

Good-bye Daylight Savings Time. Hello GoldRush and Oak Island

November 2025 #13

One of our former members has returned to the WTFDA. That member is Chuck Rippel (Chesapeake, VA). Welcome back!

FM DATABASE. We have created a group on groups.io *specifically for FM database editors*. The group will be used for communication between database editors. If you are a database editor and have not received an invitation from groups.io to become part of that group, please go to dbeditors+subscribe@groups.io and subscribe. I've seen one instance already where an editor has not received the two invitations that were sent out previously by groups.io. If you are NOT a database editor, please do not try to subscribe.

And also on the subject of the FM Database, the last time any of the facility changes were made to the database was on the last day before the shutdown. Other changes are still being made; RDS changes and station information. Personally, as one who handles almost all of the facility changes, I consider myself to be on vacation and I am enjoying it.

WEBSITE CHANGES. We've made some changes to the [WTFDA website](#). Some of these changes were made to make the website easier to view on phones and tablets. Some of the structure itself wasn't quite right from day one and that structure has been corrected. You'll notice that the layout is a little different if you are looking at it on a desktop computer but the site should look much cleaner on your phone. One fun fact about the website is that a bit over 80% of all our views are done with desktop computers and a little less than 10% are done with phones and even less than that are done with tablets.

CANADA NEWS. Bill Hepburn reported on the Wlogger: Canada has added -MX as a new suffix for TV subchannels. For example, the full call-sign for Channel 12 Peterborough, ON is now : CHEX-DT|CIII-DT-27-MX|CKWS-DT-1-MX . Not sure why they don't just use CIII-27-MX and CKWS-1-MX. Why use both DT and MX?

That's all for this month. Below this line you will find the entire FCC Grants and Actions column for the month of October. That's all there is. -Mike

FCC GRANTS AND ACTIONS

From [fcc.today](#) and the FCC
November 2025

WPBB	98.7	Holmes Beach	FL	call change to WKVZ
WPBR-LP	95.3	Mt. Washington	KY	license cancelled
WKVZ	102.1	Dester	ME	call change to WZVV
WGUS-FM	102.7	New Ellington	SC	license cancelled
KXLE-FM1	95.3	Cle Elum	WA	license cancelled

TV DX and Photos

Eric Bueneman N0UIH 631 Coachway Ln, Hazelwood, MO 63042-1347
Email: n0uiheric@gmail.com - Deadline the 10th of the month



We have a new reporter! TV DX and Photos welcomes **David Austin** of Columbia, SC. His equipment includes a ZapperBox M1 with a Televes DATBOSS VHF/UHF antenna. His location is 450 feet (136 meters) above sea level.

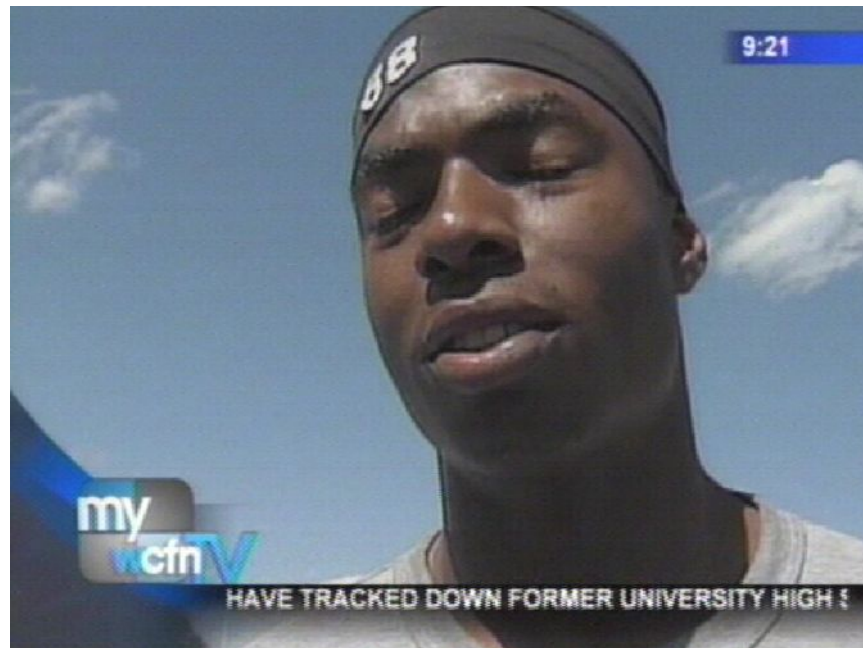


WESH 11 (2) (ATSC 3.0) Daytona Beach, FL
380 miles (612 km) tropo
Sent on October 1, 2025

