



The VHF-UHF Online Digest

The Worldwide TV-FM DX Association - PO Box 501, Somersville, CT 06072
The online home of the WTFDA

THE WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION IS DEDICATED TO THE OBSERVATION AND STUDY OF LONG DISTANCE VHF AND UHF PROPAGATION AS IT APPLIES TO SIGNALS FROM 30MHZ THROUGH 600MHZ WITH EMPHASIS ON BROADCAST TELEVISION AND FM RADIO. The WTFDA Board of Directors are: Keith McGinnis (longwave@comcast.net), James Thomas (jethomas1955@gmail.com), Nick Langan (nickl@wtfda.org), Mike bugaj (mike@wtfda.org) and Jon Klingerman (jon@wtfda.org).



DECEMBER 2023

It's Christmas 2023 and the club made it another year. We end the year with 244 members. Early on we saw that we had more than enough money in the treasury to pay our bills for many years to come, so the board decided to drop the yearly dues and just use a one-time sign up fee for income and ask for donations if it ever came to that. Our expenses are negligible. We have web hosting expenses, domain fees and post office box fees and those really cover it. We can easily afford to run contests and giveaways and the board intends to do just that.

Our biggest change seems to be on a par with the club's change from offset printing to pdf printing years ago. This change is the change from pdf printing to web printing, thanks to WordPress. I don't think that anyone, including myself, could envision the change that came about with the October VUD. The whole thing just came together. The club has some interesting projects in the mix for 2024 and all we need to do is get the logistics finalized. You may find yourself thinking "I never though they'd do THAT".

With this issue of the online VUD (the VOD), the entire membership now has access to this page. Just before Thanksgiving I began sending out userids and passwords to about 100 WTFDAers who didn't already have one and finished the project on Thanksgiving morning.

WELCOME! This time we welcome Greg Harris in Illinois and Hector Napoleon Ramirez Meija in Honduras to the WTFDA. We are glad to have both of you here!

HRO. Ham Radio Outlet has a Black Friday Sale going on and one item that sticks out is a \$50 discount on a RSPDX SDR from SDRPlay. The link to HRO is on the right column along with a link to information about the sale. Take a peek. (Note: it seems their sale is over and the RSPDX is back to \$214.95 but their [RSP-1A](#) is now just \$124.95).

AIRSPY. Airspy also has a Black Friday Sale going on where prices are marked down 30% on their SDRs. An Airspy Mini which usually sells for \$99USD is now going for just \$79.20. However, the shipping



Ron Cesarek of Ocala, Florida is the winner of the Airspy HF+ Discovery. Thanks to all 84 of you for playing and making our first giveaway a success. We'll be doing it again...and again!

Back Issues



PDF versions of the VHF-UHF Online Digest. External links will work, however links to columns, etc., will not.

WTFDA Member Benefits



Services that the WTFDA offers its members.

Member Websites



Check out the blogs and websites of your fellow WTFDA members.

(Priority Mail) will cost you \$15.00 extra bringing the total cost up to about \$100.00. To me the shipping costs are a but much especially when the item is only the size of a USB stick. (Note: at this time the Mini is back up to its usual price of \$99).

SDRCONNECT. Preview #2 of SDRPlay’s SDRConnect software software became available today (11/27). A list of improvements made can be found here. Unfortunately, the feature that FM DXers were most looking for, RDS decoding, was not included. Two new features added in this preview are direct frequency entry and a new notch filter, which seems to be modeled after HDSDR and if that’s the case, they picked a good style to model.

DATABASE HELP NEEDED. Jim Thomas is editor for Mexico and Central America. Jim writes *“I am curious if there is anyone that can assist me with Mexico DB entries as they come in from Raymie, at least until the end of the year? I am so far behind on updating Central America and Caribbean updates. It’s going to take a bit just to get updates on Guatemala accomplished. Whoever could help needs to understand Spanish and be able to read the RPC/IFT pdf documents that show technical data. I can stay *in the loop* with the emails and answer any questions. I just would like to know if there is someone else that could be a secretary for a while. The biggest issue is the DB numbering assignment, which I keep in a spreadsheet. That is the same numbering system that is used in the DB for Mexico.”* Jim’s email is jethomas1955@gmail.com.

ANYONE REMEMBER CLARK INGRAM? Clark was a radio nerd who made it to the big leagues as a Top 40 DJ. He worked mostly in Pennsylvania, both Northeast PA and Pittsburgh, and along the Southern Tier of New York, but he also worked in Philadelphia and New York City. He died recently at the age of 66 partly due to health issues. You wouldn’t recognize the name unless you were around the northeast during that time or a member of the WTFDA in the ’70s.

