 11 three hole punch format for placement in your own three ring binder. The book has maps covering 530 through 1700 kHz showing day and night patterns for U.S., Canadian, and selected Mexican and Caribbean stations.

The book is available from the National Radio Club at PO Box 473251, Aurora CO 80047-3251 and Priority Mail to addresses in the United States for \$28.95 for members and \$35.95 for nonmembers. Canadian orders are US\$43.80 and all other countries are US\$54.90, both shipped Global Priority Mail.

The Pattern book may also be ordered using pay pal from our website <http://www.nrcdxas.org> at slightly higher prices.



Musings of the Members

Linda Brodsky zekesgm@gmail.com

Non-electronic submissions: Send to Publisher (see AM Switch for address)

Next deadline: July 16

George Santulli – Lovettsville, VA

Welcome Linda to the Musings of the Members! I wish you the very best as you take over a most special part of the DX News. I hope everyone keeps you busy!

I think my discovery of MW DXing is similar to others in our hobby. I was an 8-year-old kid living in suburban New Jersey in the shadow of the giant 50kw blowtorches from NYC. One cold March day, I was home with a cold and while everyone was out of the house, I discovered that my trusty RCA 8 transistor radio died.... the batteries gave out! So, I did what any 8-year-old would do, I went downstairs and grabbed the old family Emerson radio and hauled it upstairs. I plugged it in and was horrified that the usual WABC AM 770 that we all listened to, was gone! No Big Dan Ingram, the afternoon DJ who held court in the afternoons. I did not know what I did to the radio. I was 8, I had no clue about "frequencies" and that while we knew WABC was on 77, it did not mean a thing to me. I tuned around and heard a variety of items, like "Boston weather", "Philly traffic," "Hartford sports," even some foreign language was heard, maybe French? I was distraught at what happened and after a while I just turned it off. I broke the only family radio and so far, only I knew it.

Little by little the family came home, and dad came up to check on me. I had to admit I broke the old Emerson!! Dad asked what happened? I explained that I brought the kitchen radio up to listen to since my batteries in the RCA died, but when I plugged it in, WABC was gone, I was hearing other people talking from other places, like Baltimore, Washington, DC etc. I did not hear WABC, but funny letters, like WBZ, WTIC, WBAL, WTOP! Dad smiled and said, well you did not break the radio, you were just picking up other stations that are strong even in our suburban NYC location. What? What do you mean? He tried to explain to me about frequencies and I think the analogy he used was like what we knew about our TV set, we had channel 2 and 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13. That sort of explained it.

I got some new batteries and when I put them into my transistor, and started to twirl the dial, I found that there were other stations out there!! Wow...I must have exclaimed! This is great!!! I have discovered something none of my friends or cousins knew about. It was all mine!!! Truly a secret machine my radio had become.

It was March, it was cold and it was late afternoon, so I was hearing what I assume was the beginnings of my first sunset listening session, even if I did not know it. Worse yet, I had no one to share it with or even explain it, since I did not understand it myself!!

Sadly, I found out pretty fast that our own Newark Sunday News had a weekly column that discussed this very phenomenon, something called DXing, listening to distant AM stations! The column was written by someone from the Newark News Radio Club (NNRC) a club for people just like me! I guess they must have advertised how to join, which I did and then my world changed big time.

The NNRC "bulletins" were chock full of AM, FM, SW and TV information. My mind blew up! Out went American History, Geography, Math and English Grammar....in was tips on how to listen to the AM band, and when was the best time to listen!

And sleep suffered too when I realized that midnight was a fine time to listen since stations near me went off for maintenance, mostly on midnight on Monday mornings!

There were even local gatherings of grizzled older NNRC members who were more than happy to share information with this 8-year-old kid. Dad would drop me off for a Saturday get together at someone's home. Sign of the times for sure, can you imagine doing that today; dropping an 8-year-old kid at some "strangers" home? Dad did come in the first time, but left when he realized we were talking radio and was okay.

Soon, I discovered the NRC and joined and was introduced to the great Ernie Cooper, who sort of took me under his wing; taught me how to send in "Musings" and the rest as they say is history. It is just great that all these years later, the NRC is still thriving. The volunteers who put this DX News out year after year are such a testament to the original group who labored with mimeo machines and mailings of many pages of information, all for our hobby.

I am thrilled that Linda has decided to keep the Musings of the Members rolling on! I know Ernie is raising his mug to you and smiling that it is your turn to make the Musings as best as possible!!

73s, George A. Santulli, Contract TV Producer, U.S. Department of State, Foreign Press Center, Washington, D.C. 20045, gsantulli@hotmail.com

Bob Galerstein, Morris Plains NJ

Congrats to Linda for taking over this great column! I have been a member since, gasp, 1974, and well remember the superb job Ernie Cooper did, and how the column was must reading in DX News.....I found out about the NRC in the fall of 1973. I had just entered high school on Long Island, and we were fortunate enough to have a 10 watt FM radio station, WKWZ, 88.5. We received a DX report from NRC member Chris Lucas, which I answered on WKWZ stationery. Chris responded, told me about the NRC, we exchanged additional correspondence, and my DX'ing took off.

My first real DX radio was a Heathkit GR-78 (pic attached) which I built, and is still proudly in the shack, front and center, and working. Using just a 125 foot long wire on the roof of my house, I logged such goodies in the mid- 70's such as KOMO, KFI and KNX. KSL-1160 was, especially in the winter, a night time armchair copy regular. Regrettably, I had little interest in foreign DX; if I had, I would have done quite well with my location. During this time, I also got my novice ham license as WN2VGD.

I'm now living in north New Jersey in an end unit townhouse. Yes, the HOA rules exist here, of course. Fortunately, once one gets past the 20 feet of lawn in the back of my unit, are woods. It's a big reason why I bought this place. I clandestinely buried LMR-400 coax about 3-4 inches from the side of my rear deck to the woods. From there, the coax runs another 100 feet. I then had a fellow ham, who specializes in antenna installations, put up a 268 foot off center fed dipole, with the apex at 45 feet. After 4 years, the HOA police have yet to discover it, and hopefully won't for many more. Main AM DX rig is a now venerable Drake R8-B. I sometimes use my main ham rig, also venerable status, an Icom 746 Pro. Only, the Icom is like all Japanese ham radios - the AM band is greatly desensitized. This is evident when listening to local WWRL-1600. WWRL is s-50, then when I tune to 1599, the signal drops 25 "s" units. Plus, the AM filter skirt is not that great. Still, I do some DX with it.....I've been gently elbowed in the ribs by some good friends to "go to the dark side" and get an SDR. My thinking about that, right now, is that I look at computer screens every working day. After eight hours, I'm bleary eyed and have little desire to look at another screen. Still, my Icom recently blew its transmitter, so a new radio is now a serious consideration. I'm looking at the Elecraft K4D for both ham and AM DX - have been in contact with the people who designed the radio - the AM band is NOT desensitized, plus it has an AM selectable side band sync detector. Let it go through its shakedown cruise and I'll go from there. Meanwhile, for AM, between the Drake R8-B, the dipole in the woods, a Kiwa loop and a Gerry Thomas phaser, I was able to log Montana this past winter - thank you Paul and Les!

**Wayne Heinen – Aurora CO amlog@nationalradioclub.org**

Nice email surprise right after I completed my last musing, the WENR-1090 DX Test report came out and Les Rayburn of the CPC must have used the same pair of super-duper headphones I did to hear the Morse ID shortly after my local KMXA pulled the plug. That becomes new station #32 of the season

If you are, like me, awaiting a QSL for a DX Test that the Courtesy Program Committee is doing the QSL'ing for, PLEASE HAVE PATIENCE! Remember that everyone on the CPC is a volunteer and doesn't have the ability to devote all of their time to the effort.

Getting ready for a few antenna projects this summer including a broadband loop on a rotor and the usual summer upkeep of the wire antennas. I'll keep you posted! 73 & Good DX!

Linda Brodsky – Malvern NY

Thanks to the patient encouragement and detailed but understandable tech support from Steve Ratzlaff, AA7U, I've learned how to wind binocular ferrite cores and construct transformers for my Loop On Ground and Low Noise Vertical antennas.

In addition to my PAR EF and 3 foot amplified loop and two 60ft LoGs, I took Steve's suggestion and put up a 10ft LNV and also changed my longwire so now the last 10 feet comes down vertically uses the same type of transformer (3:30 turns) as the LNV. I wish I could figure out a way to get that one higher than 10 feet up in the tree it's in. Someone suggested a slingshot, but I'm too close to the neighbors to take a chance with that. All are spaced as far away from houses and one another as possible and all are good at minimizing noise, which is extremely important at my QTH. I was surprised at how good reception on the unamplified LNV is from AMBC all the way up to UHF. I think they might benefit from better coax feedlines than the old pieces I'm using now. More antenna tryouts will have to wait a few weeks as hubby and I are finally able to get out to CO for a long awaited reunion with our twin 5 year old grandkids and their parents, who we haven't seen in person since March 2020.

Keep those musings coming!

DX Toolbox

Shawn Axelrod, 30 Becontree Bay, Winnipeg R2N 2X9 (Canada) amandx@mymts.net

Greetings once again from the Heart of the Continent and welcome to the DX Tool Box Column number 136.

I received this in a personal email but I want to share it with all of you:

Asian DX Review -Volume 39-No 560-June 2021

Greetings on behalf of IDXCI

June 2021 issue of Asian DX Review is available for download

<https://idxci.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ADXR-Volume-39-No-560-June-2021.pdf>

Contents of ADXR June 2021 Edition

- 1) **Five Hot Little Portable Radios by Gary DeBock, N7EKK, Puyallup, WA**
- 2) A tribute to John Rajput, Trans World Radio - India
- 3) DX Loggings by Babul Gupta ~ VU3ZBG
- 4) 16th Edition of the Global Radio Guide by TEAK Publishing
- 5) QSL Review by Pradip Chandra Kundu by VU3IOP
- 6) Focus On India by Jose Jacob ~ VU2JOS

73 Sandipan Basu Mallick Radio Enthusiast, DX'er

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www.idxci.in

Bits and Bites from the NRC Listserv

With the passing of Ben Dangerfield many members posted their thoughts on Ben and here they are:

From: Mark Connelly

Please see the note below from Dorothy Dangerfield regarding the passing of her husband Ben.

Ben Dangerfield was a good friend and a great DXer. I had an opportunity to meet him in 2000 when he came up to Gloucester and Rockport, MA and got together with Bruce Conti and me. He enjoyed seeing how we operated out of our cars at the famous Granite Pier DXpedition site. Ben's achievements in the hobby were legendary. He will be missed by many.

