

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)).



## - FEBRUARY 2024

Welcome to the online digest for February. The photos you see above are those of Ron Cesarek and his Airspy Discovery HF+, which he won in WTFDA's first giveaway that took place in December. As you can see, Ron is happy with his prize and his cool black WTFDA T shirt. Actually that's a very nice T shirt. If you're interested in any WTFDA gear, be sure to check out [our store](#). Some new items have been added.

Normally, January is one of the most boring months of the year for DXing. And so it remains for the eastern third of the country. But if you live in the midwest, southwest or northwest, it was anything but boring. Those areas of the US were hit by strong FM Es on January 11th and hours-long widespread Es on the 22nd and the 23rd. These Es events were followed by more FM Es on the 24th. This might just be a co-incidence, but this was posted on the internet a day before the Es of the 22nd began: ***The coronal mass ejection (CME) from yesterday's on-disk filament eruption is on its way to Earth. A display of northern lights - the beautiful aurora borealis - is expected from the impact late January 22 into early January 23. Auroras may be seen in U.S. states as far south as Iowa, Washington, Illinois and New York ... and in Europe as far south as Denmark, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Poland. Auroras in the southern hemisphere may be seen as far north as New Zealand and Tasmania.***

We don't know what's up with this, but this January will most likely go into the record books as to the quantity, duration and strength of the skip received. We also note via Twitter that VF0FOG in Newfoundland (L.H.) has received at least two FM Es events in January; one from northern New England on the 16th and another from the Norfolk, VA area on the 17th.

**ATSC 3.0.** This month we have a January 17, 2024 article that says that OTA antenna use is climbing and that hardly anyone has a clue what ATSC 3.0 means. You can prove this for yourself by walking into Walmart and asking anyone who is standing there looking at flatscreens about ATSC 3.0 and you'll get blank looks in return. I know because I did it. I've seen a few ads on cable networks about ATSC 3.0 recently, but they are few and far between. In my opinion they are also confusing and poorly made. The whole thing reminds me of the DTV rollout fiasco. They've done it again. ATSC 1.0 to shut off in 2025? You've got to be kidding.

**APS-13.** A few people may have noticed a short post on one of the Facebook groups claiming that the APS-13 was back in production and probably available in a month or two. I asked Ed Hanlon (Mr. Antenna Performance Specialties) about the claim and he said he knew nothing about it. Funny, though, because the person making the claim is someone I would think is credible. I guess we will just have to wait and see.

**WWMM-LP.** I received this email today from an engineer at WWMM-LP 107.5 in Collinsville, CT regarding their coverage boost. He said: Thanks for noticing our new RDS feature. With many oldies stations limiting their playlists to 80s and 90s music, we are one of a limited number of media outlets that focuses on the so-called "forgotten decade". For a long time we were struggling with a temperamental Nicom transmitter that displayed one problem after another. Eventually we had to bite the bullet and purchase a better, more reliable transmitter from Nautel. This resulted in a noticeable improvement to our signal.

I was contacted by a contract engineer for WBLS in New York City. He told me that their team has been conducting field measurements of WNHA-LP (107.5) in New Haven. They measured WNHA's Effective Radiated Power to be somewhat above 1,000 watts. This situation has been causing disruptive interference to WBLS in areas close to the Connecticut shoreline where regular WBLS listeners are located. Likewise, the engineering team heard WNHA running the announcement (translated from Spanish) "We operate at 3,000 watts to better serve our listeners." Given the field measurements, WNHA is probably adding the horizontal and vertical polarizations to arrive at that figure. However, according to the terms of their official FCC License Authorization, they are only supposed to be using 18 watts. WNHA is classified as a Low Power FM station with an effective radiated power to be limited to the equivalent of 100 watts at 30 meters antenna height. While driving around the state, I can confirm that WNHA is as solid as a brick in areas 20-30 miles from the transmitter, in places that do not have any particular HAAT advantage, and where the Class A New Haven station WYBC-94.3 is barely present. He also told me that he's been to my website at mikesdx.com and wondered if the picture of the antenna there is what I used to hear them. The answer is yes. You never know who visits your site.