This month, I will be profiling the best video captures from my third year of DTV DXing, 2007. This was just two years before the completion of the digital transition.



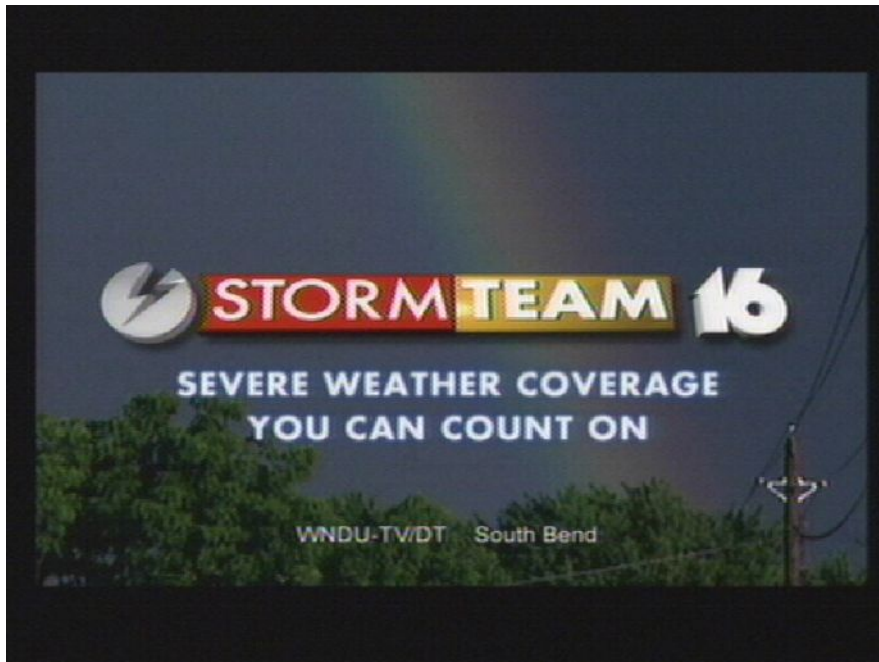
WAND 18.2 (17.2) Decatur, IL
110 miles (177 km) tropo
Seen August 24, 2007
(WAND is now on RF 20)



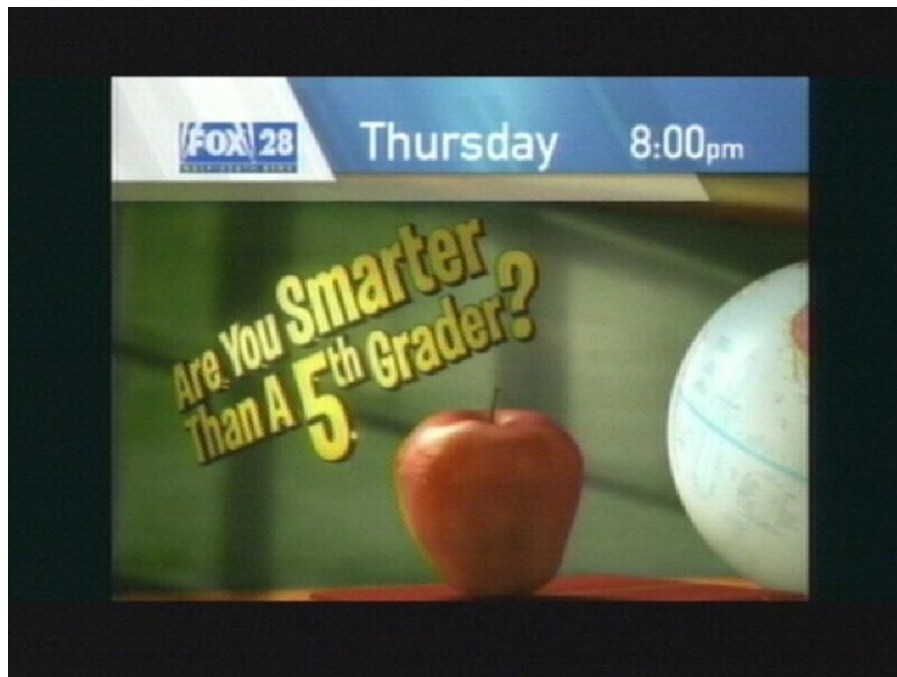
WCIA 48.2 (3.2) Champaign, IL
150 miles (240 km) tropo
Seen July 17, 2007
(Relay of WCFN 13/49, now WCIX on 11/49)
(WCIA now on RF 34)



