

**APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY TROPO?**

**April 2025 #6**

**NEW MEMBER.** This month we say hola to veteran TV/FM (and AM?) Dxr Fernando Garcia. Many of you might remember Fernando for his record DX tropo receptions when he lived in Monterrey, NL. Fernando has since relocated southwest to the Guadalajara area where he's logged E skip and tropo DX from along the West Coast of Mexico and across the Gulf of California into Baja California Sur. It's a privilege to have him back again.



**CUBAN DTV TROPO.** Chris Dunne says that he's seen Cuba on his DTMB box and this time he's had audio to go along with the video. Chris says *"The seller may have showed me a trick on how to get audio. It had to do with the "TV/RADIO" button on the remote. Anyway I may have recorded actual Cuba TV + radio (which are "subchannels").*

*Let Doug know that I replaced the DTMB box with the ATSC; I was unable to see a yellow bar on the Cuban channels used.*

*Fun day it was! YouTube will have to wait 1 week, for date & place to show. Anyway, too much copyrightable stuff. However I can upload something next week as "real time" video.*

**ATSC 1.0 SHUT-OFF...OR NOT?** There has been some discussion about a "drop dead" 2028 date for ATSC1.0 which would allow ATSC 3.0 to replace it. The general opinion is that a mandatory shutdown will not happen. Doug Smith tells us more...

*A couple of notes.....*

- *I find it very hard to believe the 2028 end date for ATSC 1.0 will hold.*
  - *On the stations' end:*
    - *Converting existing stations to ATSC 3.0 will require extensive new encoding equipment - probably around \$50,000 worth (or more) for each station.*
    - *In many cases, existing transmitters cannot operate at full power in ATSC 3.0.*
      - *(the peak-to-average power ratio is higher -- meaning higher voltages appear in power amplifiers, power combiners, and filters for the same average power output)*
    - *In some cases this will apply to the transmission line & antenna as well.*
      - *(all that said, with more robust "physical layer pipe"s reliable reception may be had at lower powers with 3.0)*
    - *Many transmitters cannot be converted to ATSC 3.0, or at least cannot be converted without replacing the "exciter", at a cost of at least \$20,000.*
    - *Often, the links between the studios and the transmitters will also require replacement.*
    - *As more people "cut the cord", retransmission payments from cable systems drop, reducing broadcasters' revenue. This of course makes it harder to justify large expenditures.*
  - *On the setmakers' end:*
    - *Patent concerns that caused LG to stop making ATSC 3.0 receivers have not been resolved.*

- The current FCC is unlikely to be interested in expanding the all-channel rule to require ATSC 3.0 in receivers, and Congress is unlikely to be interested in mandating that the Commission do so. For that matter, I don't think the old FCC or Congress, from before last November's election, would have been interested either.
- On the viewers' end:
  - People buy TVs relatively often, but to expect every receiver to be replaced in three years is unreasonable.
  - The advantages of ATSC 3.0 are not extensive enough to push adoption.
  - Increased use of streaming since the analog shutdown means many viewers now have the option of not watching linear TV at all. Losing OTA TV no longer means having to pay for cable.

I don't really understand why the NAB would be interested in forcing this matter. It seems to me it would only hurt their members.

I almost wonder if they want to see the FCC say "No", so they have a good excuse for taking their foot off the gas of the 1.0=>3.0 transition?

**DXPEDITION 2025.** Rick Dau tells us more about it.

**WHAT:** *An informal 1-day DXpedition, focusing primarily on FM and Weather Radio, since, by then, we will be into the heart of tropo and E-skip seasons. IMPORTANT: this is just a DXpedition, NOT a convention, so there will be no seminars, no speeches, no talks. In short, it is a day to bring yourselves, your gear, your antenna set-ups — there ARE electrical outlets in the shelter — and DX to your hearts' content! And, of course, socialize. Also, it will be BYOB and BYOG (G meaning "grub"), but there are plenty of fast-food and fast-casual restaurants in the area, especially along U.S. 61. If there is enough feedback, I may provide a few snacks at the shelter.*

**WHEN:** *Saturday July 12, starting at 6 a.m. CDT, lasting until 11 p.m. CDT*

**WHERE:** *Sunrise shelter at Weed Park (PLEASE don't get any ideas about the name, people!), Muscatine, Iowa*

**BEST WAY TO GET THERE:** *From the north (Iowa Highway 38), east or west (U.S. Highway 61), take Business Highway U.S. 61 (Park Ave.) south into Muscatine about 1.3 miles to Iowa Highway 22 (Washington Street), then turn left, go about two-tenths of a mile, and find Park Drive, which will dogleg to the left off of Washington (there will also be a blue sign on the right side of Washington directing you to Weed Park). Take Park Drive STRAIGHT into the park, look for shapes of animals and a "Zoo Garden" sign on the right side of the road, and stop. That should put you right in front of the Sunrise shelter. There is, by the way, wheelchair access to the sidewalk in front of the shelter.*