Dorothy would appreciate help from DXers in the Philadelphia area to help preserve his verifications and other DX material. She also mentioned to me a Drake R8A and Quantum Phaser to be sold to benefit veterans. Her email is in the message below.

"Ben has made his last DXing catch. He passed away yesterday. He loved the hobby from his early teen years until recently when his illness took over his life. The National Radio friends were an important part of his life. Ben was 98 years old, a World War II combat medic veteran, my wonderful husband for 73 years, and a fantastic father to a daughter and two sons. He also had a granddaughter and two great grandsons who were his delight. What more can one ask from life?" – Dorothy Dangerfield

From: Bob Young, Lima Peru, Millbury MA

RIP Ben, I never met him but did have some talks with him through emails several times, I believe he had a Hammarlund HQ-180 that we discussed several times but yes he was a great DXer and got some great catches and was always a gentleman, he will be missed, I did notice that he hadn't posted for a while though. I never realized he was that old.

From: Jim Renfrew, Clarendon NY

Thanks for sharing the news, Mark. Ben had around 120 MW countries logged, a difficult feat from his location (or just about any location!), but of course he had a really good head start on the rest of us if he started as a teenager 80 or more years ago! I met Ben and Dorothy only once at the NRC Convention held in Batavia NY. He was also present in Cappahayden, Newfoundland, but not the week I was there. The Drake should fetch a good price for a good cause since they are not made any more. I know the group that received QSL collections is no longer doing so, but this would be a remarkable collection to house somewhere, or at least archive on-line. Not only was Ben a vet, but I think he was at Normandy 78 years ago.

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From: Marc DeLorenzo, South Dennis, MA

Very sorry to hear of Ben's passing. When I first joined NRC in 1966 at age 16, he was my TA Idol. With his HQ-180A, long wires, and loops, he amazed me with his receptions of Europeans mostly during the evening post dinner hours, 8:00 to 11:00 PM local time or 0100-0400 UTC. Although I never met Ben in person, I remember seeing him at the 1970 NRC Convention in Hasbrouck Heights, NJ. He was sitting in a circle chatting DX with some of the other "older" guys. Older? As I do the math, he must have been 47 at that time!

Much later in the early 2000's we did exchange several emails discussing current TA DX. He also mentioned how he enjoyed DXing with Mark Connelly and Bruce Conti on the water in Gloucester, MA and how strong the European and Middle Eastern signals were at that location.

RIP, Ben.

From: Russ Edmunds WB2BJH Blue Bell, PA

Does anyone have any ideas as to how his veries and other papers might be preserved? I can contact Dorothy about collecting them, but there needs to be a destination for them first.

From: Dan W6DAN

Very sorry to hear of Ben's passing. It would be a shame to lose the work of a lifetime and all that history. Would it be possible to contact the Antique Wireless Association to see if they would be interested in adding his papers to their collection? Just a thought.

From: Bob Galerstein W2VGD Morris Plains, NJ

Did not have the pleasure of ever meeting Ben in person, but certainly enjoyed and greatly valued his contributions to the NRC over the years.

From: Pete Taylor, Tacoma WA

While living in San Francisco, I made an eastern trip which ended up including an overnight stay with the Dangerfields. They were just delightful. I am glad I was able to spend this time with them. In the DX fraternity, we read each other's emails but there's not that much face-to-face communication. I lucked out. Another legend is gone...

From: Wayne Heinen N0POH

To all concerned... The NRC is making arrangements to add Ben's verifications to the "National Radio Club Verifications On Display" <https://nationalradioclub.org/QSLs/qsls.html> pages.

On a personal note, your editor never had the pleasure of meeting Ben but I did read about his DX adventures and loggings. One can only hope that when you yourself pass you are so fondly remembered by so many peers. That is the true measure of any person.

From: Paul B. Walker, Jr.

Re: This DXer got fan mail

Some of you may remember I picked up 7ZR 936khz [ABC Hobart](#) from 8000 miles away here in Alaska, ending up live on the morning show a few days later and about a week later, on an Australian National morning TV show, [News Breakfast](#). Well, a Hobart area grandmother looked me up online, found my address and sent me a very nice, hand written card!

Here's a picture of the card:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18HvUgMdi2VsmaXTMk96DB1ti-IWJsIIv/view?usp=sharing>

P.S. Because of my location, job and hobby... I'm not too hard to find.

From: Ed Muro

Re: This DXer got fan mail

Very cool indeed.

From: Bill Whitacre

Re: DXpedition from Quoddy House Lubec, Maine

From May 27 - June 3, I visited Lubec, Maine and DX'ed from Quoddy House for the 16th time since 2011.

While this isn't the most promising time for DX, it is the time when the Downeast Birding Festival is held. I have also attended it for the past 5 years.

I put up 2 x 160' DKAZ antennas - one at 105 deg. [Southern Africa & eastern LatAm] and the other at 35 deg. [Europe, ME & beyond].

I'm still going through wav files but the results so far can be found here:

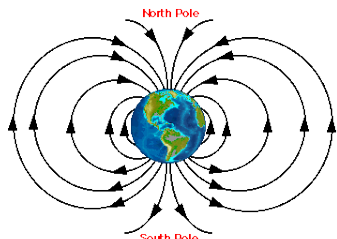
<http://realmonitor.com/OH16/>

Despite pretty mediocre conditions, by digging deep, I've managed to hear almost a dozen Brazilians, a few Argentines and a few Paraguayans so far.

I also had a KiwiSDR up on the 105 deg. antenna for most of the week and hope people got a chance to listen ... though I'm sure the results were not as exciting as in the autumn.

73 for this time Shawn

Remember On A Clear Day You Can Hear Forever



Geomagnetic Indices

Geomagnetic Summary April-May 2021

Via Phil Bytheway – Tabulated from online status daily (K = 0000 UTC)

<ftp://ftp.swpc.noaa.gov/pub/forecasts/www/>

Date	Flux	A	K	Space Weather	5/ 1	72	5	2	no storms
4/ 1	78	8	2	no storms	2	72	10	2	no storms
2	72	6	1	no storms	3	72	5	1	no storms
3	73	4	1	no storms	4	70	4	1	no storms
4	70	3	1	no storms	5	70	2	1	no storms
5	72	5	1	no storms	6	70	4	0	no storms
6	74	3	1	no storms	7	75	3	1	minor, R1
7	76	17	2	minor, G1	8	76	3	0	no storms
8	74	4	1	no storms	9	76	4	2	no storms
9	78	3	0	no storms	10	77	6	2	no storms
10	70	4	2	no storms	11	76	3	0	no storms
11	73	6	2	no storms	12	75	41	3	strong, G3
12	83	5	0	no storms	13	75	7	2	no storms
13	73	5	2	no storms	14	71	4	2	no storms
14	74	7	4	no storms	15	73	8	1	no storms
15	72	13	2	minor, G1	16	73	5	1	no storms
16	77	19	4	minor, G1	17	75	6	2	no storms
17	75	29	4	minor, G1	18	76	10	1	no storms
18	78	16	4	no storms	19	76	6	3	no storms
19	86	18	3	minor, R1	20	72	24	4	minor, G1
20	80	13	3	no storms	21	74	7	1	no storms
21	78	7	1	no storms	22	76	5	1	minor, R1
22	84	5	2	no storms	23	79	5	2	minor, R1
23	77	15	5	minor, G1	24	73	4	1	no storms
24	79	10	3	no storms	25	84	3	2	no storms
25	79	20	2	minor, G1	26	88	13	3	minor, G1
26	80	14	2	minor, G1	27	83	16	2	no storms
27	79	8	1	no storms	28	77	3	1	no storms
28	78	3	1	no storms	29	76	6	2	minor, S1
29	77	6	1	no storms	30	74	6	3	no storms
4/30	79	6	2	no storms	5/31	82	3	3	no storms

Sx – Solar Radiation Storm Level / Gx – Geomagnetic Storm Level / Rx – Radio Blackouts Level.

Madison-Milwaukee Get-Together – August 21, 2021

It is my pleasure to be your host for the 2021 Madison-Milwaukee Get-together for DXers and Radio Enthusiasts this year. I and others who are assisting me are looking forward to a great get-together this year. This will be the delayed 27th Madison-Milwaukee DX Get-together. We would be very pleased if you can join us. If you have attended in the past, it has been your participation and that of many others that has made this event such a pleasure to host. We appreciate your past attendance. If you have not attended, we would appreciate your consideration in coming. We can think of nothing better for our event than to have a great turnout this year. Won't you join us?

Hosted by Mark Taylor at his home at 1114 Ellen Ave., Madison WI 53716, on Saturday, August 21, 1:00 to 9:30 p.m. (come when you can, leave when you must). This is an all-band event, which brings together a diverse group of hobbyists who have one thing in common – a love of radio.

Please RSVP to Mark at markokpik@gmail.com or you may call/text him at 608-225-2690.

2021 Ultralight Radio Shootout

Five Hot Little Portables Brighten Up the Pandemic

By Gary DeBock, Puyallup WA, USA April 2021

The challenges and thrills of DXing with pocket radios have not only survived but thrived since the Ultralight Radio Boom in early 2008, resulting in a worldwide spread of the hobby niche group. Based upon the essential concepts of DXing skill, propagation knowledge and perseverance, the human factor is critical for success in pocket radio DXing, unlike with computer-controlled listening. The hobbyist either sinks or swims according to his own personal choices of DXing times, frequencies and recording decisions during limited propagation openings – all with the added challenge of depending on very basic equipment. DXing success or failure has never been more personal... but on the rare occasions when legendary DX is tracked down despite all of the multiple challenges, the thrill of success is truly exceptional – and based entirely upon one's own DXing skill.

Ultralight Radio DXing has inspired spinoff fascination not only with portable antennas like the new Ferrite Sleeve Loops (FSL's) but also with overseas travel DXing, enhanced transoceanic propagation at challenging sites like ocean side cliffs and Alaskan snowfields, as well as at isolated islands far out into the ocean. The extreme portability of advanced pocket radios and FSL antennas has truly allowed hobbyists to "go where no DXer has gone before," experiencing breakthrough radio propagation, astonishing antenna performance and unforgettable hobby thrills. Among the radio hobby groups of 2021 it is continuing to be one of the most innovative and vibrant segments of the entire community.