WGN 19 (9) Chicago, IL
255 miles (410 km) tropo
Seen December 17, 2007
(Now sharing RF 19 with WBBM 's ATSC 1.0 stream)

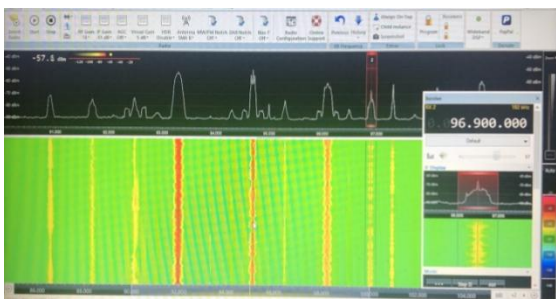


WNDU 42 (16) South Bend, IN
 300 miles (483 km) tropo
 Seen September 2, 2007
(Now on RF 27)



WSJV 58 (28) Elkhart, IN
 305 miles (491 km) tropo
 Seen September 2, 2007
(Now on RF 30)

Thanks for the ATSC 3.0 pic, David! Look forward to more! I've got one ATSC 3.0 in the log: WRSP 16 (55). In the next edition, I'll take a look back at 2008, the final pre-transition year. November is a good month for off-season tropo...I look forward to your logs and photos! 73 and good DX from the Florissant Valley Dial Twister.



Format Flips

and branding, too

John Zondlo – fmdxweb@cox.net

November 2025

AL

W222BK 92.3 Birmingham has a new format. Fed by WENN 1320 Birmingham, the station is now Classic Hits as “Star 92.” The station’s previous format, Beautiful Music, is now online at beautifulmusic.us. I wish more stations looking for something new in their market would give Beautiful Music a try.

CA

KNAC 96.9 Lenwood CA and it’s satellite stations, KHDR 94.9 Baker and KHYZ-HD3 Mountain Pass CA, have dropped their branding as “Highway Rock” in favor of just going by KNAC.

After catting around for a few days as “Meow 105.7,” Miracle Media One has scratched up a Variety Hits format for Butte Broadcasting’s K289CH 105.7 Chico CA. The station is fed by KYIX-HD3 104.9 South Oroville CA and goes by “The Valley’s 105.7.” Wonder if their stunting including songs like *Cat Scratch Fever*, *Year of the Cat*, or even music from *Cat Ballou*.

DE

WSNJ 1240 Bridgeton NJ has sneaked into the Wilmington DE market by moving it’s 99.9 translator to W236EA Wilmington. They’ve gone from being Adult Contemporary as “Pop-FM 99.9” to Rock as “95.1 WSNJ.” Positioning for them is “Wilmington’s Rock Station.”

FL

In Panama City FL, JVC Broadcasting has flipped CHR “Island106” WILN 105.9 to Variety Hits as WWVW “The Wave.”