**WEATHER.** January weather has been crazy across North America. Most places were warmer than normal except for some days around the middle of the month when temperatures were in the single digits as far south as the Mexican border with snow and ice into Texas. There was 10 inches of snow in Tennessee with highs in the area of +10F, flooding in San Diego. At times the high temperatures in the Northern Plains were up to 30 degrees above normal. Connecticut had its third wettest January on record with almost all of it being rain, not snow. Let's hope that all of us stayed warm and comfy. Let's hope the weather settles down a little more in February.

And that's all for this month.

# FORMAT FLIPS DURING FEBRUARY 2024

From [radioinsight.com](http://radioinsight.com)

Delmar will launch "93X" at midnight on Thursday, February 1. With new WXGT calls incoming for WWCD, (2/1/24)

Total Media Group flipped Country "100.9 Cash-FM" WXIZ Waverly/Chillicothe OH to Classic Country "100.9 Hank-FM". (2/5)



SuperTalk Mississippi Media has flipped Variety Hits "92.9 Jack-FM" WDXO/1220 WOEG Hazlehurst MS to Classic Hip Hop "G93"

John Fredericks has brought his Conservative Talk network to three stations near Morgantown WV. Fredericks launched "The Torch" on LHTC Media's 920 WMMN Fairmont/95.7 W239CM Morgantown, 102.7 WGYE Mannington/Fairmont, and 105.7 WHTI Salem/Clarksburg. (2/6)

Magnum Media has flipped Classic Hits 1470 WIBD/101.3 W267CL West Bend WI to Classic Rock.

SummitMedia has flipped Variety Hits "**106.7 The River**" KRVI Mount Vernon/Springfield MO to Classic Rock.

With the San Francisco 49ers appearance in the Super Bowl now in the rearview mirror, Results Radio has flipped "[XS Sports 96.1](#)" KKXS Shingletown/Redding CA to Oldies utilizing Local Radio Networks' "Scott Shannon's True Oldies Channel". (2/13)

iHeartMedia has flipped its Spanish News/Talk "**Acción**" stations in Jacksonville and Orlando FL to Sports utilizing Fox Sports Radio. 810 WRSO Orlovista//97.9 W250CE Kissimmee are now "[Fox Sports 810/97.9](#)" after launching the Spanish News/Talk network in the Orlando market [in September 2018](#). (2/16)

Adult R&B "[Heart & Soul](#)" 1050 KXCA/93.7 K229DG Lawton has begun simulcasting on 1380 KKRX/96.7 K244DW Lawton in preparation of moving over to the new frequencies as it replaces Sports "**The Ticket**" airing CBS Sports Radio. A new format will debut soon on KXCA.



Cumulus Media has shifted Country "**106.5 Nash-FM**" WLFF Georgetown/Myrtle Beach SC to Classic Country "[106.5 Nash Icon](#)". (2/26)

JVC Media will flip Rhythmic CHR "[Fly 103.1](#)" WFYY Windermere/Orlando FL to Conservative Talk "[Florida Man Radio](#)" on Monday, March 4. (2/28)

## A LITTLE STORY ABOUT KWTF

### ENGINEERING SPECIAL TEMPORARY AUTHORITY REQUEST KWTF (FM), Bodega Bay, California Channel 201, Fac ID 175619

KWTF, Inc., (“KWTF”) here requests an Engineering STA for operation at a temporary broadcast site to continue serving its community due to limiting circumstances outside of its control. KWTF believes there is good cause to grant a temporary facility and that maintaining the license of KWTF (FM) is in the public interest.

