



# The VHF-UHF Digest

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION

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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](mailto:longwave@comcast.net)), James Thomas ([jethomas1955@gmail.com](mailto:jethomas1955@gmail.com)), Nick Langan ([nickl@wtfda.org](mailto:nickl@wtfda.org)), Mike bugaj ([mike@wtfda.org](mailto:mike@wtfda.org)) and Jon Klingerman ([jon@wtfda.org](mailto: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 (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 HSDR 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](mailto: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. 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.)