No more Rhythmic Throwbacks on WQTL 106.1 Tallahassee. They’ve gone from being “Vibe 106.1” to Classic Rock as “Q106.” Bet folks in Florida’s capitol were glad to hear something other than the all-Taylor Swift music they were stunting with before the change,

GA

Classic Hits W290BR 105.9 and WHJD 920, both Hazlehurst GA, have rebranded from “105.9 The Sting” to “Bright 105.9.” Their ho-hum positioning statement is “Music That Makes You Feel Good.”

MD

WDCJ 104.1 Waldorf MD is now Spanish CHR as “Latino 104.1.”

MI

Beasley Media isn’t playing around in Detroit. Spanish Tropical “Playa 93.5/99.1” W228CJ 93.5 Detroit and W256EA 99.1 Birmingham MI are now Regional Mexican, fed by WMGC-HD2 105.1 Detroit. New branding for the trio is “La Tricolor.”

MO

Gateway Creative Broadcasting’s takeover of 88.1 in St. Louis should be on the air in early January. Gateway, looking for the call KLJT, purchased the former KDHX from Double Helix at auction for \$8.75 million, beating out EMF’s \$8.5 million bid. It plans to go with a worship format as “Worship

One.” Gateway also owns KLJY 99.1 St. Louis and KXBS 95.5 Bethalto IL. Worship stations haven’t done well ratings-wise compared to Christian AC stations. I find it a high burnout format.

Changes are happening in the Springfield MO market. Rocker “Q102” KQRA Brookline MO has moved to 92.9 replacing KOSP Ozark CHR “92.9 The Beat.” That leaves 102.1 open for a new Sports Betting format labeled “102.1 The Won.” The calls should soon be swapped by the stations. Much of the programming for “102.1 The Won” comes from the VSiN sports betting network, tho they’ll also carry Blues hockey and Cardinals baseball from St. Louis.

NY

W227DW 93.3 and W241DM 96.1, both Saratoga Springs NY, have been all over the programming map in recent years. Fed by WSSV 1160 Mechanicville NY, they’ve been Adult Contemporary, Classic Hits and Variety Hits. Now, the stations have settled on the Classic Hits format under their old moniker, “Star Radio.”

OH

Ideastream Public Media is joining with Cleveland State University to run WCSB 89.3 Cleveland. The station has flipped from a student operated College Alternative format to Jazz as “Jazz NEO,” simulcasting WCLV-HD2 90.3 Cleveland. Fortunately for the students, they’ll still have opportunities to get their feet wet in media with cooperative programs between Ideastream and CSU. I’m sure it saves money for the University, but I’m sad for the Viking students who can’t get more hands-on work with their own station.

Rapidly growing Connoisseur Media has launched two new brands in Dayton OH. WCLI-FM 101.5 Enon is now Alternative as “101.5 The Fridge.” And WGTZ 92.9 Eaton has returned to its classic “Z93” identity and a Classic Hits format. WGTZ once had one of the coolest IDs. I have it somewhere in my collection from when I heard them years ago. The ID is “WGTZ Eaton, Dayton and Springfield alive!”

TN

Main Street Media’s WAKI 1230 and translator W221ED 92.1, both in McMinnville TN, have dropped Sports as “The Ticket” for Christian AC as “92.1 The One.” Most of their programming will be satellite delivered by Christian FM Media. The stations, like many others, will go all Christmas from Thanksgiving til Christmas day. I won’t be listing all the stations that go all-Christmas, because there will be a bunch. Check out Radiolnsight for an exhaustive list.

TX

Gateway Creative Broadcasting now airs its Christian Hip Hop “Boost Radio” brand in Austin TX. It’s airing on K221GC 92.1 Austin (owned by EMF) and fed by KVLR-HD2 92.5 Sunset Valley TX.

Spanish Sports “TUDN Radio” KQBU 93.3 Port Arthur TX is no more. It’s now Norteño as “Estereo Latino” KESS.

UT

Capital Broadcasting has dropped Classic Alternative on “103.1 The Wave” KLO 103.1 Coalville UT. It’s temporarily “Christmas 103” til they bring in a new format after Christmas.

WA

Bustos Media has taken over KXXO 96.1 Olympia WA, pending its purchase of the station for \$1.5 million from 3 Cities Inc. They’ve switched the format from AC “Mixx 96.1” to Spanish AC as “X96.1.”