*I'll be arriving in Muscatine on Friday night July 11, hotel yet to be confirmed, but will most likely be the AmericInn on U.S. Highway 61. Hope to see you there! Please e-mail me offlist if you have questions. Email Rick at [drummer1965us@hotmail.co](mailto:drummer1965us@hotmail.co)*

**STATISTICS.** Bill Nollman has taken over as statistics editor replacing Fred Nordquist who has been coping with computer problems and health issues for almost a year. Send in your statistics updates to Bill. Go to <https://stats.wtfda.org> for Bill's email address and more info. And of course we thank Fred for his efforts over the past few decades and we wish him the best.

**AND...** Nick Langan has a new article over at Radio World about close-spaced FM stations. You can read it [here](#).

That's it for now and we will see you here next month. - Mike

## Do you have any predictions for the amount of, and the intensity of, E layer skip above 80MHz in the summer of 2025 based on previous years data?

Gemini (Source: gemini.google.com)  
2.0 Flash

Based on current understanding and available information, here's a prediction for E layer skip above 80 MHz during the summer of 2025:

### Amount and Intensity:

- **Increased Probability:** Summer 2025 falls around the predicted peak of Solar Cycle 25, which reached its maximum in October 2024. Solar maximum generally leads to increased ionization in the ionosphere, including the E layer. This higher ionization increases the likelihood and intensity of sporadic E (Es) events, which are responsible for VHF/UHF skip propagation.
- **More Frequent Openings:** Expect more frequent instances of E layer skip on frequencies above 80 MHz (which includes the FM broadcast band and the 2-meter amateur radio band) compared to years with lower solar activity.
- **Longer Duration:** Es openings might last longer than during solar minimum periods. While Es events are typically short-lived (from a few minutes to several hours), the overall increased activity could lead to a greater number of sustained propagation periods throughout the summer.
- **Higher Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF):** The MUF for Es propagation is likely to be higher, meaning that signals at higher frequencies within the VHF range (and potentially even into the lower UHF range in exceptional circumstances) could be refracted back to Earth over significant distances.
- **Stronger Signal Strengths:** Signals received via Es skip, when it occurs, are often remarkably strong and can fluctuate rapidly. With potentially more intense ionization during the solar maximum, received signal strengths could be consistently higher during Es openings.

### Based on Previous Years' Data and Solar Cycle Progression:

- **Historical Correlation:** While the exact timing and intensity of individual Es events are unpredictable, historical data shows a general increase in Es activity during the peak years of solar cycles.
- **Solar Cycle 25 Strength:** Predictions for Solar Cycle 25 initially suggested it would be similar in strength to the relatively weak Cycle 24. However, the current cycle has ramped up faster and has been more active than initially anticipated. This suggests that Es activity in the summer of 2025 could be more significant than what was observed during the peak of Cycle 24.

- **Seasonal Peak:** Sporadic E propagation typically peaks in the Northern Hemisphere during the late spring and early summer months (roughly May to July), with a smaller peak in winter. Therefore, the summer of 2025 aligns with the typical seasonal peak for Es.

### General Information about E Layer Skip (Sporadic E):

- **What is it?** Sporadic E is a phenomenon where localized, unusually dense patches of ionization form within the E layer of the ionosphere (at altitudes of roughly 90-120 km). These "clouds" of ionization can refract radio waves at VHF and sometimes UHF frequencies over considerable distances.
- **Unpredictable Nature:** As the name suggests, sporadic E is inherently unpredictable in terms of exact timing, location, and intensity of the ionized patches.
- **Distance:** Single-hop Es propagation typically allows for communication distances of 800 to 2,200 km (500 to 1,400 miles). Multi-hop Es (where the signal bounces off multiple Es clouds) can extend this range to over 5,000 km.
- **Frequencies Affected:** While most commonly observed on the 6-meter (50 MHz) and 10-meter (28 MHz) amateur bands, Es can and does occur at higher frequencies, including the FM broadcast band (88-108 MHz) and the 2-meter amateur band (144-148 MHz). Reports of Es on even higher frequencies are less common but possible during intense events.
- **Causes:** The exact causes of sporadic E are still not fully understood, but wind shear in the upper atmosphere and the presence of metallic ions (possibly from meteor debris) are believed to play significant roles. There's no direct correlation with the 11-year sunspot cycle in terms of the fundamental formation mechanism, but increased overall ionospheric activity during solar maximum provides a more favorable environment for Es to occur and reach higher MUFs.
- **Impact on Services:** Sporadic E can cause interference to local FM and TV broadcasts by allowing distant stations on the same or nearby frequencies to be received strongly. For amateur radio operators, it provides exciting opportunities for long-distance VHF and UHF contacts that are not normally possible via ground wave or tropospheric propagation.