#### BACKGROUND

KWTF is a non-commercial, educational freeform community radio station serving a rural portion of Western Sonoma County close to the Pacific Ocean. Two years back the station started to run out of funding due to circumstances surrounding the pandemic, losing many of its on-air broadcast hosts in the time prior. Within early 2023 its broadcast site changed ownership hands and KWTF soon lost the lease of the site. Concurrently there was the addition of a transmitter failure, where it was discovered rats had somehow destroyed some of the infrastructure. The transmitter was a complete loss. At the same time there was a loss of staff and board members, which pushed the burden load of finding a new broadcast site and new broadcast equipment on a limited group of volunteers. Within months of searching, there was great difficulty finding a replacement site that would work in the confines of the incoming interference contours. No existing broadcast towers exist in the area that we need to find one, and NIMBY viewpoints and CEQA prevent any new ones from being constructed in the vicinity. Nevertheless, KWTF had success in maintaining a fully functional studio location with updated EAS. Then, it recently procured a transmitter and antenna, and finally uncovered a new location to broadcast from. Unfortunately there are a number of steps for securing authority to activate a broadcast site in a sensitive environmental area. This is imposing a delay of a few weeks. However, the facility has been on Silent STA (File No. 0000221104) which requires filing resumption of operations by the end of the day Tuesday February 20, 2024 to avoid license cancellation per 47 U.S.C. § 312(g). KWTF seeks Engineering STA to bridge the gap for the unforeseen delay that is beyond its control in bypassing.

#### REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY OPERATIONS

The licensee apologizes for the short notice, but it is immediately requesting authority for a temporary location to broadcast for a duration of 30 days until required due diligence is completed concerning the CP site. KWTF proposes broadcasting from a currently-available timber post on a hill near to the previous site. The public interest is furthered in the grant of this Engineering STA because this is a grassroots community radio station operation composed of unpaid members for the community creating an information and culture venue on the airwaves

for the community. The cancellation of this license, which has been serving the Western Sonoma area for over a decade, would be a grave loss for the community.

## FORMAT FLIPS DURING JANUARY 2024

From [radioinsight.com](http://radioinsight.com)

After a brief holiday stunt as “**K-Santa**“, Evans Broadcast Company has flipped CHR “**94.9 The Party**” K235DC Reno NV to Adult Alternative “**94.9 X**“. (12/29)

Billy ‘Buck’ Blevins’ Signal Hill Media Partners will close on [its \\$477,500 purchase](#) of Oldies 590 WCAB/100.9 W265DW Rutherfordton NC and flip it to Classic Country “[Pure Country 100.9/590](#)” on Monday, January 1.

ICA Broadcasting dropped the Country format of “**107.3 The Bull**” KAJE Ingleside/Corpus Christi TX and has flipped the station to Regional Mexican “[Que Buena 107.3](#)“.

Full Power Radio flipped Oldies “[Kool Radio](#)” 1270 WACM/100.1 W261DD to Rhythmic CHR “**Jammin 100.1**” on New Years Day.



Cumulus Media flipped AC “**Soft Rock 94.1**” WMEZ Pensacola FL to Rhythmic CHR “[Hot 94.1](#)” at noon today, 1/1/24.

With [today's move](#) of Alternative “[100.5 The Drive](#)” WDRE Susquehanna PA/Binghamton NY to HD-fed translators 95.1 W236AP Binghamton and 98.7 W254BH Endwell NY, Equinox Broadcasting has launched “[Solid Gold 100.5/104.5](#)” 1/1/24.

Forever South Communications has flipped Conservative Talk “**The TJ Network**” 1390 WTJF Jackson/94.1 W231BU East Union and 94.3 WTJF-FM Dyer TN to “[Sports Radio 94/1390](#)“.

Iliad Media Group has flipped Hot AC “**Q106.7**” KIRQ Hailey/Twin Falls ID to AC “[Sunny 106.7](#)“.

ESPN Radio has lost its affiliate heard at its home base of Bristol CT as iHeartMedia has shifted “[97.9 ESPN](#)” WUCS Windsor Locks/Hartford and “[ESPN Radio 1300](#)” WAVZ New Haven to Premiere Networks’ Fox Sports Radio. 1/3/24



Cumulus Media has made the worst-kept secret in Dallas official as News/Talk [820 WBAP](#) Fort Worth will begin simulcasting on the former 90s/2000s Hits “[Hot 93.3](#)” KLIF-FM Haltom City starting on Wednesday, January 3

Reina Broadcasting has made programming changes at its Corpus Christi properties. The Classic Hits “[Retro 104.1](#)” brand has moved to 94.7 KBSO Corpus Christi as “**Retro 94.7**” replacing

Texas/Red Dirt Country “**US 94.7**“. That paves the way to flip 1150 KCCT/104.1 K281AV Corpus Christi to Classic Tejano “[Retro Tejano 104.1](#)“.