WI

While awaiting FCC approval and closing on their purchase of WLDB 93.3 and WLUM 102.1 Milwaukee, EMF has taken over 102.1 for their “Air 1” Worship network. Their “K-Love” brand is

currently on WLVE 105.3 Mukwanago WI, but will likely move to 93.3. What to do with Mukwanago? I'd go with "K-Love 80's."

WDKF 99.7 Sturgeon Bay WI is now simulcasting WNFL1440 and W270AJ 101.9, both Green Bay, with a Sports format. WDKY had been simulcasting Classic Country WGEE 93.5 New London WI.

In Milwaukee, iHeart has changed Sports "97.3 The Game" WRNW to Adult Contemporary as "B97.3."

Multiple Markets

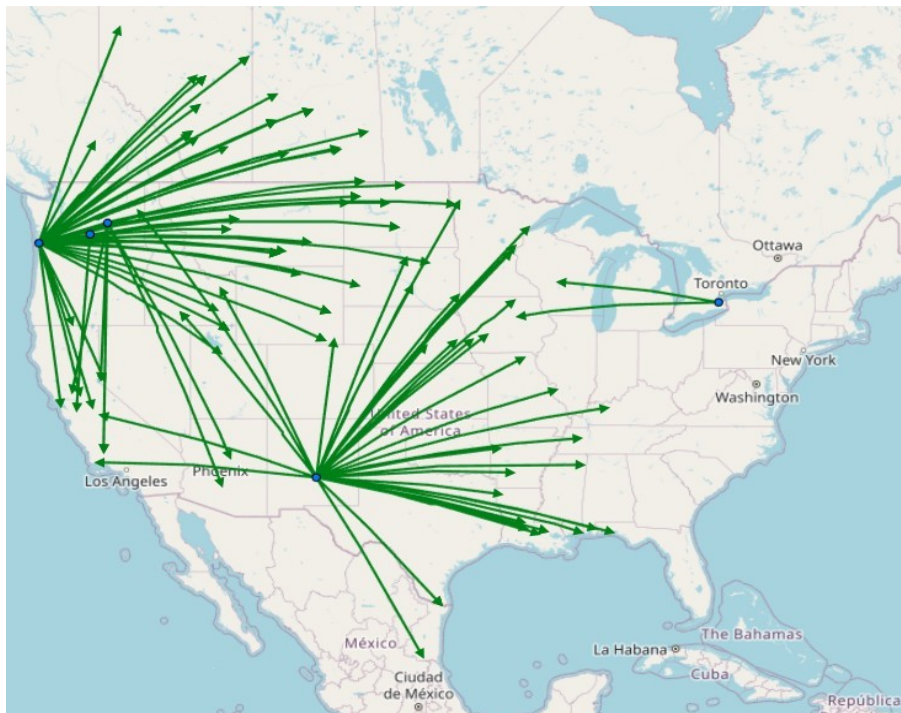
Hey, how about a few more "K-Love" stations out there? Oh yeah, I'm excited, too. The network is now heard on WKVV 97.3 Gardendale AL. They have been on in the Birmingham market on W241AI 96.1 Gorgas AL. Tampa Bay finally gets its first "K-Love" with EMF's purchase of WPBB 98.7 Holmes Beach. And they have a 3rd signal in Las Vegas by buying Franken FM KGHD-LD Las Vegas.

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

Meteor Shower News

From Jim Thomas. Meteor shower news... a sharp upturn in the Southern Taurids, which peaks Nov 4-5. Look for Halloween fireballs tonight, which will bring some really good Ms bursts. The Southern Taurids are typically a smaller shower, but astronomers are predicting the 2025 shower to be spectacular, as a major debris field will track through the Earth's path going into next week, which rarely happens with the Southern Taurids. The Southern Taurids meteors have a low velocity, which makes for trains and fireballs.



Meteor hits during the month of October. If you live in a location with a low noise floor and a band with some clear channels, all this and more could be yours.