**In summary, based on the approaching solar maximum and historical trends, the summer of 2025 is expected to have a higher amount and intensity of E layer skip above 80 MHz compared to periods of lower solar activity. Expect more frequent, longer-lasting openings with the potential for higher MUFs and strong signal strengths. However, the exact timing and characteristics of individual Es events will remain unpredictable.**

Will AI be right, or will AI be wrong. We will all find out soon!

# FCC GRANTS AND ACTIONS

From fcc.today and the FCC

April 2025

AK	K216DG	91.1	Ketchikan	resumed operation, was silent
AK	KXAK	99.3	Fairbanks	initial calls
AL	WDLG	90.1	Grove Hill	resumed operation, was silent
AL	W247AT	97.3	Huntsville	resumed operation, was silent
AL	W281AB	104.1	Mountain Brook	change primary to WJLD 1400
AR	KURM-FM	100.3	Gravette	Silent 2/17 pending conversion to a new NCE FM.
AR	KRLY	100.3	Gravette	ex KURM-FM
AZ	K206DK	89.1	Bullhead City	Silent 2/5, transmitter problems
AZ	KXQX	92.5	Tusuyan	resumed operation, was silent
AZ	KNWG	93.1	Saint Michaels	initial calls
AZ	NEW	95.7	Mount Lemmon	new cp, 1w/877m, 32-26-32 110-45-17
CA	KECG	88.1	El Cerrito	Silent 2/27 staffing issues, staff not being paid
CA	KUMI	89.1	Glamis	initial calls, 100w/-5m from 2kw/-5m at new site
CA	K207CM	89.3	Red Bluff	silent 12/20, financial difficulties
CA	K209DN	89.7	McFarland	silent 1/2, financial difficulties
CA	KRAM	90.5	Borrego Springs	100w-H/-370m from 2kw/-222m, at new site
CA	KFSR	90.7	Fresno	7.5k/34m from 4.5k/34m, no site change
CA	NEW	90.9	San Miguel	3kw/84m from 4kw/84m at same site
CA	K217DA	91.3	Ridgecrest	Silent 1/3, antenna failure
CA	K220GR	91.9	Los Banos	Silent 12/19/24, financial problems
CA	KMIO-LP	92.7	Oakhurst	initial calls
CA	K226AN	93.1	Montesano	Silent 3/6/ pending relocation
CA	K244AH	96.7	Ukiah	primary to KMFB 98.5
CA	K249DJ	97.7	San Pablo	Silent 2/27 staffing issues, staff not being paid
CA	NEW	98.5	San Clemente	new cp, 6w/115m, 33-26-37 117-35-19
CA	K261FF	100.1	Walltown	silent 1/1/25, antenna failed
CA	K266CO	101.1	El Cajon	license cancelled
CA	KFQM-LP	101.5	Los Angeles	resumed operation, was silent
CA	KFTO-LP	106.1	Marina	initial calls
CA	K293CL	106.5	Thousand Palms	primary to KMEE-HD2
CA	KJCN	107.5	Sutter Creek	resumed operation, was silent
CO	KFFR	88.3	Winter Park	1.3k/94m from 10k-H/-171m at new site
CO	KNVL	91.3	Los Animas	Mod, 4.3kw/77m from 100k/107m, 37-56-23 103-26-10