The portable radio manufacturing industry has changed pretty dramatically over the past few years as much of the advanced technology used by foreign companies in their radio factories in China has been "appropriated" (to use a generous term) by new Chinese competitors. Without getting into the political ramifications of such behavior the obvious fact in the 2021 portable radio market is that all of the top competitors in this Shootout come from factories in China, and four of the five have Chinese name brands. For those who feel uneasy about this rampant copying of foreign technology the American-designed CCrane Skywave is still available, although even it is still manufactured in Shenzhen, China – the nerve center of such copying.

Prior to purchasing any of these portables a DXer should assess his own hobby goals, especially whether transoceanic DXing will be part of the mission – in which case a full range of DSP filtering options is essential. Two of the China-brand models use only rechargeable 3.7v lithium type batteries with limited run time, which may not be a good choice for DXers who need long endurance out in the field. A hobbyist should also decide whether a strong manufacturer's warranty is important. Quality control in some Chinese factories has been lacking, and some of the China-brand radio sellers offer only exchanges – after you pay to ship the defective model back to China. Purchasers should not assume that Western concepts of reliability and refunds apply in China, because in many cases they do not. When purchasing these radios a DXer should try to purchase through a reputable seller offering a meaningful warranty – preferably in their own home country.

One of the unique advantages of Ultralight Radio DXing is the opportunity to sample the latest in innovative technology at a very reasonable cost – and the five pocket radio models chosen for this review include some second-generation DSP chip models with astonishing capabilities. Whether your interest is in domestic or split-frequency AM-DXing, FM, Longwave or Shortwave, the pocket radio manufacturers have designed a breakthrough model for you – and you can try out any (or all) of them at a cost far less than that of a single table receiver. So get ready for some exciting introductions... and an even more exciting four band DXing competition!



Section 1 – Meet the Contestants

XHDATA D-808

Although the size of this AM-FM-SW-LW-AIR portable clearly exceeds the 20 cubic inch limit necessary for “official” Ultralight Radio designation, the model’s performance and popularity have definitely earned it a place in this major pocket radio review. “Inspired” (to use a generous term) by the introduction of CCrane’s breakthrough Skywave SSB model at the same Shenzhen, China location a few months earlier, the Chinese startup company essentially had the chance to benefit from CCrane’s substantial R&D costs, copy all of the Skywave SSB’s strong points and improve upon its weak points – Including the \$169.99 price. The end result is a very competitive DXing radio with a current reputation for high quality – despite a warranty policy which has changed repeatedly, and originally was non-existent. In many parts of the world this has become the premier portable radio for DXing purposes.



This versatile radio features coverage of Longwave (150-450 kHz), AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (64-108 MHz), Shortwave (1711-29,999 kHz) and AIR band (118-137 MHz). It is powered by a 3.7 volt “18650” lithium battery with a reputation for generous run time (or a 5 volt DC adapter, which is not included), and has a 70mm (2.75”) speaker with relatively powerful 1 watt output – although not rated as highly as the surprising 3 watt speaker rating of its smaller Radiowow R-108 sibling. Both the relatively large speaker and the 98mm (3.85”) length of the loopstick antenna are directly related to the generous cabinet size, which at 152mm x 92mm x 32mm (6” long x 3.6” high x 1.26” wide) is clearly outside of the “official” Ultralight size limit of 20 cubic inches (at 27.2 cubic inches). As such, the D-808 model is included in this review primarily for reference purposes, since all of the other contestants do qualify as compact pocket radios within the size limit.

The larger size and weight (265g, or 5.8 ounces, without battery) do somewhat detract from its appeal as a travel portable in comparison to a lightweight competitive model like the CCrane Skywave – but this size does provide advantages not only in speaker size and loopstick length but in the ease of disassembly and maintenance (or modification, such as loopstick transplants). Included in the D-808 package is a matched-size travel bag, 3m (9.8’) plug-in antenna for FM, Shortwave and AIR (there is a jack for this on the cabinet’s left side), a USB charge cable, a company name “18650” 3.7 volt lithium battery and a very basic (and tiny) 10-page English manual written in mouse-type font. Completely absent in the manual is any mention of a warranty, and although this model has a current reputation of high quality, you should definitely investigate your seller’s policy of return or refund prior to making a purchase. More than any other portable in this review the pricing of the XHDATA D-808 is “all over the map,” with the current low price of \$100.98 (including free shipping to the USA) offered by the eBay seller “Liulituan2014.” On the other hand some eBay sellers in China and Japan are asking up to \$276.99 for the exact same model – so beware of price gouging. Shortly after its development the D-808 was extensively reviewed as part of a 7.5 inch loopstick transplant article (for both MW and Longwave), which is posted at <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/5d0pi85jfptgmrj4pd0jsmaybgb6gteh>.

After initial development XHDATA did not allow shipments of the D-808 to North America, apparently trying to avoid a copyright lawsuit from CCrane, from whose Skywave SSB model much of its technology was copied. The American-designed Si4735 DSP chip provides varied capabilities and high reliability, and although the Skywave has a dedicated DSP chip for the AIR and Weather Bands, XHDATA has managed to boost up AIR band performance past that of the Skywave. The SSB tuning system closely matches that of the Skywave SSB, and like the Skywave it can also scan and store radio stations on any band with the Auto Tuning System (ATS). The D-808 can store up to 500 stations in memory, with 100 frequencies, bandwidth selections (AM, LW, Shortwave and AIR only) or stereo-mono selection (FM only) available for each band. The multi-function digital display can indicate time, alarm time, signal strength/RSSI or temperature (selectable between F or C). The model has a selectable display light – although one very common complaint is that the light is far too strong at night, dazzling the operator who is attempting to view the display.

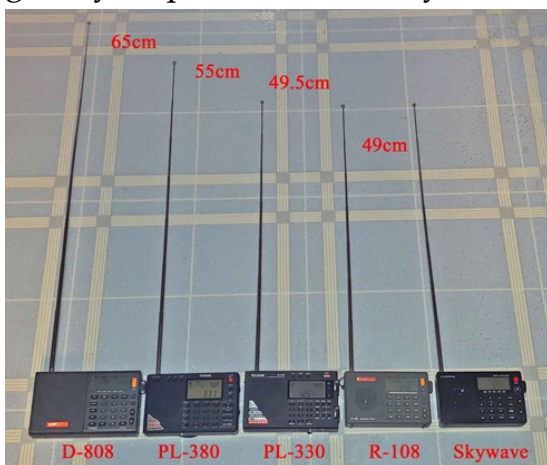


Over a two-year period the author has purchased and disassembled 12 of these models for loopstick transplant purposes, and the quality control record from the factory has been very good, despite a nebulous (or non-existent) a warranty policy. There is no guarantee that this high Q/C standard will continue indefinitely, though, so purchasers should always investigate the return and refund policy of their chosen seller, and if possible, purchase within their home country from a reputable seller. As for your options if you purchase a defective model straight from China, you will need to depend on XHDATA's constantly changing "Service Guarantee," which is posted on their website for all XHDATA/Radiowow/Sihudon models. Unlike the Sony company in the 70's and 80's XHDATA has no authorized service centers in North America, so you are required to ship the defective model back to China before the company will consider a replacement – a very unfavorable option!

XHDATA D-808 – MW-DXing Test Drive: Although the 98mm (3.85") loopstick length of this non-Ultralight portable provides an unfair advantage in sensitivity over the smaller contestants in this Shootout the D-808 has other strong points which combine to make a very competitive DXing package. The Silicon Labs' Si4735 DSP chip provides excellent MW performance without the common digital quirks plaguing both the Radiowow R-108 sibling and the Tecsun PL-380, and the audio quality and power is excellent for a medium-sized portable. The multiple tuning options, DSP filtering choices and 100 memories (for the MW band) provide good versatility for almost all DXing situations, and the radio's solid, high quality construction is a bonus for rough venues like ocean side cliffs and isolated tropical islands. I have used a couple of D-808's (along with a couple of CC Skywaves) in wild ocean cliff DXpeditions over a period of two years, constantly testing their ability to survive extreme weather and travel bumps – and the radios are still kicking. Although the manual will not tell you this, the radio can usually survive a major rain drenching without issue if you wipe the cabinet dry about once an hour. The stock XHDATA "18650" 3.7 volt lithium battery has generous run time, and can be easily replaced by premium-design batteries if even longer run time is desired. The most common D-808 customer complaint seems to concern the display lighting, which is so overpowering in darkness that the user is temporarily dazzled – rendering the display illegible. This has indeed been a problem for me during predawn DXing on ocean cliffs, and because of this I try to avoid any changes to a D-808 setup prior to dawn, and only use these portables for "set and forget" recording on selected frequencies prior to sunrise.

As mentioned previously this model has a wide-open circuit board design ideal for loopstick transplants, including Longwave-optimized loopsticks. Unlike its R-108 sibling the radio is engineered for reliable disassembly and reassembly, making such modifications routine for any hobbyist with related experience. Installation of either the enhanced MW or Longwave loopstick greatly improves sensitivity on the chosen band, and transforms the model into a thrilling travel DXing portable. Several local DXers like Walt and Bruce have taken these modified D-808 portables on transoceanic vacations, sampling fascinating propagation unavailable in North America.

XHDATA D-808 – FM-DXing Test Drive: Although all of these models come with a plug-in antenna for FM and Shortwave the stock whip antenna of the D-808 is clearly the Shootout class leader in length, extending to 65.4cm (25.75"). In combination with the quality performance of the Si4735 DSP chip and the relatively powerful, high quality audio the whip antenna can receive plenty of marginal FM signals, providing a lot of DXing capability even in noisy locations. Unique among these Shootout contestants the radio does have RDS capability, although the mouse print manual will tell you nothing about this. When certain strong stations are received the RDS will display the programming format, but nothing else. The D-808's plug-in antenna for FM, Shortwave and the AIR band is the same 3m (9.1") type supplied with the R-108, and depending upon how you raise and orient the wire, weak station reception can often be improved over that of the whip antenna. The 64-108 MHz coverage provides worldwide FM reception capability (exceeding the 76-108 MHz coverage of the Skywave), and like its R-108 sibling the D-808 features powerful 1 watt audio from a high quality speaker. In contrast to the R-108, however, this model also has a powerful "18650" lithium battery with generous run time – so that a listener can enjoy some powerful audio for quite a while. Having the volume control on the opposite side of the radio from the tuning control is a little awkward, but this is a minor point. Not so minor is the dazzling display light on the D-808 (as



described in the Medium Wave Test Drive), making it tough to read the display or control buttons in dark situations. For those who chase DX outdoors at night, this could be termed a glaring oversight.