From the WLogger for the month of October 2025 logs by Bill Hepburn(ON), Hal Hoffman (NM), Pat Martin (OR), Kyle-dxsphere (WA), Taylor Crain (ID). Your name could be here if you post your MS catches on the WLogger.



100% Linux

What is the difference between RG59, RG6, RG6U and RG58 coax. Which, if any, is better for FM frequencies (less loss, durability, etc)?

Coaxial Cable Differences: RG59, RG6, RG6U, and RG58

The main differences between these coaxial cables are their **impedance**, **center conductor size (gauge)**, and **intended frequency range**, which directly impact their signal loss (attenuation) and best application.

The suffix **/U** (as in RG6/U) generally stands for "**Universal**" or "**Utility**" and often indicates that the cable meets the original general-purpose military specification, though in modern commercial use, it's often used interchangeably with the base number (like RG6).

Cable Type	Impedance (Ohms)	Center Conductor Gauge (AWG)	Typical Applications	Signal Loss
RG6 (and RG6/U)	75	18 (Thicker)	High-frequency applications: Cable TV, Satellite TV, Broadband Internet (Signals above 50 MHz).	Lower loss, especially at high frequencies and long distances.
RG59	75	22 (Thinner)	Low-frequency applications: CCTV, older/short-run video, short TV antenna connections (Signals below 50 MHz).	Higher loss, less suitable for long runs or high frequencies.
RG58	50	20-22 (Thinner)	Radio communications: Amateur radio, two-way radio, thin Ethernet (10BASE2).	Highest loss of the group for video/high-frequency, but designed for 50-ohm systems.

- **RG6 vs. RG59 (75 Ohm):** RG6 has a **larger center conductor** (18 AWG vs. 22 AWG), thicker insulation, and usually superior shielding (often dual- or quad-shield). This construction gives RG6 **significantly lower signal loss** and better performance for the higher frequencies used in modern video and data transmission. RG59 is more flexible due to its smaller size.

- **RG58 (50 Ohm):** The primary differentiator is its **50-ohm impedance**, which is the standard for radio transmitting applications (like amateur radio), where the goal is to maximize power transfer. RG59 and RG6 are 75-ohm, optimized for receiving/video signals to minimize attenuation.
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Best Choice for FM Frequencies

The **FM broadcast band** falls between **88 MHz and 108 MHz**. Since this is well above the low-frequency limit of RG59 and falls into the range where cable performance becomes more critical, the **RG6** cable is generally the better choice.

- **Less Loss (Attenuation):** **RG6** offers significantly **less signal loss (attenuation)** than RG59 and RG58 at FM frequencies and above. Its larger center conductor and improved dielectric and shielding help maintain signal strength over longer runs.
- **Note:** While the standard impedance for an FM antenna is sometimes closer to 300 ohms (twin-lead), most FM receivers use a **75-ohm** input, making the RG6's 75-ohm impedance the best match for the receiver.
- **Durability:** Modern **RG6** is generally built with better shielding and often has outdoor-rated jackets available, contributing to better **durability** and protection against environmental factors and electromagnetic interference (EMI/RFI). Look for cable with a robust jacket, especially for outdoor runs.

✓ **Recommendation for FM:**

For best performance (less loss) and good durability, especially for longer cable runs to an outdoor antenna, **RG6 (75 Ohm)** is the recommended cable.

How much loss would you expect to see in a 100 foot run of each type of coax?

The expected signal **loss (attenuation)** for a 100-foot run of coaxial cable is highly dependent on the **type of cable** and the **frequency** of the signal being transmitted. Attenuation is typically measured in **decibels (dB)** per 100 feet.

Since the loss increases significantly with frequency, a common radio frequency (RF) of **100 MHz** (around the FM broadcast band) is often used for comparison.

Here are the approximate expected losses for a 100-foot run of common coaxial cable types at 100 MHz:

Coaxial Cable Attenuation at 100 MHz (per 100 feet)

Coax Type	Typical Impedance	Approximate Loss at 100 MHz (dB)	Common Applications
RG-58	50 Ohm	4.6 - 4.9 dB	Older Ethernet, low-power RF, amateur radio (shorter runs).
RG-59	75 Ohm	3.4 - 3.5 dB	Older Cable TV (CATV), CCTV video (low-frequency video).
RG-6	75 Ohm	2.0 - 2.7 dB	Modern Cable TV (CATV), satellite, high-frequency digital video.

