

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).



AUGUST 2024

Welcome to our 'Dog Days of Summer' issue. This year it seems that the dog days began two months early. It sure has been a hot one just about everywhere and we sure have had much more heat than E skip this year. And speaking of Es, we won't speak of Es because there's just not that much to say. For most of us, the season was over as soon as it began. It just limped along during June and July and ended with a whimper.

NEW MEMBERS. This month we welcome three new members to the WTFDA: First we welcome Edward Prentice (NH) and Tod Sudmeier (CA). Welcome to both of you and we hope you enjoy the club. And we now also welcome back Sam Mount (MO) back to the WTFDA. Welcome back, Sam!

IO GROUPS. Around the middle of July the WTFDA BoD decided to end our email list on Googlegroups due to group inactivity. Shortly thereafter, in response to emails from some WTFDA members, we decided to create a group on groups.io to replace Googlegroups, with the understanding that if this new group also suffered from lack of member involvement and activity, this new group would also be shut down.

So far, though, that hasn't happened. As of this writing, the new group, called FMDX-NA (the NA meaning North America to differentiate itself from another small, rather inactive group in Europe using the name fmdx), has 51 subscribers out of the approximately 75 who were invited. This group supports just about anything dx related plus it has Trip of Rabbitears.com and Spanish media expert Raymie Humbert there to help with

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Mexican info, translation and unids. Audio files and photos are encouraged. And by the way, the group is also for TV DXers, so don't think you're not wanted. Not so. FCC facility information is posted there daily. We are now inviting anyone in the club to join the FMDX-NA group on groups.io. Just go here to sign up. Don't forget to select your message delivery method: individual message or digest. The group is open to anyone and there is no need to be logged in at the site to see what has been posted. Check it out and see if it makes sense for you to join. The address: https://groups.io/g/FMDX-NA.

THE LOGGER. Beta testing on the WLogger v2.0 should be starting on or around the first of August. If everything goes well the new logger should be online around the middle of August. From what I understand, unlike the current logger, the left side of the logger is reserved for logs while the right side of the logger is just for chat. I also heard that the program will pick up the distance from your location to the transmitter and display it. There will be just one input box for TV and FM logs with a switch to choose either one. Quick Find will be there plus manual add for stations not in the databases. By the time the September VUD hits your monitor, we will all know for sure.

The 2024 Madison-Milwaukee GTG last call! This year marks the 30th annual Madison-Milwaukee GetTogether to be held in the Milwaukee area on Saturday, August 17th beginning at 1 p.m. The GTG is an all-band event, so all hobbyists are welcome. The address is 801 E. Park Blvd, Oak Creek, WI 53154. Your host for this DX event is Tim Noonan. You can email Tim for more information at dxing2@aol.com or call him at 414-813-7373.

OUR JUNE GIVEAWAY. Here are a few words from David Cox, one of the winners of the XHDATA radio we gave away last month. David said "Well, holy smokes!! Thank you very much! This was good news indeed. And quite a suprise too...my name doesn't get drawn out of the hat very often. Haha. I have been looking to buy a small portable like the XHDATA radios to help with noise searches, so the timing could not have been better."



OUR NEXT GIVEAWAY. In September we will be giving away a brand new SBFM-9 9 element FM fringe yagi worth \$200 from Sky Blue. If you need an antenna upgrade, or just need an antenna and \$200 is a bit much to spend, then why not take a chance in our next giveaway.

In case you'd rather purchase an SBFM-9 (instead of winning one), Rich Wertman has 8 of them for sale at <u>his</u> website for \$235 and free shipping. Rich is located in the Rochester, NY area.

OTHER NEWS. In other news, The FCC recently hit 13 NYC landlords with cease and desist letters for pirate broadcasting. <u>It's right here.</u>

Over in Europe, the Swiss Public Service SRG SSR will turn off all FM transmitters on December 31, 2024 and the broadcasting of RSI, RTS, SRF and RTR radio programs will only take place only the DAB+ platform or on the web and IP portals. (twitter)

In Japan, NBC Radio Saga suspends AM operations for a year and gives away 2,000 FM radios to listeners so they can still listen to the station on FM.