Shortwave and Air-Band Function: The D-808's relatively long whip antenna, multiple DSP filter options, SSB capability and wide Shortwave coverage (1711-29,999 kHz) provide a lot of advantages in tracking down the dwindling number of international broadcast stations as well as amateur radio communication. The SSB system is practically identical to that of the Skywave SSB (featuring CCrane's original breakthrough design) with selectable LSB, USB and a fine tuning thumbwheel (as opposed to the Skywave SSB's switched-on fine tuning using the main tuning knob). One difference is that on the D-808 you need to short press the "Lock" button to toggle between LSB and USB – a rather odd feature. Fine tuning of amateur radio SSB signals was easy with this system, although you will need to know which sideband to choose for each band of frequencies. The mouse print manual says there are 6 DSP filter options on AM, SW, LW and AIR, but in fact there are 7 (which are 6 kHz, 4 kHz, 3 kHz, 2.5 kHz, 2 kHz, 1.8 kHz and 1 kHz). Oddly enough the manual says almost nothing about the SSB system and function, only advising the operator to use the fine tuning control to tune in a station – a stark contrast with the Skywave SSB's detailed instructions. The D-808 has 6 DSP filtering options on SSB (4 kHz, 3 kHz, 2.2 kHz, 1.2 kHz, 1 kHz and 500 Hz), and although it lacks the Skywave SSB's red LED indicator for SSB function, the two systems function in an identical manner. Either radio should provide good SSB reception of strong stations, but once again the XHDATA's longer whip antenna, superior speaker and audio strength excel in noisy outdoor locations.



The D-808 includes coverage of the 118-137 MHz AIR band, and in a surprise during testing against the CCrane Skywave it managed slightly superior reception of the local Seattle-Tacoma airport tower communication on 119.900 MHz. Once again the mouse print manual says almost nothing about the AIR band function, except to press the AIR button to activate coverage, and hold the button down for an ATS scan. This is in contrast to the Skywave manual, which provides detailed instructions, including a link for airport control frequencies in North America. My mouse print manual says nothing about a Squelch capability for the D-808, but in fact the model does have such a function, which is activated by long pressing the Tuning knob, and waiting for the "Squelch" readout to show up at the bottom of the display. While still pressing in the Tuning knob you can adjust the Squelch level by turning the Tuning knob clockwise to raise the squelch level from 1 to 9. Although this Squelch function is available on all bands on the D-808 it is apparently useful only on the AIR band (Thanks to Satoshi Miyachi for this Squelch-related information).

In the AIR mode the 6 DSP filter options are the same as those provided on AM and Shortwave, and in an environment with several strong transmitters the ATS function should be able to track down a few stations. AIR band transmissions are usually brief and businesslike, however, so the ATS may skip over several local frequencies if there was no transmission at the time of the scan.

Other Resources – Supercharging the XHDATA D-808 – Installation of Enhanced MW and Longwave Loopsticks <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/5d0pi85jftgmjrj4pd0jismaybgb6gteh>

Radiowow R-108

China's XHDATA company offers a smaller and less expensive pocket radio than their D-808 model, with the length, height, width, whip antenna and loopstick all directly copied from the CCrane Skywave model. This is the R-108 – an AM-FM-SW-LW-AIR portable coming in two colors: a dark grey version under the "Radiowow" name, and a black version (matching the CC Skywave color) under the "Sihuadon" name. Both models are completely identical in function, and both are manufactured by the same XHDATA company that makes the D-808.

The functions of the R-108 are basically similar to those of the larger D-808, but there is no SSB capability, and the model lacks the D-808's high quality Si4735 DSP chip (and as a result, some of the larger model's reliability, and freedom from digital quirks on MW). Despite some rough edges the radio offers fairly competitive performance for casual DXers looking for unusually good FM reception and great speaker audio – who don't want to pay more than around \$50 US. As such, its place in the 2021 pocket radio market is similar to that of the Tecsun PL-380 and PL-310ET, a couple of other China brand portables with their own MW digital quirks. Like the larger D-808 this model features coverage of Longwave (150-450 kHz), AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (64-108 MHz), Shortwave (1711-29,999 kHz) and AIR band (118-137 MHz). It is powered by a relatively wimpy "BL-5C" 3.7 volt lithium battery (commonly used in cell phones, and also in



the Tecsun PL-330) with variable performance – with some company batteries having a tendency to bail after a few hours of heavy usage. The model has the Auto Tuning System to scan and store stations, as well as 500 memories available (100 for each band). Included in the R-108 package is the



radio, a 3m (9.1") external plug-in antenna for FM, SW and AIR, a USB charge cable, a company-name "BL-5C" lithium battery (except in the black Sihudon model, which has a generic, no-name battery) and surprisingly, a 23-page English manual which is larger, far more detailed and with larger font than that of its more expensive D-808 sibling. Despite this 23-page operating manual there is still no mention of any type of warranty offered by Radiowow or Sihudon on the R-108 model, though – just like the lack of one in the D-808 manual.

In one impressive feature the R-108 is clearly the Ultralight class leader, however – it has a powerful 3 watt speaker (NOT 5 watts, as claimed both in advertising and the owner's manual). This unusually robust speaker has a thick plastic enclosure (removed in the photo) to direct the audio outside the cabinet – an arrangement which provides exceptional audio quality and strength for the small cabinet size. The rated audio output is 1 watt at 10% distortion, but unfortunately running such powerful speaker audio for extended periods will likely exhaust the rather wimpy BL-5C (3.7 volt) lithium battery prematurely.

As mentioned previously this model is subject to MW digital quirks – although most of them could probably be tolerated if a purchaser isn't an all-out DXer insistent on top quality. Out of 9 Radiowow R-108 test models 7 of them suffered from a strange buzzing noise as the volume control was increased or decreased, especially on the high MW band. Four of the test models broke into intermittent loud oscillations on high MW frequencies like 1650 and 1670 kHz, making it impossible to continue listening on those frequencies. There is an internal "4734D50GU" DSP chip on the RF board (unshielded) which is certainly NOT a Silicon Labs' Si4734 DSP chip, but may be a Chinese copy of it – and possibly the source of the digital quirks (see photo). In addition the construction quality seems a step down from that of the XHDATA D-808, with self-tapping screws used exclusively (as opposed to the D-808's threaded screws), and lacking the larger model's ease of disassembly and reassembly. Since most of my Radiowow test models were purchased from Chinese eBay sellers when the R-108 was first marketed there was no possibility of any warranty, returns or refunds – so learn from my experience, and before considering a purchase of this R-108 model make every effort to track down a reputable seller in your home country, who is willing to back up the quality of the radio you are ordering. Unlike the D-808 (with prices all over the map) the R-108 is almost always offered at a price around \$50.



The Radiowow "business model" for these portables seems to concentrate on superior FM and AIR band performance, great audio fidelity, multiple functions and a low price – hopefully avoiding repair expenses for customer complaints about the minor digital quirks. The dodgy company "warranty" confirms this assessment.

Radiowow R-108 – MW-DXing Test Drive: Out in the field the R-108's relatively high quality audio through the speaker is a definite plus when receiving fairly strong stations, although MW-DXers typically place more value on high sensitivity and effective DSP selectivity than audio quality. Since the height, length, width and loopstick of this Chinese factory model were all copied directly from CCrane's Skywave it is most interesting to compare these two models in a DXing "test drive," and notice the differences in their performance. Low and high band sensitivity are similar on both models but the R-108's 1 kHz DSP filter audio is significantly more "muffled" than that of the Skywave, with most of the high audio frequencies cut off. Advancing the R-108's volume control on my brand new Sihudon model (purchased last month) results in a buzzing/twisting noise during reception of weak MW stations (most noticeable on the high band), a quirk affecting most of my R-108 test models. None of these issues affect the CC Skywave, but at half the price of the Skywave the R-108 does deliver fairly competitive performance despite the quirks. The speaker audio is well balanced and powerful, with bass response in a different league than that of the CCrane model (with its 1.5"/38mm) speaker and 500 mw output). When chasing weak MW targets the powerful audio output of



the R-108 seldom comes into play, though, because limited sensitivity forces the user to max out the volume control long before serious audio power comes through the speaker. The audio amps of the CC Skywave, Tecsun PL-330 and Tecsun PL-380 all deliver much stronger audio on extremely weak MW targets than the R-108, although these other models typically throw in some distortion as part of the process. As such, in chasing weak MW targets you have the R-108's high quality speaker not used to its full potential, while the other models will usually deliver all the audio you want but overdrive their modest speakers. Plugging headphones into the R-108 in an attempt to boost up the audio on weak MW targets will not correct this problem, and the DXer finally needs to accept the fact that this model's design limits its capability to dig out extremely weak MW stations – something that the other four contestants in this Shootout can accomplish quite well. How did this happen? Well, early model CC Skywave models also came with a relatively wimpy audio amp (as reported in the 2015 Shootout article) and Radiowow no doubt copied much of the Skywave's circuitry. CCrane has obviously boosted up the Skywave's audio amp power in recent firmware revisions, but Radiowow has apparently been left in the lurch with the R-108 circuitry copied from the original Skywave model.

One final caution about the R-108 concerns the BL-5C lithium battery (which is also used in the Tecsun PL-330 model). Early model R-108's came with a company name battery which typically bailed out after a few hours of usage, but there is evidence that they have attempted to improve the



endurance in recent company name batteries. Interestingly, recent black Sihudon R-108 models don't have a Radiowow BL-5C at all – they have an unnamed, mystery BL-5C with superior run time. This points up the fact that higher quality BL-5C batteries are readily available on the open market, and should definitely be substituted for wimpy company name batteries.

Although the R-108 model was not engineered for easy disassembly an experienced technician can perform a 7.5" MW loopstick transplant on the model (see photo), which will compensate for the model's tendency to max out its audio before very weak MW-

DX targets can be received with decent clarity.

Radiowow R-108 – FM-DXing Test Drive: The R-108's FM performance is excellent for such a small portable – even on its stock whip antenna. Sensitivity, audio quality and compact portability combine to provide an unsurpassed "fun factor" among these contestants, and the unusually powerful speaker gets its chance to really shine with high fidelity music reproduction. None of the R-108's MW-related digital quirks show up on this band, and the fringe station reception is not only superior, but comes with superior audio reproduction. Relatively anemic stations which typically only manage weak, "hissy" audio on the Skywave or PL-330 are often received at a stronger level on the R-108, with much better audio as a bonus. Apparently superior FM performance was one of the top priorities of XHDATA/Radiowow – and they certainly have succeeded in this effort. If your primary hobby focus is FM-DXing, you will be in for a real treat the first time you try out this portable.