●**Decibels (dB):** Attenuation in dB is a logarithmic measure. A **3 dB loss** means the signal power is cut in half. A lower dB loss is always better.

NOW YOU CAN TRACK YOUR WEATHER RADIO RECEPTIONS

Now, for the first time, you can track your progress with NWR reception on the WTFDA website. Send your all-time distance records, station totals, nr of states logged via weather radio and your personal bests to Bill Nollman at billct97@comcast.net. View the results by clicking on "Statistics" on the WTFDA.org top menu.

WTFDA NWR ALL-TIME DISTANCE RECORDS - AS OF 7/07/2025 >>> <https://stats.wtfda.org/NWRECDIS.htm>

NWR SCOREBOARD-WTFDA -UPDATED 07/07/2025 >>> <https://stats.wtfda.org/NWSBWEB1.htm>

NWR STATES STATS-WTFDA - UPDATED 07/07/2025 >>> <https://stats.wtfda.org/NWSSWEB3.htm>

WTFDA NWR PERSONAL BEST RECORDS - UPDATED 7/07/2025 >>> <https://stats.wtfda.org/NWPBWEB4.htm>

TEF 6686/7 vs. TEF 6686/7A

Bill Hohnstein

NXP makes it difficult to find its data/specification sheets. I have had those for the TEF6686/7 for some time but have finally found them for the TEF6686/7A. That allowed me to find the difference between the two:

8.5.3.3 RDS full search

TEF668XA includes the special FULL SEARCH feature for improved RDS sensitivity reception. FULL SEARCH is an optimized RDS channel demodulation and decoder system. It uses soft decision and soft error detection techniques to achieve an improvement of RDS sensitivity at equal or better quality of output data compared to conventional RDS decoder systems.

S _{RDS}	RDS sensitivity	$\Delta f_{RDS} = 2 \text{ kHz; stereo;}$ $\Delta f_{FM} = 22.5 \text{ kHz; L = R; } f_{AF} = 1 \text{ kHz}$	Typ		Max
	50 % correct blocks without error correction	TEF668x	15	19	dB μ V
		TEF668xA	14	18	
	95 % correct blocks without error correction	TEF668x	18	22	dB μ V
		TEF668xA	17	21	

So, the A version provides 1 dB better RDS Sensitivity over the regular version. Not a lot, but every dB helps. The advantage in the TEF6687 over the 6686 appears to be just in stereo improvement:

The FMSI feature is available for the TEF6687A and TEF6689A and offers significant improved FM stereo performance. Conventional receivers blend from stereo to mono at medium signal levels of 40 dB μ V to avoid the FM stereo noise being audible. With FMSI, the stereo to mono blend is extended down to very weak signal levels of 10 dB μ V without excessive stereo noise.

While the above is mentioned in the product sheets, its specifications do not show any improved sensitivity on the TEF6687 compared to the TEF6686 nor between the TEF6687A and TEF8886A.

The only specification difference is in the stereo channel separation:

α_{CS}	channel separation	$\Delta f = 67.5 \text{ kHz; } f_{AF} = 1 \text{ kHz;}$ $\Delta f_{\text{pilot}} = 7.5 \text{ kHz}$	Min		Typ
	$V_{(RF)} = 20 \text{ dB}\mu\text{V}$	TEF6687(A)	30	-	dB
	$V_{(RF)} = 60 \text{ dB}\mu\text{V to } 120 \text{ dB}\mu\text{V}$	TEF668X	45	-	

So, the stereo separation is definitely improved while the stereo SNR appears to be improved for weak signals. However, there is no improvement in mono sensitivity. That is what both blend to with the weakest signals. A correction on how the TEF668X's are labeled:

- F8602 is a TEF6686
- F8605 is a TEF6686A
- F8702 is a TEF6687
- F8705 is a TEF6687A

The above makes me want either TEF6686A or TEF6687A radios. Looking hard I have yet to find a radio for sale saying that it has TEF6686A IC's instead of the regular ones. I have received some of each from those advertised as TEF6686's. The good thing about radios advertised as TEF6687's is that all that I have seen have TEF6687A's! However, Stephanie Battaglino's "TEF6687 radio" came with a TEF6686A inside. That should only limit its stereo performance.