FL	WRRW	88.5	Crawfordville	ex WCFD
FL	W213BQ	90.5	Naples	resumed operation, was silent
FL	WCFN-LP	91.9	Orlando	initial calls
FL	WKWJ	91.9	Key West	2kw/32m from 1.1kw/45m, site change to 24-33-10 81-47-53
FL	W228BY	93.5	Miami	primary to WSFS-HD4
FL	W236DY	95.1	Daytona Beach	Ex 104.9, 250w from 99w, no site change
FL	W257BF	99.3	Leesburg	Silent 1/17/25 antenna damaged
FL	WDRD-LP	99.9	Tampa	67w/37m from 100w/28m at new site
FL	WNGK-LP	102.1	Fort Lauderdale	Silent 3/17 equipment removed without permission
GA	WCRY	89.9	Blairsville	82w/485m, 34-56-26 83-55-08
GA	WTOC-FM	95.7	Clayton	ex WNEG-FM
HI	KIPO	89.3	Honolulu	resumed operation, was silent
HI	KIPL	89.9	Lijue	resumed operation, was silent
HI	KIPL-FM1	89.9	Kilauea	Silent 2/22, interference at new KKCR 90.9
IA	KQBV	88.5	Adel	ex KIHS
IA	K281DB	104.1	Davenport	silent 3/1, primary KBOB is silent
IA	KIHS	105.5	Perry	ex KDLS-FM
IL	WIHN	96.7	Normal	Silent 2/22 pending sale
IL	WBBA-FM	97.5	Pittsfield	resumed operation, was silent
IL	W296EP	107.1	Chicago	250w at 75w. Site change to 41-55-36 87-48-24
IN	WSWC	91.1	Chesterton	initial calls, 250w/129m from 23.5k/27m at new site
IN	WDNS	91.5	New Castle	silent 3/5 6 month STA due to storm damage
IN	WZOW-FM	97.7	Goshen	ex WYXX
KS	KKSL-LP	93.5	Liberal	initial calls, new cp, 7w/107m, 37-03-40 100-54-19
KS	KLZY-LP	99.3	Salina	license cancelled
KS	K291AX	106.1	Emporia	primary to KECV 91.3
KS	K297AI	107.3	Hill City	primary to KMDG 105.7
KS	KWWA-LP	107.9	Dodge City	initial calls
KY	WUIC	88.1	Harlan	initial calls
KY	WUIC	88.1	Harlan	2.5k/440m from 3kw/407m, no site change
KY	W217BP	91.3	Owensboro	primary to WJWA 91.5
KY	WLXX	101.5	Richmond	Silent 3/7 pending sale or format change
LA	WRNV	91.1	Norco	ex WNKV
LA	K240EY	95.9	Natchitoches	resumed operation, was silent
LA	KHBQ-LP	103.5	Monroe	initial calls
MA	W245BK	96.9	Amherst	primary to WLZX-FM-HD3 (was WLZX-HD3)
MA	W253CD	98.5	East Longmeadow	primary to WAQY-HD2
MD	NEW	90.3	Cambridge	1.75kw/91m from 1.4kw/50m, site change to 38-38-32 76-03-29

MD	WFHW	90.3	Cambridge	initial calls
ME	DWMPF-LP	91.1	Rumford	license cancelled
ME	WRCP-LP	94.5	Readfield	initial calls
ME	W240DH	95.9	Augusta	Silent 2/12 due to primary WJZN being silent (financial)
MI	WFNT	88.7	Adrian	initial calls
MI	WGTM	90.3	Manistique	1kw/13m from 500w/35m at new site
MI	W224AW	92.7	Bergland	primary to WHWM 88.5
MI	WHMU-LP	95.1	Holland	initial calls
MI	W244DL	96.7	Detroit	primary to WMUZ 1200
MN	W256BC	99.1	Eleveth	change primary to WSCN 100.5
MN	KRKG-LP	101.9	Willmar	initial calls
MN	K277AD	103.3	Austin	change primary to KSZE-HD2, unknown format
MN	W297AW	107.3	winona	change primary to KSZE-HD2, unknown format
MO	K207AY	89.3	St. Robert	resumed operation, was silent
MO	K256BQ	99.1	Branson	resumed operation, was silent
MO	NEW	100.3	Warrensburg	new cp, 23w/62m, 38-45-27 93-44-21
MO	WADC-LP	104.1	Columbia	initial calls
MO	KMOX-FM	104.1	Hazelwood	ex WHHL
MT	KTNV	101.7	Libby	Silent 2/15/25 beause of poor economic conditions
NC	WGBI	90.9	Mount Airy	5.2k/19m from 1.4k/04m, at new site 36-26-40 80-33-25
ND	KHTZ	106.9	Minot	ex KHRT-FM
NH	W299AM	107.7	Lebanon	primary to WZKC 103.1
NJ	W298DI	107.5	Port Norris	primary to WOCQ 1510
NM	KNMQ	102.1	Socorro	ex KYRN
NV	KIOF	90.1	Indian Springs	license cancelled
NV	NEW	90.3	Beatty	100w/-198m from 150w/539m, at new site
NV	K254AK	98.7	Reno	resumed operation, was silent
NY	W230CM	93.9	Poughkeepsie	Silent 2/17/25 interference to WNYC-FM on same freq.
NY	W244EA	96.7	Warwick	Silent 2/7/25 transmitter failure and no access to it
OH	WLRY	88.9	Rushville	resumed operation, was silent
OH	NEW	101.7	Cleveland	new cp, 71w/36m, 41-27-45 81-44-23
OK	KMSJ	90.9	McAlister	initlal calls for new cp, 500w/11m, 34-55-58 95-45-51
OK	K213FN	91.5	Berlin	115w-V from 110w-V at same site
OK	KJAL	91.9	McAlister	ex KBCW-FM
OK	KJAR	95.9	Woodward	ex KCSC-FM
OK	K288FX	105.5	North Enid	Silent 1/30, antenna system failure
OK	K288FX	105.5	North Enid	resumed operation, was silent
OR	K207EY	89.3	Enterprise, etc	resumed operation, was silent