AND...Just as we were about to stick a fork in the 2024 skip season, skip appears out of nowhere on the afternoon of the 30th with paths from Florida to Texas and Mexico, Texas to Belize, Oklahoma to Guatemala, Nevada to Texas and Mexico and then, multiple logs from Cape Cod, Massachusetts to Puerto Rico. You just never know.

Thanks for reading and see you next month.

FORMAT FLIPS DURING JULY 2024

From radioinsight.com

7/2 The first of two <u>possible format changes</u> in Asheville NC took place this morning as Saga Communications flipped "**Pure Oldies 97.3**" W247BV/96.5 WOXL-HD3 Asheville to Spanish CHR "<u>La Pantera 97.3</u>".

7/3 Townsquare Media relaunched Classic Hits 98.7 WFGR Grand Rapids MI as "98.7 The Grand".

Following the <u>move of WKIO-FM</u> to 105.5 along with a flip from Classic Hits to Classic Rock, Central Illinois Multimedia Group has flipped 107.9 WDWS-FM Arcola/Champaign IL to Country "<u>107.9 The Rooster</u>".



The Waters Group has launched Classic Hits "Sunny 106.5" 540 WGOP/106.5 W293DN Pocomoke City MD.

Ahead of the closing of the sale of 92.9 KRMX Marlin/Waco TX to First Dallas Media, M&M Broadcasters has begun the process of moving Texas/Red Dirt Country "92.9 Shooter-FM"

Nobody Plays More 80's to a new home.

KRMX will move on Monday, July 15 to 104.9 KBHT Bellmead. KBHT has <u>spent the past year</u> as Classic Country "<u>Kicker</u>" simulcasting 1590 KEKR Mexia/99.3 K257GO Waco, where that format will remain. While being promoted as the station being heard "much further", the move sees the Shooter brand downgrade from the Class C2 92.9 to the Class A 104.9.

Times Shamrock Communications has resurrected its "**Fuzz**" Alternative Rock brand in Northeast Pennsylvania with the launch of "<u>Fuzz 96.1</u>" W241AZ Scranton/W241BB Wilkes-Barre via WEZX-HD3 Scranton.

Dierking Communications will launch "Superstar Country" on 1530 KQNK/102.5 K273DE Norton KS next week. (7/11)

iHeartMedia launched Rhythmic Throwbacks "Throwback 99.1" W256BT/WMMS-HD3 Cleveland at 3pm today.

W231DC 94.1 Fort Myers FL has joined Sun's "<u>Fox Sports</u>" network of translators along with 103.3 W277AP Bayshore and 105.9 W290DB Naples.

Asheville NC has seen its second <u>format change</u> this month as iHeartMedia flipped Alternative "**Alt 101.1**" W266CP Candler/WQNQ-HD2 to Rhythmic Throwbacks "<u>Throwbacks 101.1</u>" at noon today. (7/15)

Hope Media Group is bringing 247 Music Ministries' Contemporary Worship network "Worship 24/7" to Houston and Evansville. The network has launched on Hope Media Group's 91.3 K217GB and KSBJ-HD2 Houston and 100.1 W261CW/91.5 WJWA-HD4 Evansville.

Ranch Radio Marketing Group conducted a frequency swap at its Kerrville TX stations on July 1. Classic Rock "The Raptor" has moved to 96.5 KFXE Ingram and 93.9 K230AL Boerne/KRNH-HD4, while Country "The Fox" moves in reverse to 106.5 K293CY Kerrville/KRNH-HD3. (7/17)

As first revealed yesterday, iHeartMedia has conducted a double flip in the Tampa Bay are with Spanish CHR "Rumba 106.5/102.9" WRUB Sarasota/W275AZ Tampa moving to the full-market signal of 95.7 WBTP Clearwater, while Hip Hop "95.7 The Beat" moved in reverse to 106.5 and 102.9 with a flip to Classic Hip Hop positioned as "The Suncoast's Throwback Station".