The R-108's superior audio fidelity is preserved with headphone DXing or simple stereo music listening, and the model's sensitivity allows the DXer to occasionally separate two fringe stations on the same frequency by simply rotating the whip antenna. Unlike on the MW band most weak stations manage enough audio for decent reproduction, and for a dedicated FM-DXer the 9.1"/3m plug-in wire antenna will bring in more fringe stations – after some experimentation in height and orientation. Overall the R-108's unusually good FM performance was one of the major surprises of this Shootout review, providing it with a special attraction for anyone concentrating his hobby efforts on this band. If that describes you, you won't be disappointed with this model.

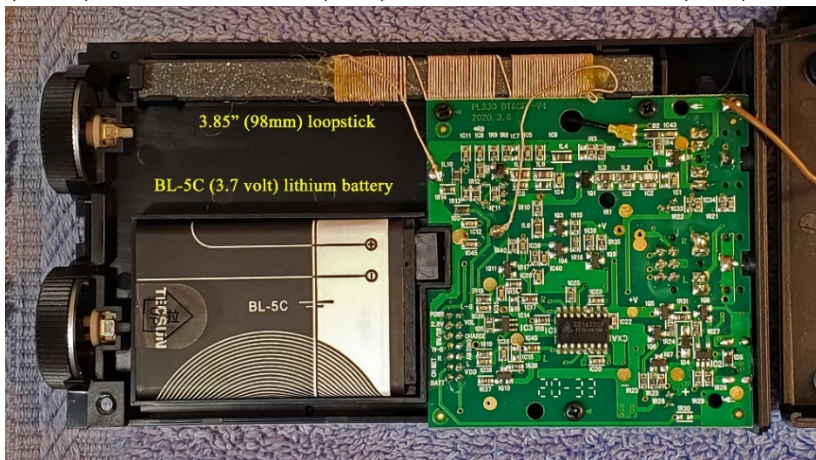
Shortwave and Air Band Performance: The R-108's superior FM performance is not repeated on the Shortwave bands, where its capabilities are about average. With the whip antenna copied from the Skywave model it can match the Skywave's reception of fringe Shortwave stations, although in each DSP setting there is a bass-oriented audio response which differs from the Skywave's treble-oriented audio. In addition the volume control's strange twisting/buzzing quirk (mentioned in the MW-DXing Test Drive) also appears on some fringe Shortwave frequencies, although it is not as noticeable. All 10 of my R-108 test models have a quirk in the direct entry of Shortwave frequencies below 10,000 kHz – If you attempt to directly enter these frequencies after pressing the "FREQ" button nothing will happen unless you press the "FREQ" button a second time after entering in the frequency. Shortwave sensitivity and selectivity are adequate for receiving the strong international broadcasters but this is not a portable that will thrill a dedicated specialist. The model's plug-in antenna jack allows the user to replace the relatively short (19.3"/49cm) whip antenna with either the 3m long wire antenna (supplied) or a custom design, but once again modest expectations are in order.

The R-108 model had a final surprise to deliver in detailed testing – pretty good AIR band function, with reception of fringe signals just a shade below that of the CC Skywave. Apparently XHDATA/Radiowow have access to a DSP chip that provides excellent performance on both the FM and AIR bands, with the D-808 leading the pack from 118-137 MHz. In the case of the R-108 its audio amp once again tends to bail out on extremely weak fringe stations (as on MW), but overall sensitivity on this band is decent, and capable of tracking down fringe transmissions. Unlike the D-808 manual the R-108's user guide explains the Squelch operation in detail, with setup and function identical to the larger model. Squelch level may be set from 1 to 9 by long-pressing and rotating the tuning knob, although with the drastic downturn in air traffic related to the Pandemic the R-108's AIR band capability may not provide as much enjoyment as in previous years.

Tecsun PL-330

Tecsun's newest Ultralight-sized model includes SSB capability, and is the latest of these Shootout contestants to be introduced. The first PL-330 models were all intended for the Chinese market, and came out in mid-2020 with a detailed 26-page manual in Chinese (which is still what you will receive from a Chinese vendor, unless you are specifically promised an English manual). Earlier this year the eBay vendor "Anon-co" started offering an "English Version" PL-330, which includes the critically important 27 page English manual – absolutely necessary for most English speakers to understand the functions of the radio.

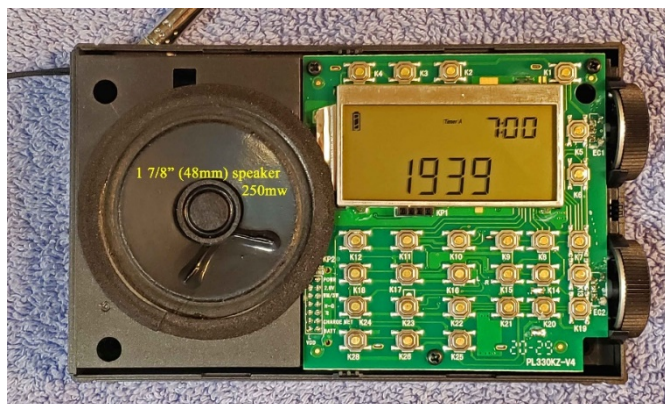
The PL-330 is an AM-FM-SW-LW receiver with an SSB tuning system that works just as well as those of the Skywave SSB or XHDATA D-808 – at a significantly lower cost. It uses a Step control to lower the SSB tuning rate down to 10 kHz steps on the main tuning knob – a system which works on both MW and SW (although the English manual says absolutely nothing about how to do this on either band, leaving the user in the dark about how to fine tune an SSB signal). Frequency coverage is from 520-1710 kHz (MW), 64-108 MHz (FM), 1711-29,999 kHz (SW) and 153-513 kHz (LW). Like the other contestants



there are multiple ways to tune in stations such as direct keypad entry (without the need to first press a "Freq." Button), manual rotation of the tuning knob and an ATS digital search system which will track down stations and store them in memory. Unlike all the other contestants in this Shootout the PL-330 has only 3 DSP filtering choices on MW (2.5, 3.5 and 9 kHz) – a limitation which will certainly reduce the model's appeal to transoceanic DXers requiring high selectivity in splatter-filled environments. What makes

the DSP filter selection really interesting is that the user is required to press a switch and make his choice by rotating the volume control – an arrangement that seems pretty bizarre. Unique among these Shootout contestants is a Synch detector function, which despite three full pages used to explain it in the manual rarely seems to work as Tecsun intended. Unlike the XHDATA/Radiowow models the PL-330 makes no attempt at powerful, high fidelity audio – instead using a 1 7/8" (48mm) 250mw speaker with predictably harsh, treble-oriented response. Despite this the audio amplifier will never wimp out on extremely weak MW stations (as typically happens with the Radiowow R-108), delivering as much signal and noise as you care to tolerate. Included in the PL-330 package are the radio, a protective vinyl case, a BL-5C (3.7 volt) lithium battery (which is separated from the radio during shipment, to comply with postal regulations), a set of plug-in earphones, a USB charging cable and either a 27 page English manual (only from the eBay vendor "Anon-co" at this time), or a 26-page Chinese manual (apparently from every other Chinese vendor). Unlike all the other Shootout contestants the PL-330 doesn't come with either a plug-in or clip-on external wire antenna for FM and SW, although it does have a plug-in jack for such antennas. Currently all of the PL-330 models offered are from either China or Hong Kong, and pricing averages about \$79 (plus \$5 shipping) to the USA. Interested hobbyists should make every effort to purchase from an honest, reliable seller with a good track record – since like all the China-brand models in this Shootout the owner's manual has no mention of any company warranty offered on the radio. My three PL-330 test models all seem to have good quality control, but if you receive a defective model you will be totally dependent on the overseas seller, since Tecsun offers no warranty or exchange.

Tecsun PL-330 – MW-DXing Test Drive: In comparison to the other Ultralight-sized contestants in this Shootout the PL-330 has one major advantage (SSB capability) and one major disadvantage (limited DSP filtering). Tecsun could have had a breakthrough Ultralight model if they would have offered the full range of DSP choices in addition to SSB capability, but now the overall result is an oddball model with limited versatility. The 2.5 kHz DSP choice is inadequate to limit splatter from strong domestic stations, and also places this model at a disadvantage in receiving extremely weak stations in noisy environments. To balance out this drawback the PL-330's SSB capability allows the DXer to easily check transoceanic carrier strength to track propagation changes, and transoceanic "big gun" frequencies can be put in memory to assess whether propagation favors a certain part of the world. Lacking a fine-tuning control like the D-808, the SSB tuning system uses switched-in 10 kHz tuning steps on the main tuning control like the Skywave SSB, a routine which works well after some practice. Almost all reviewers have noted that the PL-330's Synch detector is practically useless, and I would certainly agree with that assessment – in weak signal MW-DXing it was tough to detect a Synch lock on any fringe station.



Unlike the XHDATA and Radiowow models the PL-330's audio fidelity and 1 7/8" (48mm) speaker are pretty mediocre, with a 250mw-rated speaker delivering plenty of audio, but with a strong treble bias. Various weak stations can be received with strong, noisy audio, but almost always with some splatter that could have been avoided with a 1 kHz DSP filter. Changing between the three available DSP filter choices (2.5 kHz, 3.5 kHz and 9 kHz) is also an interesting experience, requiring the user to first press the "AM BW" button, then rotate the volume control to make a filter selection, and then press the "AM BW" button again to restore the main display. Since the PL-330's loopstick is exactly the same long length (3.85"/98mm) as that of the XHDATA D-808 a user might surmise that MW sensitivity should be equivalent with that non-Ultralight model – but in reality the D-808 wins every time. Unlike the D-808 the display light will not dazzle you in dark environments, though, and the stock BL-5C lithium battery seems to provide more generous run time than the Radiowow BL-5C batteries supplied with the R-108 (although nowhere near the 18650 of the D-808 or dual AA supply of the CC Skywave). Overall, Tecsun's design of this new PL-330 is uninspiring to a serious MW-DXer who requires both top sensitivity and top DSP selectivity. SSB capability is nice, but without strong performance in the first two categories a pocket radio will always get shot down in this Shootout.