OR	K214BO	90.7	Ashland	Silent 2/5 unknown reason, site inaccessible
OR	NEW	91.1	Huntington	mod, 450w/494m from 4.6kw/500m at new site
OR	K217BO	91.3	Halfway	resumed operation, was silent
OR	K248BS	97.5	Newberg	primary to KPOZ
OR	K256AC	99.1	The Dalles	resumed operation, was silent
OR	KYTE	105.5	Garibaldi	ex KDEP
PA	WNUZ-LP	92.9	Cap	100w/HAAT 1m from 6m, at new site
PA	W273DO	102.5	Philadelphia	Silent 2/8/25 tower removed by owner
PA	WNKV	103.5	Burgettstown	ex WOGH
PR	NEW	89.3	Ponce	100w/-72m, 18-00-42 86-38-23 (788255)
PR	NEW	89.3	Ponce	100w/-92m, 18-01-04 66-37-07 (778336)
PR	WOSO-LP	90.1	Canovasas	initial calls (40780)
PR	WTIL-LP	90.1	Canovasas	initial calls (788746)
PR	NEW	90.9	Guayanilla	new cp, 100w/-79m, 17-59-40 66-48-59
PR	NEW	90.9	Quebradillos	new cp, 42w/46m, 18-28-02 66-55-22
PR	WAIP-LP	90.9	Quebradillas	initial calls
SC	W236CD	95.1	Seneca	Silent 3/1, site destroyed by wildfire
SC	W270BZ	101.9	Conway	Silent 3/7 primary WAYS 1050 is silent
SD	K209FR	89.7	Aberdeen	205w-V from 250w-V at new site 45-27-57 98-20-09
TN	WKNP	90.1	Jackson	resumed operation, was silent
TN	WAVO	90.7	Hohenwald	resumed operation, was silent
TX	KBWH	88.1	Hook	initial calls
TX	KPMB	88.5	Plainview	Silent 12/17/24, transmitter failure
TX	KBXP	88.5	Blossom	6kw/100m from 150w/26m at new site
TX	K201EP	89.1	Hereford	silent 12/4, financial difficulties
TX	KZIC	89.9	Hondo	Silent 12/31/24, financial difficulties
TX	KQVI-FM	89.9	Cedar Lake	Silent 1/30 antenna damaged
TX	KQYR	90.1	Mount Pleasant	3kw/81m from 250w/35m, at new site
TX	KVFM	91.3	Beeville	silent 1/21 due to weather related damage
TX	NEW	91.5	Bolivar Peninsula	mod, 20kw/16m from 25k/16m, , 29-29-39 94-32-43
TX	KQCI	91.5	Freer	Silent 12/21/24, financial difficulties
TX	KQBI	91.7	Encinal	Silent 1/12, equipment problems
TX	K219BX	91.9	El Paso, etc	silent 2/5, causing interference to KLPS, needs to chng freq
TX	K233DH	92.5	Houston	Silent 1/21/25 transmission line weather related issues
TX	KVLL-FM	94.7	Wells	license cancelled
TX	KELW	95.3	Gilmer	ex KWLL
TX	KJJB	95.3	Eagle Lake	Silent 1/5, financial difficulties
TX	K244FZ	96.7	Boerne	silent 1/1, transmitter failed