Cromwell Media has officially announced the return of Woody Wood and Jim Chandler to mornings in Nashville as the duo will join a rebranded Classic Hits "93.3 Totally Hits Nashville" on Monday, July 22. The new brand will replace "Classic Hits 93.3" and be heard on 93.3 W227DC Nashville and 95.1 W236CI Murfreesboro.

After relaunching "**My Country 100.5**" KVWF Augusta/Wichita KS in May as "<u>100.5 The Twister</u>", My Town Media has dropped the "**My Country**" brand at its six other stations in Kansas in favor of "**Thunder Country**". Sharing the "Country's Biggest Hits" positioning with KVWF, the new brand debuted on the company's <u>93.5 KKDT</u> Burdett/Hays, <u>98.3 KQZQ</u> Kiowa, <u>99.5 KHDL</u> Americus/Emporia, 1460 KKOY/99.9 K260DF Chanute, <u>102.9 KBIK</u> Independence, and <u>1340 KSEK</u>/107.9 K300DE Pittsburg.

Mid-West Family Broadcasting has flipped Country "96.1 The Ton" W241AD South Bend IN/99.9 WQLQ-HD3 Benton Harbor MI to a simulcast of Sports 960 WSBT South Bend.

For the second day in-a-row, Mid-West Family Broadcasting has made a format change at its South Bend IN cluster as CHR "Live 99.9" WQLQ Benton Harbor MI has flipped to Alternative.



Jon Pole and Andrew Dickson's Border Broadcasting has flipped Gold AC "**102.7 The Lake**" WLYK Cape Vincent NY to Classic Hits "<u>102.7 Wow-FM</u>".

After being forced to drop its "**Kingdom 107.1**" branding <u>shortly after it launched</u> in April after a trademark claim, Pillar Media has rebranded Christian Hip Hop 107.1

KFCO Bennett/Denver CO as "Flo 107.1".

Midwest Communications has flipped Variety Hits "94.7/102.9 Jack-FM" WOZZ Mosinee/102.9 W275AC Wausau WI back to Rock "94.7 The Beast".

iHeartMedia has launched its Bilingual Soft AC format to a fourth market with the launch of "Retro 97.9" W250CE Kissimmee/WRUM-HD3 Orlando.

Radio Works has dropped its three year old Christian AC "**The Bridge**" brand on 104.3 KZTP Sibley IA/Worthington MN flipping the station today to Full Service Spanish "**La Voz 104.3**". (7/29)

TV DX and Photos



Eric Bueneman NOUIH 631 Coachway Ln, Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347 Email: nOuiheric@gmail.com - Deadline the 10th of the month

This month's column features the logbook from yours truly and photos from yours truly and Ryan Grabow from two different locations in Florida.

Eric Bueneman (NØUIH), 631 Coachway Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347

Equipment: 1984 Samsung 19-inch color TV, 1999 Daewoo 13-inch color TV, 1992 Panasonic 19-inch color TV, two Zenith DTT-901 ATSC 1.0 tuners, ADTH X23A3U-Z2 ATSC 1.0/ATSC 3.0 tuner, Channel Master CM-3020 VHF/UHF antenna at 28 feet (8.5 m) above ground level. *All times CDT, all distances in miles/kilometers*.