Tecsun PL-330 – FM-DXing Test Drive: The PL-330's FM sensitivity is about average for a DSP chip-enhanced pocket radio, but in comparison to an innovative FM radio like the Radiowow R-108 it struggles to pull in weak fringe stations – with a whip antenna almost exactly the same length. The R-108 also greatly outclasses the PL-330 in audio signal quality and speaker power, although unlike the R-108 the PL-330's audio amp will never wimp out on extremely weak fringe stations, and can deliver as much harsh-sounding audio as you care to tolerate.

In a 3-way contest with the R-108 and CC Skywave the PL-330 again confirms its modest FM sensitivity by typically pulling in a single weak fringe station on frequencies where the Skywave can often pull in two weak stations, and where the R-108 can pull in both at a fairly decent level – with audio far superior to the other two models. Although the PL-330 doesn't come with either a plug-in or clip-on wire antenna, plugging in one of these from another model can boost up the lackluster FM performance somewhat if the antenna is oriented in exactly the right direction – but it can't increase the PL-330's ability to compete with other Shootout models using the same antenna. Overall the FM performance of Tecsun's new model is uninspiring, and dedicated FM-DXing enthusiasts should probably opt for a different model.

Shortwave Performance: In an unusual feature among these contestants the PL-330 combines SSB capability in an Ultralight-sized cabinet, so I was most interested in investigating its Shortwave sensitivity – especially in the reception of weak SSB signals (note: the Skywave SSB model can also perform such a function, but at a price of \$169.99, or about \$100 more than the PL-330 price). I was also eager to try out the SSB tuning systems of the PL-330, D-808 and Skywave SSB models to compare the "user friendliness" of each model, and make my judgment on the relative ease of tuning in weak SSB signals during an amateur radio contest weekend (March 27-28 2021).



2021 Ultralight Radio Shootout-- SSB function comparison

As for Shortwave sensitivity, on its whip antenna the PL-330 was fully competitive with the XHDATA D-808 in receiving the dwindling number of international broadcast stations, and has enough audio amp power to dig out the really weak ones (although with pretty harsh, treble-dominated audio). In comparison with the R-108 and Skywave the PL-330's Shortwave sensitivity is at least as good, providing a capable asset for chasing weak SSB signals if desired.

The SSB tuning system on the PL-330 is based on switching in a slower 10 Hz tuning rate on the main tuning knob, and then using the 10 Hz steps to fine tune an SSB signal for maximum intelligibility. There is a "Step" button used to toggle between a 1 kHz tuning rate and the 10 Hz rate in the SSB mode, so that you can use the 1 kHz steps to search out SSB signals and get them as close as possible to intelligible, and the 10 Hz steps to fine tune them. Unfortunately this "Step" button is recessed down to the same level as the display (an issue also affecting the "ETM" button), making it difficult to press except with the corner of a fingernail. This is a puzzling ergonomic quirk, because simply pressing down on the button with a fingertip will accomplish nothing. Once the DXer masters the dual tuning rate and also masters fingernail pressing of the "Step" control the SSB tuning system works quite well, although you will need to know whether LSB or USB is used on the band you select. In comparison to the Skywave SSB and D-808 the PL-330's tuning system most resembles that of the Skywave, with a switched-in fine tuning system on the main tuning knob. Unique among these models the PL-330 has selectable buttons for LSB and USB, while the Skywave uses a single button to toggle between the two. This is in contrast to the D-808, which requires you to short press the "Lock" button to toggle between LSB and USB. This odd quirk may be balanced out somewhat by the D-808's separate thumbwheel for fine tuning of SSB signals. Overall the SSB function and tuning of the PL-330 can be mastered pretty quickly, with ultimate performance equal to that of the two more expensive models. As such, this model should prove to be popular with hobbyists desiring an effective SSB capability in a compact, reasonably-priced portable.



For those with technical skill, replacing the PL-330 stock loopstick with a 7.5 inch (19cm) transplant will boost up MW sensitivity (or LW sensitivity) to a very respectable level on this SSB-equipped model.

CCrane Skywave (Basic and SSB)

This compact, versatile AM-FM-SW-AIR-Weather Band portable was introduced in 2014 and reviewed extensively in the 2015 Ultralight Radio Shootout – where it gained acclaim for its MW-DXing performance and freedom from digital quirks. Both the basic model and the SSB-enhanced version (introduced in 2017) required substantial R&D investments by CCrane, resulting in relatively high retail prices for both radios. Unfortunately much of the innovative circuitry in both models was eagerly copied and duplicated by Chinese startup companies located in the same city as CCrane's Redsun manufacturing partner – Shenzhen, China. Not only did the Chinese startups benefit from CCrane's serious R&D investment but they had the chance to improve upon the Skywave's weak points – notably the 1.5" (37mm) speaker with its 500mw output and the relatively high prices. But even after six years of providing "inspiration" to the Chinese competition, the Skywave is still unmatched in providing Ultralight-sized MW-DXing capability and warranty-backed quality. The compact radio almost seems custom-designed for serious MW-DXers, who are willing to pay the price for guaranteed reliability.



The Skywave includes coverage of the AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (76-108 MHz), SW (2300-26100 kHz for the basic model, and 1711-29999 kHz for the SSB model), AIR (118-137 MHz), and unique among these Shootout contestants, 7 Weather Band frequencies (with a Weather Alert function, selectable for 4, 8 or 16 hours). Unlike all the other models in this Shootout there is no Longwave band coverage – although to be honest, the Longwave band sensitivity in these other models is very poor.

Although both the basic Skywave and the SSB model are significantly more expensive than their Chinese competition, CCrane makes no attempt to match the multiple digital search functions and display options offered by the PL-380 and related units – and the user will quickly discover that simplicity and basic function is the order of the day. There is only one digital search mode (ATS), no selectable display light (although pressing

one of the controls will get you about 12 seconds of temporary lighting), no volume level display, 400 memories (which the owner's manual does not tell you) and a very basic bar graph display of signal strength. Early basic Skywave models had a rather wimpy audio amplifier, but this has been corrected in firmware revisions. One superior feature of both Skywave models is the extended run time from their two (1.5 volt) AA battery supply – which with quality alkaline batteries will power the models far past any competitive radios in this Shootout. Another superior feature is the one year warranty offered on both models, and CCrane's highly respected customer service reputation. The basic Skywave comes with an owner's manual, carrying case, warranty registration card and CC Bud earphones, and is available for \$89.95 (with free shipping to the USA) from **Amazon.com**. The SSB model comes with all the above items plus a CC Shortwave Reel Antenna, and the current lowest price is \$169.99 (with free shipping to the USA) from Amazon.com. The relatively high price is certainly related to the substantial R&D cost necessary to develop the SSB model, which was a considerable breakthrough in 2017 when it was first introduced. Unfortunately, copying of foreign intellectual property is routine and rampant in China, and the Skywave SSB model soon became somewhat of a poster child for this shady practice.

CCrane Skywave – MW-DXing Test Drive: The Skywave is the only Ultralight-sized model in this Shootout which has a full range of DSP selectivity choices (6, 4, 3, 2 and 1 kHz) as well as typical freedom from all MW digital quirks. (Note: the D-808 also manages this in a larger cabinet, while the PL-330 only has three DSP choices. The R-108 and PL-380 typically have digital quirks on MW, although they probably could be tolerated by most users.) In comparison to the non-Ultralight D-808 the Skywave's shorter loopstick does result in slightly less sensitivity in tracking down weak fringe stations, but most serious DXers augment the Skywave's MW sensitivity with either a transplanted external loopstick or an inductively coupled tuned loop.



Since the CC Skywave has been a frequent DXing companion of mine during many ocean cliff and exotic island vacations over the past six years I have had the chance to test it in all types of weather extremes, with a few unplanned “drop tests” and severe travel bumps – and the models have all survived every challenge. In the same theme, Paul Walker has recently subjected the model to extensive subzero (F) temperatures during Alaskan winter DXing, with excellent results. As far as build quality and reliability the Skywave is rock-solid, with only the XHDATA D-808 model equaling it in very rough conditions. For the average DXer considering the performance of a stock Skywave against a stock D-808 I would have to recommend the latter because of its MW sensitivity edge, but the compact Skywave would get the nod when any type of external antenna is brought into play, especially during travel or portable DXing situations when a spare is packed along. The D-808's speaker audio fidelity and power are more impressive, but once again this advantage is minimal when headphones are brought into play, and after recent firmware revisions the Skywave's audio amp will provide all of the speaker audio you desire to track down extremely weak fringe stations – as long as you are not looking for high fidelity audio out of the 1.5” (37mm) speaker.

The Skywave's 1 kHz DSP audio sounds a little different from the equivalent audio of the D-808, although personal preference would probably come into play in choosing one over the other. I made two MP3 recordings of the transoceanic DX station 837-Harbin (in China) under identical setups using the 1 kHz DSP audio settings on both models – recording the exact same segment with identical antennas. The Skywave's audio MP3 is posted at <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/ohir8dxsqt1jkgmk3dx9o2krndrccsxt> while the XHDATA D-808's audio MP3 is posted at <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/nri81cfsj8vjt5jg8o9qwjr62vnd5g4>. When I solicited the opinions of my fellow TP-DXers concerning these two MP3's the majority of the respondents favored the D-808 audio – which ran contrary to my own opinion.

Because of its relatively light weight, the full range of DSP filtering choices, extended battery run time and freedom from MW digital quirks the Skywave is ideal when external antennas are brought into play, although the 7.5” (19cm) loopstick transplant procedure (shown in the photo) is a pretty severe test of technical skill because of the model's tightly crammed circuitry. Build quality is excellent and disassembly is fairly routine, but the Skywave's crammed circuitry fits together like pieces of a puzzle – so if you aren't aware of CCrane's confidential “puzzle routine” (and have above average soldering skill) it's probably best to avoid “on the job training.” The SSB capability of the more expensive model is very useful for checking the carrier strength of transoceanic stations during propagation changes, and for evaluating the strength and direction of any long range DX openings while on isolated ocean beaches. Overall the Skywave is a thrilling radio for serious MW-DXers – especially those who are looking for the best performance in the most lightweight, compact size.