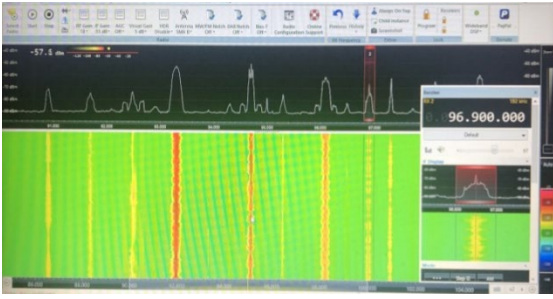


TX	KPUY	97.3	Garwood	Silent 1/12, equipment problems
TX	KRXZ	103.3	Pampa	ex KRWP
TX	NEW	104.5	McAllen	new cp, 34w/51m, 26-15-27 98-13-09 (sharing time)
TX	NEW	104.5	Pharr	new cp, 50w/42m, 26-14-13 98-10-50 (sharing time)
TX	K287CK	105.3	Angleton	Silent 1/21/25 transmission line weather related issues
UT	K204GW	88.7	Tooele	Ex 88.5, 10w from 41w-V at new site
UT	KXBN	92.1	Cedar City	100k/532m from 95k, site change to 37-38-42 113-22-25
UT	K225AP	92.9	Pleasant Grove	53w from 225w, and new site
UT	KADD-FM6	93.5	St. George	2.5k, 37-03-49 113-34-26
UT	KCIN	94.9	Cedar City	100k/532m, HAAT changed and no site change
UT	KREC	98.1	Brian Head	100k/532m from 54k/770m, at new site 37-38-42 113-22-25
UT	KCAY	100.7	Enterprise	COL from Dammeron Valley
VA	WDIC-FM	92.1	Clinchco	resumed operation, was silent
VA	WERA-LP	96.7	Arlington	resumed operation, was silent
VA	W245BG	96.9	Cave Spring	resumed operation, was silent
VA	W275CL	102.9	Charlottesville	primary to WWWV-HD2
VT	WAVJ	103.3	Waterbury	ex WIXM
VT	WLUD-LP	104.7	Ludlow	mod, 100w/26m from -148m, 43-24-27 72-43-27
WA	KGHE	89.1	Montesano	Silent 2/23, lost site
WA	KUUG-FM	90.5	Centerville	initial calls
WA	K212DB	91.9	Moses Lake	Silent 3/4/25 at the request of KXML
WA	K225DG	92.9	Kennewick, Pasco etc	Silent 7/23/24 and extended, technical problems
WA	K243CG	96.5	Spokane	site change to 47-35-35 117-17-56
WA	K277DY	103.3	Greenwater	ex 107.3, site change to 47-13-08 121-50-35
WI	NEW	105.3	Manitowoc	new cp, 100w/28m, 44-05-37 87-40-43
WV	WEPC	88.5	Mooreville	license cancelled
WV	W252DT	98.3	Montgomery	Silent 3/2 due to massive flooding, no power or communications
WY	KYOY	92.3	Hillsdale	50kw-H/54m from 12kw/44m, new site (41-14-59 104-27-48)
WY	W274CD	102.7	Plum Springs	moved site to 37-00-34 86-27-09



A Little Nostalgic E Skip





# Format Flips

*and branding, too*

John Zondlo – [fmdxweb@cox.net](mailto:fmdxweb@cox.net)

April 2025

## AZ

AAA KVNA 100.1 Flagstaff AZ has flipped to a gold-based AC format. It's now branded as "Peak 100.1." The station features hits from the '80's to today. My wife and I were in Flagstaff when they made the change. We had never been there before, but hope to go back one day. Great town for a DX convention (hint hint).

## AR

Silent KRLY (formerly KURM-FM) Gravette AR is silent no more. New owner John Brown University is airing its Christian pop/Hip Hop "Real FM" format on the station. The format has been online since '17. The station is now known as "100.3 Real FM." This station, along with the AM KURM, had a wonderfully quirky homespun format that sounded like radio did in the 60's and earlier.

## CA

After 17 years of rocking the Fresno area, "Rock 105.1" KKBZ Auberry CA has flipped to Spanish Rhythmic as "Caliente 105.1." KKBZ pulled a 2 share in the December book.

Lotus Communications has switched Regional Mexican "La Ley 96.5" KPSL Bakersfield CA to Spanish Rhythmic "96.5 Ritmo-FM." The format is a blend of Cumbia and Salsa.

## FL

WIJF-LP 91.7 Fort Lauderdale FL is now on the air with Israeli and Jewish programming.



In Florida, Faith Radio Network has purchased WASJ 105.1 Panama City Beach and WKNK Callaway. The Tallahassee based company is awaiting FCC approval, but is now programming the stations via a time brokerage agreement. WASJ is running their Christian Preaching network, while WKNK is airing a Spanish Christian format billed as "Radio Fe."

## GA

Southern Gospel WJLA 101.1 Ellijay GA has flipped to Christian Country "The Pulse 101.1". It's being positioned as "Where Faith, Country and Gospel Collide." Many of the air talents let go when WFSH 104.7 Athens "The Fish" was sold by Salem to EMF will be heard on The Pulse. WJLA will continue to carry University of Georgia sports and Atlanta Braves baseball, so don't be confused this summer when you get an Es opening to the southeast and think the Braves couldn't possibly be on a Christian station.