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<u>June 19, 2024</u> (tropo)					
0145	WAWV	18-1 (38-1) IN, Terre Haute (ABC)	170/274		
0148	WAWV	18-2 (38-2) IN, Terre Haute (Grit)	170/274		
0149	WAWV	18-3 (38-3) IN, Terre Haute (Bounce)	170/274		
0206	WAND	20-1 (17-1) IL, Decatur (NBC)	110/177		
0207	WAND	20-2 (17-2) IL, Decatur (Cozi TV)	110/177		
0208	WAND	20-3 (17-3) IL, Decatur (Ion)	110/177		
0209	WAND	20-4 (17-4) IL, Decatur (Defy)	110/177		
0210	WAND	20-5 (17-5) IL, Decatur (Scripps News)	110/177		
0210	WAND	20-6 (17-6) IL, Decatur (MeTV)	110/177		
0211	WBUI	22-1 (23-1) IL, Decatur (CW)	110/177		
0211	WBUI	22-2 (23-2) IL, Decatur (Dabl)	110/177		
0212	WBUI	22-3 (23-3) IL, Decatur (The Nest)	110/177		
0213	WCIA	34-1 (3-1) IL, Champaign (CBS)	150/240		
0214	WCIA	34-2 (3-2) IL, Champaign (WCIX 11)	150/240		
0214	WCIA	34-3 (3-3) IL, Champaign (Bounce)	150/240		
0215	WCIA	34-4 (3-4) IL, Champaign (Grit)	150/240		
0216	WILL	9-1 (12-1) IL, Urbana (PBS)	155/249		
0216	WILL	9-2 (12-2) IL, Urbana (PBS Kids)	155/249		
0217	WILL	9-3 (23-3) IL, Urbana (Create)	155/249		
0247	WTHI	10-1 (10-1) IN, Terre Haute (CBS)	170/274		
0248	WTHI	10-2 (10-2) IN, Terre Haute (Fox)	170/274		
0325	WXSL-LD	21-1 (14-1) IL, Saint Elmo (PSIP info only)	125/201		
<u>June 25, 2024</u> (tropo)					
2049	WVDM-LD	21-1 (40-1) IL, Quincy (PSIP info only)	110/177		
<u>June 29, 2024</u> (tropo)					
0248	KFVS	11-1 (12-1) MO, Cape Girardeau (CBS)	115/184		
0248	KFVS	11-2 (12-2) MO, Cape Girardeau (CW)	115/184		
0249	KFVS	11-3 (12-3) MO, Cape Girardeau (Outlaw)	115/184		
0249	KFVS	11-4 (12-4) MO, Cape Girardeau (MeTV)	115/184		
0250	KFVS	11-5 (12-5) MO, Cape Girardeau (Grit)	115/184		
0250	KFVS	11-6 (12-6) MO, Cape Girardeau (Oxygen)	115/184		
0252	WTVW	22-1 (7-1) IN, Evansville (local)	165/266		
0256	WTVW	22-2 (7-2) IN, Evansville (Bounce)	165/266		

0256	WTVW	22-3 (7-3) IN, Evansville (Ion Mystery)	165/266		
0257	WTVW	22-4 (7-4) IN, Evansville (Ion)	165/266		
0300	WAWV	18-1 (38-1) IN, Terre Haute (ABC)	170/274		
<u>July 1,</u>	<u>2024</u> (tropo)				
0437	WBUI	22-1 (23-1) IL, Decatur (CW)	110/177		
0438	WBUI	22-2 (23-2) IL, Decatur (Dabl)	110/177		
0438	WBUI	22-3 (23-3) IL, Decatur (The Nest)	110/177		
0439	WBUI	22-4 (23-4) IL, Decatur (Rewind)	110/177		
0446	WICD	32-1 (15-1) IL, Champaign (ABC)	150/240		
<u>July 2, 2024</u> (tropo)					
0400	WGEM	10-1 (10-1) IL, Quincy (NBC)	110/177		

No E-skip so far this season reaching low-band VHF; it's been mostly stations from MO/IL/IN. WXSL-LD 21 was the big surprise in this logbook; Wikipedia lists this as a Champaign/Urbana market station carrying Telemundo. According to crosstown DXer Joel Nelson, the station moved their transmitter closer to Greenville. WVDM-LD in Quincy moved from 22 to 21 (still using virtual channel 40), this to make room for KHQA's move from 7 to 22 (still virtual 7). Two others who hold CPs for UHF haven't yet moved as this column is being written: KFVS is still on 11 (CP for 32) and WGEM is still on 10 (CP for 19). Local KMOV 24 and KDTL-LD 17 are using virtual channel 32 for some of their networks (My Network TV now uses virtual 32-1, still on RF 24, Corner now uses 32-2 and Outlaw uses 32-3 on RF 17). Local KNLC 14 (24) has replaced NLEC TV (a Christian channel run by the station's former owners, New Life Evangelistic Center) with MeTV Toons, a classic cartoon channel. As of July 2, 2024, the DTV total stands at 225.