After stunting with a wheel of formats since New Years Day, Seven Mountains Media officially launched Classic Hits “[99.7 WilBuR Radio](#)” on 1270 WLBR Lebanon PA. The format resurrects the branding utilized by the station [from April 2020](#) until flipping to Talk [in March 2021](#). The new launch comes with the launch of an FM signal with the move of Major Keystone’s 99.3 W257DI Reading to Lebanon as 99.7 W259DM.

Former Gospel 940 KTFS/105.9 K290CP Texarkana, which [had been stunting](#) as “**Christmas 105.9**” since early November is now “[ESPN 105.9](#)” running the national ESPN Radio lineup.

Mid-West Family Broadcasting has flipped Rhythmic CHR “**95.9 Jamz**” 1150 WEAQ/95.9 W240DC Chippewa Falls WI to Farm News/Classic Country “[The Farm](#)“.

Lightner Communications Soft AC “**Easy Favorites**” 1230 WCRO/102.9 W275CV Johnstown PA came out of Christmas music with a move to Oldies “[Kool 102.9](#)“.

Saga Communications Conservative Talk “**New-Zee**” 1400 WNZE/105.5 W288DQ Clarksville TN has relaunched as “[105.5 The Patriot](#)“.

Galaxie Broadcasting Classic Country “[Cow Country](#)” 1420 WGXI/98.5 W253CW Plymouth WI has begun simulcasting on Yellow Dog Broadcasting’s nearby 950 WCLB/107.3 W297 W297CK Sheboygan.

iHeartMedia has flipped Spanish News/Talk “**Acción 1250**” WHNZ Tampa/105.9 W290BJ West Tampa FL to a mix of Talk and Business programming under its former “[Impact Radio](#)” branding.

After its significant launch in Miami, iHeartMedia has brought its Gold AC with Spanish presenters “**Magic**” brand to a second market with the flip of Hot AC “**Y100**” WZJZ Port Charlotte/Fort Myers FL to “[Magic 100.1](#)” this morning. (1/12)

Dean Freeman’s JDD Radio LLC has completed its move of Adult R&B “**104.5 The Flame**” WFLM White City FL to 104.7 Palm Beach Shores/West Palm Beach.

Pittsburg State University has dropped most of its Classical and Jazz programming on [89.9 KRPS](#) Pittsburg KS/Joplin MO moving to an all-Public News/Talk lineup.

Townsquare Media continues to shut down underperforming stations as its Tri Cities Divestiture Trust has ceased operations on Classic Hits “[97.5 Kool-FM](#)” KOLW Basin City/Kennewick WA.

Harvard Media has expanded its Rhythmic Hot AC “**play**” brand to to stations in Alberta. Already utilized on “[play 107.1](#)” CKPW-FM Edmonton and “[play 92.1](#)” CHMX-FM Regina SK, the band debuted today on the former CHR “[Kraze 101.3](#)” CKIK-FM Red Deer and Hot AC “[Mix 103.7](#)” CFVR-FM Fort McMurray AB.

SummitMedia has launched Alternative “[X100.1](#)” W261BX Birmingham/WBPT-HD2 Homewood AL. (1/16)



Costa Media has rebranded Spanish CHR “**LatinX 103.7**” 1490 WCCM/103.7 W279DH Haverhill and 1570 WUBG/105.3 W287CW Methuen MA as “[Exitos Boston](#)”.

The Voice Radio Network has brought its Spanish CHR “**Maxima**” brand to South Jersey as the company has begun operating Ritmo Broadcasting’s “**Ritmo-FM**” 1460 WIFI Florence and translators 92.9 W225CJ Burlington, 98.5 W253DG Trenton, and 104.1 W281CL Cherry Hill as “[Maxima 92.9](#)” on Monday, January 15.

After stunting with non-stop Taylor Swift [since Thursday afternoon](#), Sun Broadcasting relaunched 93.7 WHEL Sanibel/Fort Myers FL as CHR “**Hot 93.7**” at 9:00 this morning (1/22)

Beasley Media Group has brought its Spanish Tropical “**Playa**” brand to 93.5 W228CJ Detroit.