

Observed Changes in BCB DXing  
Skip's Presentation Questions & Notes  
1959 – 2013

The Hobby in the late 50's and early 60's – factors not present today

1. Band Conditions

- Daytime only stations could sign on with full facilities at 4:00 a.m. local time
- Most fulltime stations signed off at midnight or at least were off on Monday Mornings
- Stations on Graveyard frequencies were limited to 250 watts at night
- Most Caribbean and Latin American Stations operated on split frequencies

2. Radio Station Operations and personnel

- There was much live, local programming at night and station ID's could be heard throughout the hour.
- Station personnel, particularly Chief Engineers (required at each station), were understanding of the hobby and were receptive to DXers reports and visits
- Concerned about operational quality, stations regularly conducted frequency checks and equipment tests, and were cooperative in conducting DX Tests

3. Club Membership and Interaction

- Musings from Members comprised the bulk of DX News and afforded members the opportunity get to know their fellow DXers on a more personal basis
- A significant portion of club membership was under 30 years of age
- We have had a significant drop in membership in recent years

Positive Changes in the Hobby

- Receiving equipment - Improved reception through developments in solid state, filtering, digital signal processing, and SDR technology
- Antennas - Improved reception through developments in amplified altazimuth loops, beverage and wave antennas and other innovative antennas
- Delivery of Information – More timely information via the Club websites, EDXN, DXAS, and the AM Log.

# The Future of BCB DXing and AM Radio Clubs

## Points for Discussion

1. Given all of the changes that have occurred in the broadcasting industry and on the AM radio band during the past few decades, what is the draw of the BCB DXing hobby today, and is that likely sufficient to sustain long term interest the hobby?
2. Given the widespread use today of text messaging, e-mail, and internet chat boards, is the concept of radio clubs such as the NRC and IRCA still a viable element of the DXing hobby? If so, how do we move into the future?
3. If we believe that the NRC will continue to be a viable element of the BCB DXing hobby, what critical contingency planning do we need to have for the following: a) club officers and government structure, b) club publisher, c) webmaster d) column editors, e) AM logbook, and f) reprint service and inventory.
4. The NRC and IRCA are legal entities under state corporation rules and Federal tax laws, with specific requirements for winding down affairs. If there is no perceived long term viability for the clubs, what process of dissolution do we need to begin planning for?