Now, here's a bunch of video captures from Ryan Grabow. This first group is from Crystal River, FL.



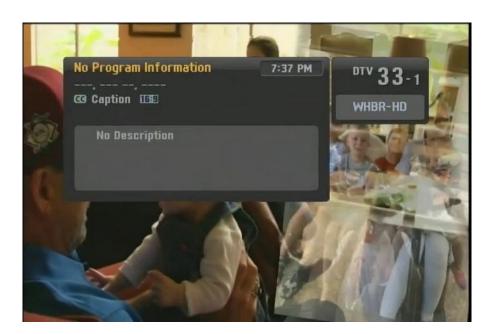
WJTC 35 (ATSC3.0) Pensacola, FL (WEAR 17/3) 314 miles (506 km) tropo Seen April 19, 2024



WJTC 35 (ATSC 3.0) Pensacola, FL (WPMI 15/15) 314 miles (506 km) tropo Seen April 19, 2024



WPMI 15 (15) Mobile, AL 318 miles (512 km) tropo Seen April 19, 2024



WHBR 33 (34) Pensacola, FL 314 miles (506 km) tropo Seen April19, 2024

And now, we move over to Ryan's captures from Mount Dora.



WXXV 25 (25) Gulfport, MS 465 miles (749 km) tropo Seen February 28, 2024



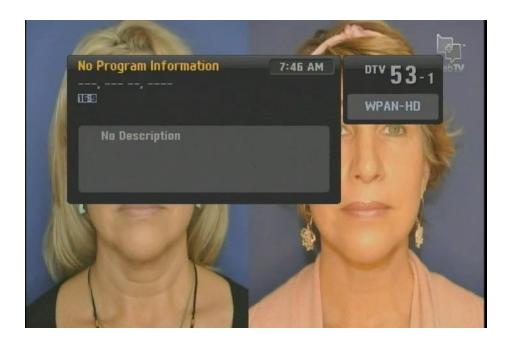
WEAR 17 (3) Pensacola, FL 320 miles (515 km) tropo Seen March 21, 2024



WECP-LD 35 (21) Panama City, FL 250 miles (402 km) tropo Seen June 10, 2024 (Listed on Wikipedia as virtual 18)



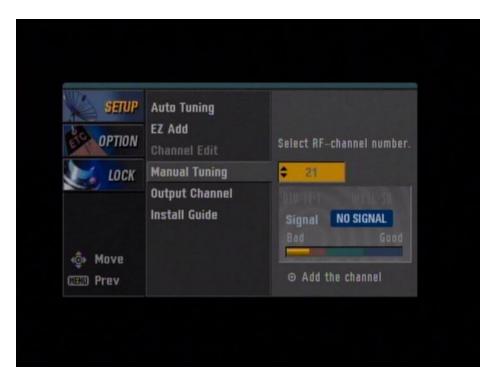
WDHN 21 (18) Dothan, AL 277 miles (446 km tropo) Seen June 10, 2024



WPAN 21 (53) Fort Walton Beach, FL 320 miles (515 km) tropo Seen June 10, 2024 (Now back on the air; Wikipedia lists this as silent) Now, here's a pair from yours truly:



WTHI 10.2 (10.2) Terre Haute, IN 170 miles (274 km) tropo Seen June 19, 2024



WXSL-LD 21 (14) Saint Elmo, IL 125 miles (201 km) tropo Seen June 19, 2024

Another impressive group of video captures from Ryan...thanks! That will wrap up another column...please report! 73 and good DX from the Florissant Valley Dial Twister.