CCrane Skywave – FM-DXing Test Drive: The Skywave’s FM-DXing capabilities are about average for a DSP-chip enhanced pocket radio, with sensitivity (on the stock whip antenna) adequate for casual DXing, but falling a little short of the state of the art (currently represented by the Ultralight class-leading R-108). On the weakest FM fringe stations the Skywave can typically pull in marginal, treble-dominated audio while the R-108 usually manages somewhat better signal strength along with far better audio quality. On the other hand the Skywave typically edges out the Tecsun PL-330 in the reception of weak FM stations, and will typically beat out any pocket radio without an advanced DSP chip. When the basic Skywave model was introduced in 2015 its FM sensitivity was already a step below that of the class-leading Tecsun PL-310ET, and XHDATA/Radiowow have widened the gap with their innovative R-108, which brings a new level of FM-DXing performance to the Ultralight class. Potential purchasers should be aware that the Skywave’s FM band coverage (from 76-108 MHz) is limited in comparison to the other Shootout contestants, which all include coverage from 64-108 MHz – which could be an important factor if you plan any FM-DXing or listening outside of North America. On the other hand the Skywave SSB’s included reel antenna can boost up the radio’s FM capabilities quite a bit if the user orients the wire at the proper direction and height to chase a specific fringe station. In general the Skywave’s FM performance is OK for a casual listener, but is unlikely to satisfy a dedicated FM-DXer.

Shortwave Performance: The basic Skywave’s shortwave sensitivity was fully reviewed in the 2015 Shootout article, where it was judged to be about equal with that of the Eton Traveler III, and a step below that of the class-leading Tecsun PL-310ET. In the highly competitive 2021 pocket radio market the model’s shortwave sensitivity is once again adequate, but not particularly impressive. It can match the shortwave sensitivity of the R-108 but falls slightly short of the other models when signals are very weak. The Skywave’s stock whip antenna (at 49cm) matches that of the R-108 in having the shortest length among these radios – so that could be a factor resulting in both models’ average sensitivity. The longer whip antennas of the other models do seem to provide a slight edge in fringe shortwave reception when conditions are really rough, although the Skywave SSB model includes a high quality Shortwave Reel Antenna as part of the package – which certainly can boost up the model’s shortwave performance dramatically when it is deployed.



CCrane was the first manufacturer to introduce a reliable, highly stable SSB reception capability in an Ultralight-sized cabinet back in 2017 – a capability which certainly provided “inspiration” for the XHDATA D-808 and Tecsun PL-330 models. With

practice a DXer can become skillful in using the SSB tuning system of any of these models, but the Skywave SSB’s system allows you to switch easily between LSB and USB (unlike the D-808, which requires you to toggle the “Lock” button to do this), and avoids ergonomic quirks such as the sunken “Step” button on the PL-330. Unlike the Chinese competition the Skywave SSB has red LED lights on both the SSB and Fine Tuning buttons, which light up to indicate use of these features when tuning in SSB signals. Features such as these make the Skywave’s SSB tuning system the most user-friendly of the three models, in my opinion. Of course, when the Tecsun PL-330 provides the exact same SSB tuning capability in a model costing about \$100 less, many DXers would be willing to forego all of these Skywave SSB advantages – even if they need to use a fingernail to press the PL-330’s sunken “Step” button.

AIR Band Performance: When the basic Skywave model was introduced in 2015 it was the first to feature AIR band coverage in an Ultralight-sized cabinet, and CCrane devoted extensive coverage of that capability in advertising back then. Since that time the XHDATA D-808 has slightly surpassed the Skywave in AIR band sensitivity, though, resulting in the new top level of performance on these frequencies. As part of the Skywave’s compact package the AIR band capability is still a definite plus for travelers interested in airport communication, and for a purchaser primarily interested in the model’s impressive MW-DXing performance the option to monitor airport communication during worldwide DXpedition travel might be the deciding factor in choosing the lightweight Skywave.

Unlike on the D-808 and R-108 the Skywave’s Squelch function only works on the AIR band, and is activated by pressing in the Tuning knob for two seconds, and then adjusting the Squelch level by rotating the same knob. The manual warns that setting up the Squelch function may decrease the radio’s ability to receive the weaker AIR band transmissions (which is true with any portable).



Weather Band Performance: Unique among these models, the Skywave includes coverage of the 7 NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather band channels in the USA, complete with an ALERT function to notify the user whenever a Weather Alert is issued by the local office. This Weather Band function actually works very well, and in the 2015 Shootout the Skywave's weather channel reception was judged to be far superior to that of two competing models (the Sangean DT-400W and the CCrane Pocket).

Other Resources: 2015 Ultralight Radio Shootout Review (containing a detailed assessment of the basic Skywave model): <https://swling.com/blog/2015/03/gary-debocks-2015-ultralight-radio-shootout-review/>

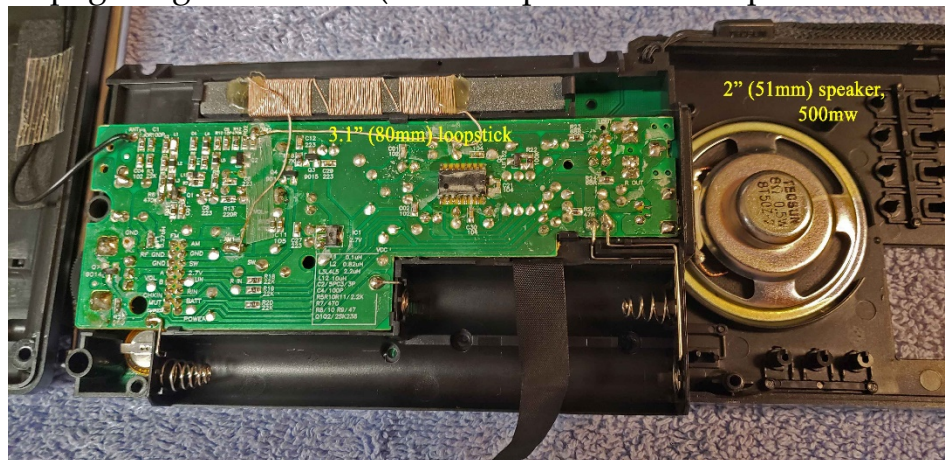
Tecsun PL-380

The Tecsun PL-380 was a very popular model when first introduced in 2009, quickly gaining acclaim for the breakthrough sensitivity and DSP-enhanced selectivity offered by its Si4734 DSP chip. Along with the original PL-310 model and related Si4734 DSP chip Ultralights like the PL-606 and PL-360, the PL-380 suddenly provided a quantum leap in pocket radio MW-DXing capabilities, not to mention outstanding FM and Shortwave performance – all for around \$50. In the 2021 radio market the PL-380 still provides a lot of value for the money, but there is now a lot of new competition from Radiwow, CCrane and other manufacturers who can offer performance exceeding that of the PL-380 in certain aspects.

The PL-380 is an AM (520-1710 kHz), FM (64-108 MHz), LW (153-513 kHz) and SW (2300-21950 kHz) receiver with seven tuning modes – Easy Tuning Mode (ETM), jog dial manual tuning, auto scan tuning (VF), pre-setting manual scan tuning, memory pre-setting auto scan tuning and memory pre-setting address direct entry tuning. Although there is no AIR band coverage the model has a powerful audio amplifier, multiple display options and extended run time from its two AA battery supply – especially when alkaline cells are used. The author has purchased about 20 of these models since 2009 and in general the quality control record has been fairly good, although the occasional lemon will show up with a defective tuning knob or other quirk. Since the radio has been popular for over 10 years a North American purchaser can order



from Amazon (and several other USA vendors) with free shipping for around \$48.80, and receive the radio within a few days. Included in the PL-380 package are the radio, a carrying bag, a SW-FM clip-on antenna (there is no plug in jack for an external antenna), a stereo earphone set and a fairly good 29 page English manual (with a separate version printed for Kaito Electronics version models). Sellers



like Amazon offer free returns, which is definitely helpful if you should receive a defective model. Purchases of the PL-380 from Kaito Electronics (in the USA) even come with a one year warranty and registration card – which is definitely an advantage. Servicing or replacing a defective radio in your home country is far better than shipping it back to China – especially with the current COVID delays.

Tecsun PL-380 – MW-DXing Test Drive: With its eleven year record of DXing performance both the strong points and the weak areas of the PL-380 have become quite well known. Back in 2009 DXers thrilled at the combination of a relatively low price, versatile DSP filtering options and decent sensitivity, although they weren't so thrilled with internally-generated heterodynes, "soft mute" and muffled-sounding 1 kHz DSP audio. When DXers expressed their desire that Tecsun would correct these issues the company went in the opposite direction in 2012 by quietly removing the shielding around the Si4734 DSP chip in an attempt to increase profits – resulting in a digital whine when the display is grasped in the palm of a hand, and greatly increased noise on the Longwave frequencies. Despite these issues the PL-380 was probably the most popular Ultralight radio for transoceanic DXing during the first 5 years of its production, and the subject of multiple modifications (such as the author's 7.5 inch loopstick transplant article, posted at <https://dreamcrafts.box.com/s/xu7drqyg7epmljm4yu4579hcrin9em6p>).

So how does the current Tecsun PL-380 stock model stack up against the 2021 competition? Well, for MW-DXing at a bargain price it is still a good value, with a price and features similar to the Radiowow R-108 – which is likely to become its top competitor. Both models have a full range of DSP filtering options, multiple search modes and even common digital quirks on MW. The PL-380 lacks the R-108's innovative speaker and high fidelity audio, but it has a more powerful audio amp that won't wimp out on extremely weak MW-DX stations (like the R-108). The PL-380's three AA battery supply will always outlast the BL-5C "cell phone battery" of the R-108 when alkaline cells are used, and unlike on most of the R-108 models the volume control sounds clear and trouble-free when it is advanced on the high MW band. But as far as MW-DXing quirks, both models have their rough edges. The PL-380 still has the internally generated heterodynes on frequencies like 1310 and 1410 kHz, which don't show up on the R-108. When the performance on other bands is considered the R-108 offers wider Shortwave coverage (albeit with modest sensitivity) and a very competitive AIR band for about the same price, as well as outstanding FM coverage – with weak signal sensitivity clearly exceeding that of the PL-380. But a serious MW-DXer would certainly choose the PL-380 every time, simply because of its powerful audio amp f tracking down extremely weak stations. When you are really "digging them out" very close to the noise level the PL-380 is capable of blasting you out with all the weak signal audio you desire – while the R-108's audio amp tends to bail out well before any ID clues can be deciphered. This is a very stark difference in MW-DXing capability, and should be fully considered before purchasing the latter model. Overall, if a DXer only has \$50 to spend and desires a fairly competitive Ultralight radio with the best MW-DXing features for his money, the PL-380 would be an excellent choice.