Now, how all of this ties in with the WTFDA is that Clarke was a prolific contributor to the VUD back in the years 1974 to 1976 submitting columns and other original material. He was also part of the WTFDA’s Board of Directors and was editor-in-chief and publisher of the VUD from January 1977 to January 1978 when he resigned the position. That period was a trying time for the club with membership declining and member submission dropping. In one year, Clark brought it back to life.

This item about Clarke was the lead piece in Scott Fybush’s [Northeast Radio Watch](#) on 11/27. If you want to know about happenings in the world or radio, especially in the Northeast US, Scott’s site is the place to go.

FOR THE BIRDS. I can’t believe that there’s a place somewhere with such a bird problem that they have to resort to sticking spikes on their antennas, but there must be. This has got to be one of the ugliest antennas ever built. But it may serve a dual purpose. Just turn it over and you can use it as a rake. Also excuse the poor attempt at humor.



FM DXers Club Champions

Do you have over 1,000 stations logged? Tell us and be added to this list of all time top FM DXers. Email Fred Nordquist with your totals and your FM totals will be added to this list. Even if you only have a few loggings, let Fred know and he will add them and you can document your DX journey as you log more and more stations.

Updated 5/29/24 (4 changes).

D=deceased.

Show entries

Search:

DXer NAME	LOCATION	TOTAL FM
Fred Nordquist	Moncks Corner, SC	4505
Pat Dyer	San Antonio, TX	4349-D
Rob Ross	London, ON	3990
Rick Shaftan	Sparta, NJ	3526
John Zondlo	Yukon, OK	3306
Randy Zerr	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	3263

Obviously we remember Ronco. Maybe we'll do K-TEL next time. Thanks to Jim Thomas for the picture.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOURSELF? Who needs another ugly sweater or a gift card to Kohl's? Get yourself something that you'd rather have like a WTFDA hat or coffee cup or hoodie from the [WTFDA Store](#) on Redbubble. It's all quality stuff at good prices. Tell your relatives that you don't want that Cracker Barrel gift card but you want a WTFDA coffee cup instead! Merry Christmas!

LAST BUT NOT LEAST... Here is Jim Thomas' reaction to our featured article this month regarding the Solar Cycle: "I just had a chance to preview one of the feature PDF articles in this month's VUD, "Scientists Admit They Got Their Solar Cycle Predictions Wrong". IF you are even a little bit of an E-skip enthusiast, the article is a **MUST READ!** The article enlightens us that over the next 4 to 5 years, we may be in for a thrilling DX ride, with plenty of opportunities for E-skip and Auroral loggings. Don't sit on your hands. Open the article and give it a read." (Hope the next few summers turn out better than the one we just had because, for the most part, last summer sucked for Es.)

DXer NAME	Howdy, Mike LOCATION	TOTAL FM
Mike Bugaj	Enfield, CT	3160
Nick Langan	Florence, NJ	3154
Jeff Falconer	Clinton, ON	3021
Russ Edmunds	Blue Bell, PA	2925

[Edit](#)

Showing 1 to 10 of 49 entries

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

WTFDA new clients



From **Kenneth Chadwell** on 2023-11-28 13:28

[Details](#) [Plain text](#)

This is an actual email received through the Contact Us Form on this site recently. We were impressed by it.

Hi

I came across your website and was impressed by the multihop ES your company offers.

My name is Kenneth and I work at Marketing Automation Solutions, a company that specializes in helping radio broadcasting organizations grow their revenue and build a stronger online presence.

By integrating our lead generation expertise and automation solutions, one of our clients improved their sales conversion by 35% in just two months.

I will be happy to share other examples over a call. Do you have 15 minutes in the next day or so?

Thanks,

BIRDS CAN BE A NUISANCE FOR YOUR ANTENNAS!

Installing Bird Spikes Can Be An Instant Remedy And [Mr. Antenna](#) Your Best Friend In Solving The Case.

The advertisement features a dark blue background with a circular inset image showing a radio antenna tower with bird spikes installed. The text is white and blue, with a small white mouse cursor icon at the bottom right.

Pesty birds spoiling your TV reception? Ruining your DX?

You need the amazing **BIRD SPIKES**, new from Ronco. BIRD SPIKES keep those nasty pigeons and crows from sitting on your antenna and bending your elements, not to mention pooping all over your roof, forcing you to climb a ladder and clean up the mess, making you miss valuable DX time. Keep those birds off your antenna and make them go back to sitting on power lines, where they belong. Order your **BIRD SPIKES** now for just \$29.95. Order a second set and it's free, just pay a small fee. And if you order now, we'll send you four more sets absolutely free with no small fee. Why? Because we like you! And we need to unload these things *fast!*

Featured Articles and Columns for December

This month's columns:

[TV DX and Photos](#)

Eric Bueneman

[FM Format Flips during November](#)

Staff

[Christmas on Christmas Island](#)

Jim Thomas

[Scientists Admit They Got Their Solar Cycle Predictions Wrong](#)

Staff