FM DX Recap

John Zondlo – 4009 Driftwood Cir. – Yukon, OK 73099 fmdxweb@cox.net – Next deadline: August

25 August 2024

Eric Bueneman – NØUIH - 631 Coachway Lane - Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347 Equipment: Kenwood AR-304 AM/FM/FM Stereo receiver, Channel Master CM3020 VHF-TV/UHF-TV/FM Yagi at 28' (8.5 meters) above ground level (AGL), Uniden Bearcat BCD996P2 analog/digital scanner with Radio Shack discone at 28' (8.5 meters) AGL, Diamond A144S5 five-element beam modified for the NWR band at 32' (9.7 meters) AGL, Whistler WS1040 handheld analog/digital scanner w/rubber duck antenna. All times CDT, distances in miles/kilometers.

0156 WWG73 162.425 IN Edwardsport, hazardous wx outlook, legal ID forecast for Vincennes 170/274 0219 KPOW 97.7 MO La Monte, "Power 97-7," classic hits, KQBS nulled 165/266

- 0222 WWVR 98.5 IL Paris, "98-5 The River," classic rock, KTJJ nulled 145/233
- 0335 WMMC 105.9 IL Marshall, "Magic Hits 105-9," classic hits, local ads 160/258
- 0344 WCBH 104.3 IL Casey, "104.3 The Party," CHR 135/217

6/25 Tr

- 2124 KRES 104.7 MO Moberly, "Superstation Kres," country music, local ads 110/177
- 2127 KZWV 101.9 MO Eldon, "101-9 The Wave," AC, K270BW nulled 140/225
- 2135 WXL45 162.4 MO Fulton, weather forecast for mid-MO, MO wx conditions, hazardous wx outlook, CDT time check, legal ID 85/137
- 2140 KLOZ 92.7 MO Eldon, "Mix 92.7," hot AC, over K224FT in W224DC null 140/225
- 2148 KTXY 106.9 MO Jefferson City, "Y-107," CHR, K259CQ nulled 100/161
- 2149 KATI
- 94.3 MO California, "Kat Country 94-3," country music, W232CR nulled 120/193
- 2153 KXMO 95.3 MO Owensville, "Classic Hits 95-3," classic hits, local ads 55/89
- 2157 KWWR 95.7 MO Mexico, "Country 96," country music, legal ID 95/153
- 2203 KICK
- 97.9 MO Palmyra, "97.9 Kick FM," country music 90/145
- 2215 KTGR 100.5 MO Fulton, "KTGR," local ads, sports talk show 85/137
- 2220 KRMS 93.5 MO Osage Beach, "93-5 Rocks," classic rock, local ads 140/225 6/29 Tr
- 0023 KXI96 162.4 AR Russell, AR wx conditions, legal ID, forecast for Searcy 245/394
- 0242 WUEZ 95.1 IL Carterville, "95-1 Steve FM," classic hits, over K236CS 100/161
- 0310 WDDD 107.3 IL Johnston City, "W-3-D Country," After Midnight, over K297BI 100/161
- 0317 WYTE 101.7 IL Robinson, "Classic Hits WYTE," classic hits, over KWUL/WGEL 145/233
- 0322 WMGI 100.7 IN Terre Haute, "My Mix FM," promo, hot AC, over K264CY/KFNS 170/274
- 0332 WBOW 102.7 IN Terre Haute, "102-7 WBOW," classic hits 170/274

6/30 Tr

- 2315 WXK49 162.475 TN Memphis, TN/AR/MO/MS wx conditions, tropical wx outlook, CDT time check, forecast for Memphis 250/402
- 2318 KZPT 99.7 MO Kansas City, "99-7 The Point," local ads, promo, hot AC, WXAJ nulled 225-362 7/1 Tr
- 0257 WXJ71 162.475 IL Peoria, Midwest wx conditions, CDT time check, legal ID, forecast for Peoria 140/225