## IA

Iowa Catholic Radio is now heard on KIHS 105.5 Des Moines (KIHS is new call for KDLS-FM). It's about time, as they bought the station in '23. Previous owner Latin Broadcasting will move their Regional Mexican "La Ley" over to ICR's 1150 AM in Perry with new call KDLX. "La Ley" is also heard on K233BT 94.5 Des Moines. If you're seeing this before Easter, check out the ICR website for the "Fish Fry Finder." An absolutely novel idea for Lent.

## KY

“105.3 The Point” WPTQ 105.3 Glasgow KY with Classic Rock has rebranded as “105.3 The Goat.” So what’s the point? The “Point” brand is retooled as Active Rock replacing “98.3 The Edge” on W252CV 98.3 Bowling Green KY and W251BT 98.1 Glasgow fed by WPTQ.

## **LA**

Cumulus has changed things up in New Orleans. Sports “106.1 The Ticket” is moving from WRKN 106.1 Picayune MS to KKND 106.7 Port Sulphur LA, with Gospel “Heaven 106.7” moving in the opposite direction.

## **MI**

It’s moving time again for Mid-West Family Broadcasting. The latest “realignment” of its Michigan and Indiana stations has Adult Contemporary WCXT 98.3 Hartford MI making way for the Alternative format of “Live 99.9” WQLQ Benton Harbor MI. Sister station W241AD 96.1 South Bend IN will also pick up the Alternative format. Country WYTZ 97.5 Benton Harbor, aka “97.5 Y Country,” moves to 99.9, and Classic Rock “107.9 The Lake” W300EJ Benton Harbor moves to 97.5 with new WRRR-FM call letters. WRRR is licensed to Bridgman MI. I remember visiting the nuclear power plant there on a high school field trip. That was a long, long time ago.

## **MO**

It’s kinda sad, but a sign of the times. Another AM blowtorch is adding a full power FM simulcast. This time the station is KMOX 1120 St. Louis, which is now heard on KMOX-FM 104.1 Hazelwood MO. As WHHL, the 104.1 signal was Hip Hop as “Hot 104.1.” That format is now being heard on KMOX’s former translator, K254CR St. Louis, as “Hot 98.7.” It’s fed by KEZK HD3 102.5 St. Louis. The format is running jockless.

The sale hasn’t been approved yet, and the format hasn’t changed, but keep an eye on KDHX 88.1 St. Louis MO. The BoD of owner Double Helix has agreed to sell the station to EMF, but it still needs to be approved by a bankruptcy court and the FCC. It’s a messy situation that may not be resolved for a while. Meanwhile, St. Louis doesn’t need K-Love. It already has several strong CCM stations in the market. I’m a firm believer that good hyper-local programming can beat a satellite delivered station.

## **NV**

Lotus Broadcasting has picked up K234BS 94.7 Las Vegas from EMF and flipped it to Classic Country as “94.7 Hank FM.” It’s fed by KXPT HD2 97.1 Las Vegas. Lotus also used the Hank moniker in Reno, Seattle and Boise. Under EMF ownership, the translator ran a Spanish Christian format.

## **OH**

WJKR Worthington OH has gone from Country to Classic Country. With the change has come a rebranding from “Country 103.9” to “103.9 The Maverick.” The station will focus on country from the 90’s and early 00’s. And I know it’s hard to believe, but no one there lost their job with the flip!

## **ON**

Programming changes are in the air for the four stations My Broadcasting Corporation recently bought from Bell Media. In Kingston ON, AC “Move 98.3 CFLY is going back to the past, picking up the “98.3 Fly-FM” branding it once had. It’s positioning itself as “Today’s Best Music.” Current employees still have a job there, fortunately. “Pure Country 99” CKLC is now “New Country 98.9.” Another eastern Ontario station affected by the changes is Variety Hits “Bounce 103.7” CJPT, which has flipped to Classic Rock at “103.7 Giant FM.” And finally, CFJR 104.9 Brockville is moving away from it’s “Move 104.9” identity to become Adult Contemporary “104.9 My FM.”

## **PA**

The Cat is on the prowl in northeast Pennsylvania and a portion of New Jersey. A four station Country simulcast, branded as “Cat Country 93.7,” is on the air on WCTO 96.1 Easton PA, WSJR 93.7 Dallas

PA, WBHD 95.7 Olyphant PA and WWYY 107.1 Belvidere NJ. Interestingly, tho, each station will have separate spot breaks and local inserts. The four are owned by Cumulus (derisively known as cume-less radio).

## WI

Family Radio Network has a new affiliate in Milwaukee. It's W225CP 92.9, which the Appleton WI based network recently bought from Tomsun Media.