Tecsun PL-380 – FM-DXing Test Drive: The PL-380 and its Si4734 DSP-chip siblings set a new pocket radio standard with their breakthrough FM performance about 12 years ago, and one of these siblings (the PL-310ET) was the FM sensitivity winner in the 2015 Ultralight Shootout – but how does the PL-380 stack up against the current competition? As reported previously, the Radiowow R-108 is an outstanding performer on the FM frequencies, so it was with great interest that I matched up these two models in a weak signal FM-DXing comparison.

Although the PL-380's stock whip is 2.4" (6cm) longer than that of the R-108 this FM matchup is really no contest, with the Radiowow model not only pulling in more weak fringe stations, but with better signal strength – and with great audio fidelity as a bonus. The PL-380 can pick up the very weak FM fringe stations with some marginal, spotty audio, while the R-108 makes them sound pretty solid, and often throwing in another unknown fringe station on the same frequency for good measure. The Radiowow R-108 is a phenomenal performer on the FM frequencies, with sensitivity and audio quality in a different league than any other Ultralight – and credit should be given to XHDATA/Radiowow for their innovation in accomplishing this breakthrough. However the PL-380 is still competitive among the other Ultralights, with weak fringe station reception fairly good for the genre. It can hold its own with the CC Skywave, and slightly edge out the PL-330 on the toughest signals. It has plenty of audio power to chase weak stations, and the included SW-FM clip-on antenna can make a serious difference in fringe station reception if oriented properly. For a dedicated FM-DXer looking for a new level of performance from 64-108 MHz, however, the R-108 deserves your serious attention.

Shortwave Performance: The Tecsun PL-380 (and its Si4734 DSP chip Ultralight siblings) have provided decent shortwave performance for over ten years, and one of those models (once again the PL-310ET) was judged the Shortwave sensitivity winner in the 2015 Ultralight Radio Shootout. But although Shortwave broadcasting has cooled off during the past few years the pocket radio performance competition has only heated up on these frequencies, with Tecsun itself introducing the SSB-capable PL-330, and XHDATA introducing the SSB-capable D-808. Both of these models have a slight Shortwave sensitivity advantage over the PL-380, even though the PL-330's whip antenna is over 2 inches (5.5cm) shorter. The PL-380 has the additional handicap of limited Shortwave coverage, with its lower limit of 2300 kHz and upper limit of 21950 kHz. The PL-380's Shortwave performance

is still competitive with the non-SSB models in this Shootout, however. It will hold its own against the R-108 and basic Skywave, with more audio amp power than the R-108 to chase really weak fringe stations.

Just like Radiowow's development of the R-108 has made the PL-380 a runner up in FM performance the Tecsun company deserves credit for developing the PL-330, which makes the PL-380 a runner up in Shortwave performance as well. A dedicated Shortwave enthusiast looking for the best Ultralight reception should definitely opt for the breakthrough SSB-enhanced model, which is the new state of the art in pocket radio Shortwave performance.

SECTION TWO – THE SHOOTOUT

As in the 2015 Ultralight Shootout review, multiple test signal MP3's were recorded to give each reader a chance to listen to accurate evidence of the relative performance of each model in important categories. These categories were MW sensitivity, MW selectivity, FM sensitivity, Shortwave sensitivity and AIR band sensitivity.

MW Sensitivity Shootout

For the MW Sensitivity test MP3's weak daytime DX fringe stations were chosen and recorded during hours close to local noon, emphasizing stable ground wave propagation. The daytime DX stations were chosen because of the challenging nature of their signals, which cannot be received on pocket radios without above average sensitivity. Each radio had an equal chance to demonstrate its sensitivity, with all the test signals being recorded within a 5 minute period (during which a stable test signal was ensured), and all loopsticks were oriented in the same direction.

Finally, the radios were switched around to ensure that no position was inferior or superior to any other position. The Tecsun PL-330 was placed in its narrowest (2.5 kHz) DSP filter setting and all other models were placed in their 1 kHz DSP settings (all of which were found to provide the best sensitivity and selectivity for the three models). The Skywave was set in its default "Music" tone selection.

In all the Medium Wave test signal reception MP3's, the XHDATA D-808 is recorded for the first 15 seconds, followed by the Radiowow R-108 for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the CCrane Skywave basic model for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the Tecsun PL-330 for approximately 15 seconds, followed by the Tecsun PL-380 for 15 seconds.

550-KARI (Blaine WA, 5 kW at 135 miles/217 km) [click here](#).

750-KXTG (Tigard OR, 50 kW at 112 miles/181 km) [click here](#).

1070-CFAX (Victoria BC, Canada, 10 kW at 99 miles/159 km) [click here](#).

1470-KELA (Centralia WA, 5 kW at 45 miles/72 km) [click here](#).

1700-City of Auburn TIS (Auburn WA, 15 watts at 9 miles/15 km) [click here](#).

Comments: As expected, the non-Ultralight XHDATA D-808 has a significant sensitivity edge over all the Ultralight-sized models, but the CC Skywave edges out the Radiowow R-108 and the Tecsun PL-380 on extremely weak signals like the 1700-TIS station – primarily because of its clearer, less muffled audio in the 1 kHz DSP setting. The Tecsun PL-330 suffers from its lack of such a narrow DSP filter, with almost no reception of the 1700 kHz signal despite its longer loopstick. Both the R-108 and the PL-380 have adequate sensitivity on weak signals, but their muffled 1 kHz DSP audio degrades clarity when digging out identity clues. The R-108 has the additional issue of a wimpy audio amp, which bails out when extremely weak signals are being chased.

MW Sensitivity Grades

XHDATA D-808	A
CCrane Skywave	B+
Tecsun PL-380	B
Radiowow R-108	B
Tecsun PL-330	B-

MW Selectivity Shootout

During this competition the five competing models were given the very challenging task of receiving weak daytime DX stations very close in frequency to strong local stations. Because some of



these stations were quite weak around local noon the test was run a few hours later in the afternoon, but stable daytime DX test signals were still ensured prior to each runoff. In order to maximize reception of the weak fringe stations, the loopsticks of all the competing models were oriented to null the local pest station as much as possible. All models were set to provide 1 kHz DSP selectivity (the narrowest filter) with the exception of the Tecsun PL-330 (which has 2.5 kHz as its narrowest).

Once again, in each MP3 the first 15 seconds are recorded on the XHDATA D-808, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the Radiowow R-108, then approximately 15 seconds on the CCrane Skywave basic model, followed by approximately 15 seconds on the Tecsun PL-330, followed by 15 seconds on the Tecsun PL-380.

560-KPQ (Wenatchee WA, 5 kW at 94 miles/151 km) with splatter from 570-KVI (Vashon Island WA, 5 kW at 5 miles/8 km) [click here](#).

810-KTBI (Ephrata WA, 50 kW at 128 miles/206 km) with splatter from 820-KGNW (Burien WA, 50 kW at 20 miles/31 km) [click here](#).

860-KPAM (Troutdale OR, 50 kW at 114 miles/184 km) with splatter from 850-KHHO (Tacoma WA, 10 kW at 5 miles/8 km) [click here](#).

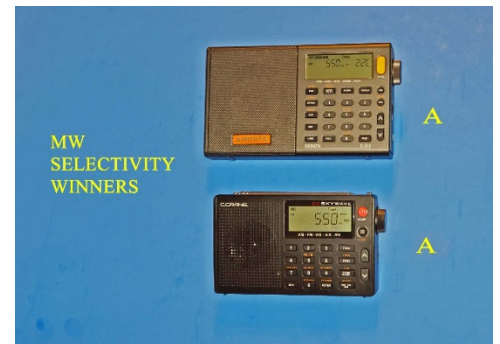
1010-KOOR (Milwaukee OR, 4.5 kW at 116 miles/187 km) with splatter from 1000-KOMO (Seattle WA, 50 kW at 42 miles/68 km) [click here](#).

1520-KQRR (Oregon City OR, 50 kW at 129 miles/208km) with splatter from 1510-KSUH spur (Puyallup WA, 1 kW at 2 miles/3 km) [click here](#).

Comments: On the toughest fringe signals the XHDATA D-808 and CCrane Skywave both excel at rejecting splatter while providing usable fringe station audio. The Tecsun PL-380 is a step below them in this category, allowing slightly more splatter to creep in. The Radiowow R-108's 1 kHz DSP filtering lets in even more splatter, while the Tecsun PL-330 is hopelessly outclassed in this competition because of its lack of 1 kHz DSP filtering – a major drawback for DXers with many local MW pest stations.

MW Selectivity Grades

XHDATA D-808	A
CCrane Skywave	A
Tecsun PL-380	B
Radiowow R-108	B-
Tecsun PL-330	C



To be continued next issue.

FCC Silent Station List

69 stations as of June 18, 2021 (often contains inaccuracies).

630 KIDD-CA	1150 WONG-MS	1330 KKPZ-OR	1490 KXAR-AR
650 KPRP-HI	WDTM-TN	1350 KCOX-TX	WSIR-FL
660 KGSV-CA	1160 WBYN-PA	KUSG-Guam	KLNT-TX
810 KXOI-TX	1170 WCXN-NC	1360 WMOB-AL	KEYG-WA
850 KEYH-TX	1230 WPCO-SC	KUIK-OR	1510 WEAL-NC
900 KCLW-TX	WODI-VA	1370 KTPA-AR	1530 KZNX-TX
930 KCCC-NM	1240 WEBJ-AL	KWRM-CA	KVOG-Guam
980 WHSR-FL	1260 WCLC-TN	WLLN-NC	1550 WAZX-GA
1000 WLNL-NY	1270 WMLC-MS	1380 WWNT-NC	KKLE-KS
1030 KDUN-OR	WHGS-SC	1400 WHTD-GA	KMRI-UT
1040 WSGH-NC	1280 KNBY-AR	1450 KCOD-CA	KKOV-WA
1060 KXPL-TX	WDSP-FL	WCEV-IL	1560 WFME-NY
1080 WLEY-PR	1290 WOPP-AL	WROX-MS	1580 WTCL-FL
1090 KNCR-CA	KUOA-AR	1460 WXOK-LA	KXZZ-LA
1110 WTOF-AL	WPCF-FL	KCLE-TX	1590 KLIV-CA
1130 WALQ-AL	1310 KKZI-CA	KCWM-TX	1600 KLGZ-IA
KLEY-KS	KEZM-LA	WKDV-VA	1660 WCNZ-FL
			WJBX-NC

Note that of these stations, WODI-1230, WCLC-1260, and WCEV-1450 are listed as having been silent for more than a year and (if their silence is confirmed) these stations will likely be deleted in the near future.

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