



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).

MARCH 2024

Welcome! Glad to see you log in to find out what, if anything, is going on in the world of TV and/or FM DXing this month. February was a slow month. It always is. The only noteworthy event was the Gulf tropo in the southern states from the 26th – 28th of February. No Es was noticed at all, which is not unusual for February. We have two new members this month. They are Richard Kuzma in Sherman Oaks, CA and Jay Lavelle in Worcester (pronounced Wooster), MA. Thanks for joining and hope you enjoy it here!

We call your attention to WTFDA member Ivan Cholokov, no2cw, near Miami. Ivan has taken his TEF6686 radio (the silver one) and converted it to remote web use by creating a webserver on his computer. You can access his server and tune his TEF6686 radio up and down the dial, I used it recently to do a complete bandscan and update to the FM Database without ever leaving home. Go to <http://57.135.105.35:8080/> and click 'play' and tune around the South Florida radio dial. I predict you see more of these pop us in the near future, like soon.

DATABASE CHANGES. You will now notice a field for facility IDs (ID) on the extreme right side of the results table. You will also note that users can now search for a station by facility ID. Also the Mode field is now searchable. You can select CP-New to search for all of those new LPFM stations that the FCC is granting. You can also search for HD radio stations and silent stations. Let your imaginations go wild.

And speaking of LPFMs, the FCC began granting construction permits for the new stations around February 16. Grants came hot and heavy for a few days but grants have now dropped considerably, with the total around 220-230. The reason for the drop in grants was that the stations forgot to file some needed info with the FCC and the apps got rejected. Once they file the needed forms, I expect I'll get busy again.

TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR STATS TO FRED. It's that time again. Fred Nordquist is the club statistician and he sent out this email a short time ago: WTFDA members are requested to email their TV/FM statistics updates to me by the end of March 2024. Go here and click on the [Statistics menu](#) to see the latest TV/FM stats files and optional update forms.



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FM Antenna High Gain Reception Directional FM Reception Antenna - 3 Element Yagi

Brand: Britta Products

3.6 ★★★★★ 15 ratings | Search this page

\$79⁹⁵

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Antenna	Radio
Brand	Britta Products
Impedance	75 Ohm
Maximum Range	40 Inches

About this item

- Directional yet compact outdoor / indoor FM antenna
- Greatly improved reception (up to 5.5 dB gain)

Report an issue with this product or seller

ANOTHER NEW ANTENNA. Well, maybe 'another' isn't quite the word for it, since the only other antenna sold in the domestic market is the four element Stellar Labs 30-2460 yagi and it sells for half the price of the Britta yagi. We wonder about the quality control on this antenna since the Stellar Labs yagi has been known to have bent and mangled elements right out of the box. The Britta yagi is sold on Amazon.

It's sad, though. We have two antennas on the low end side and just one (Innovantennas) on the high end which has to be imported. What would one give for a six or seven element outdoor yagi made and sold in the US?

MORE ON THE TEF6686. From Steve at WWMM-LP: *The TEF6686 chip was specifically designed for higher-end automobile radios, so it's not surprising that it does the best job of receiving WWMM compared to the other SDRs. The chip includes a special multipath-reduction circuit that uses rake receiver technology to clear up marginal signals. By contrast, the Airspy and SDRPlay are not specifically designed for wideband FM applications, and they are characterized by the use of 12-bit audio processing. This is perfectly acceptable for listening to police, fire, amateurs and emergency comms, but it doesn't really provide audiophile-grade sound, in the sense that the maximum practically achievable S/N for the SDRs will be in the range of 60 to 70 dB. Broadcast equipment might use 14-bit or 16-bit processing.*

LAST BUT NOT... One of the featured articles this month is written by WTFDA member Mike Hawkins way back in 2006. It's worth a read. The way I understand it, Mike was sitting under a tree, eating a hamburger, when an FM transistor radio fell out of the tree and hit him on the head. Mike began listening and found that the station he was hearing was playing all Barry Manilow music, which is not what his local should have been playing. After hearing a promo for the Des Moines Prune Festival, Mike realized that he was listening to E skip and not his local station. What a way to be introduced to FM E skip!

And that's all we have this month. - Mike

FORMAT FLIPS DURING FEBRUARY 2024

From 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 WOEK 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)

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