## Multiple Markets

Lance Venta at [RadioInsight](#) got the scoop on Westwood One's elimination of 7 of its 20 syndicated 24/7 music formats. The Cumulus-owned company will shut down the following April 20: Variety Hits Pop, Variety Hits Rock, Hits Now, Classic Hits Gold, Classic Rock X, Rock 2.0 and Good Time Oldies. Expect a lot of format changes among the stations losing Westwood One nets, tho many will find similar formats from other providers or even choose to run some locally produced programming. It's a great time for Local Radio Networks (LRN) to jump in and grab some new affiliates.

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Sources: Indianaradio.net, Northpine, RadioInsight, Hisair.net, LPFM Database, IRCA's DX Monitor, InsideRadio, and radio biz connections

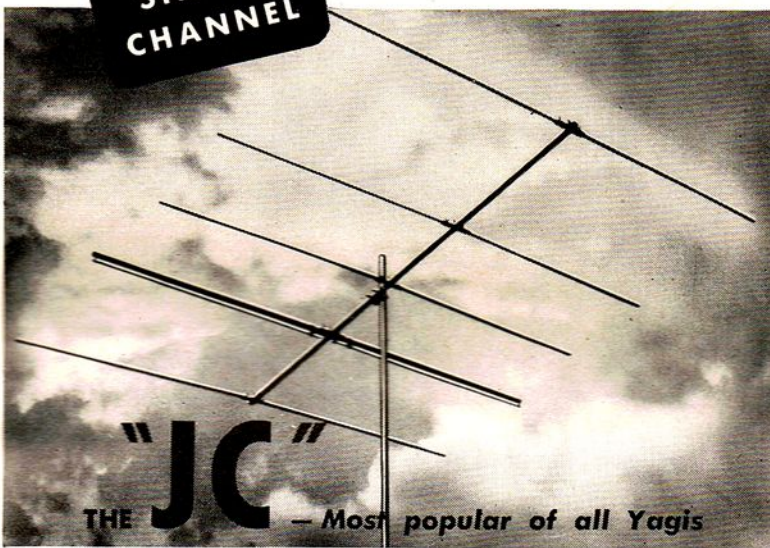


Yes, FM DXing back in the '80s/90s was fun, but different. There were no SDRs. You needed a tuner that was really "hot", like the Carver TX-11 (40db +/- adjacent selectivity) or a Sony ST 5130 (which came stock with around 100db alternate channel selectivity but you ripped it apart and put 110khz filters in place of the stock filters for around 50db adjacent selectivity instead.) Then you absolutely needed RDS so you picked up a Conrad RDS Manager (sitting on top of the Sony) to get that, and then you needed to phase down your locals so you got yourself a second FM antenna and a Bolin Phase Box (to the left of the Carver) to DX those. Lots of work and money, but it was a fun time to DX. HD radio wasn't even a glimmer in anyone's eye yet. We didn't have too much HD, we just had too many stations around. By the way, this photo of my DX equipment was taken back in 2005. In a way, I miss those days. Yes the band was congested, but that didn't stop me from hearing Arkansas, Illinois and Wisconsin via tropo, something that can't ever be duplicated here again. Do you have equipment photos? Send them to me, I'll put them here. -Mike Bugaj



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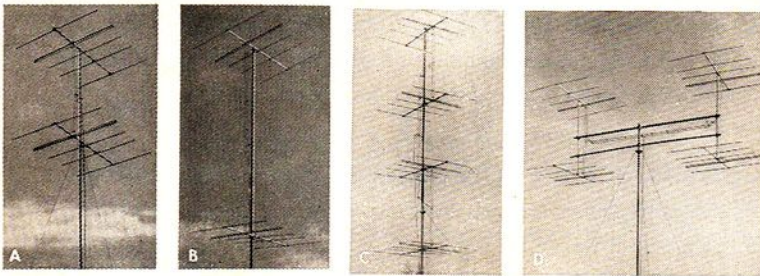
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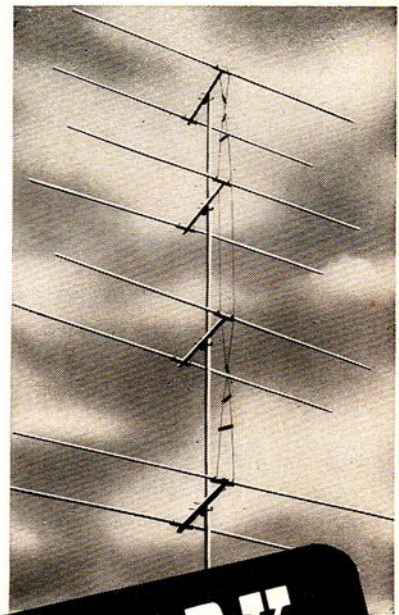
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