Yagi vs Folded Dipoles Reception Comparison

Bill Hohnstein

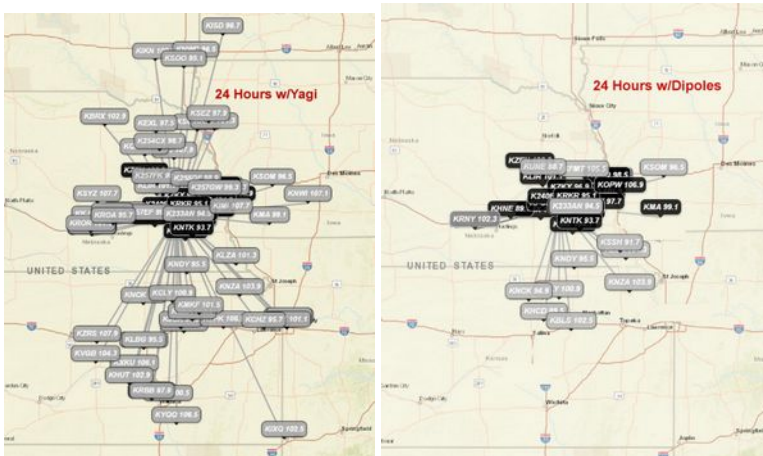
It is not unusual for me to be asked, "How did you receive that station? I live close to you, yet I couldn't receive it." Or "Propagation is reciprocal. You reported receiving a station near me, yet I could not hear anything near you." I would change that to: Propagation is reciprocal when the same equipment is being used. I decided to document the changes when a higher antenna with higher gain and a reduced beamwidth is being used. A reduced beamwidth removes both interference and noise.

I have three Rabbit Ear auto-loggers. One is connected to an antenna made for reception of TV channel 6 up to 93.5 MHz. It is 96 feet high and has a beamwidth of 40.6°. The auto-logger is set to tune just from 87.5 – 93.5 MHz. It is at [FM stations received at Garland, NE TEF6686 2 Long 10-el up 96'](#).

A second auto-logger is connected to an antenna made for reception from 93.7 – 107.9 MHz and so only tunes that range. It is 81 feet high and has a beamwidth of 36.2°. It is at [FM stations received at Garland, NE TEF6686 1 Long 14-el up 81'](#).

My third auto-logger was originally planned to be connected to a vertically polarized antenna: [FM stations received at Garland, NE TEF6686 Vertical Yagi at 66'](#). I found that antenna to be not of much value and have instead connected to several different antennas for some time now. It covers all the FM frequencies.

I thought that I would provide a reception comparison between two antennas. While I normally only use my folded dipole pair up about 45' just receive locals to be phased out when combined with the first two mentioned directional antennas, that seemed like the best reference antenna since many use it. So, I connected **only** that folded dipole pair to the third auto-logger for the test. To make things simple, I only compared that antenna to my higher frequency Yagi. The only meaning graphs to use were those showing receptions during the prior 24 hours. I rotated the directional antenna many times during the test. The reception difference is shown below:



While the folded dipoles graph shows receptions on all FM frequencies, it received 33 stations from 93.7 – 107.9 MHz out to 189 miles. The high frequency Yagi received 82 stations out to 295 miles over that range. The difference in receptions shows the benefit of using a higher antenna having a much lower beamwidth. There wasn't any significant tropo propagation during the test period.

While many others have multiple auto-loggers connected to different antennas, I thought that I would provide a comparison of my larger FM Yagi to a non-directional antenna that others are using. Almost everyone else has more antenna limitations than I do and cannot go to my extremes. I am just indicating the direction to go.

