

# From The STAFF

APRIL IS HERE!...it's always worth noting that the month of April is an important one to FM and TV DX enthusiasts. Veteran DXers of the bands above 30 MHz have long been aware that their DX "year" really begins with April--a good time to check your DX system and repair or replace damaged antennas and feedlines. Improved tropo DX conditions should be showing up for most of us by now, and the E-skip season will follow. Don't miss any opportunities for early season DX!

**SUPER VHF AURORA...** Congratulations to all who saw and heard the record breaking auroral DX during the first part of March. It just may have been one of the best such events in many years. Page 3 of this issue features a special report; upcoming DX columns will no doubt list some very interesting loggings. As of mid-March, word had it that some DXers in the South got in on the auroral DX mode for the first time ever on FM, and that several very interesting E-skip openings (some featuring very high MUFs) were spawned from the phenomenal aurora activity in the March 13th to 15th period!

**1989 WTFDA CONVENTION DETAILS...** Check pages 14 and 15 of this issue for detailed word on the upcoming convention. Bill Kretschmer stresses that he will need to hear from attendees earlier than usual this year. If you plan to be there, you must register by June 1st. The 1989 WTFDA Convention takes place during the weekend of August 4th through 6th weekend in the Syracuse, NY area. Registration fee has to be paid to Bill in advance, and you are responsible for making your own lodging accommodations. More about this, including a registration form insert, will appear in the May VUD.

**COLUMN NEWS...** A some regular VUD columns were not on hand as of press time, no doubt due to the notorious yearly "slump" in DX on the VHF and UHF TV channels that April's VUD usually reflects. An installment of INTERNATIONAL NOTES planned for this month was also scrubbed due to a lack of newsworthy items, according to Ron...

**GREAT CLUB PUBLICITY...** A round of applause goes to member Karl Zuk for a very generous mention of WTFDA in his "Broadcast DXing" feature column in POPULAR COMMUNICATIONS' March issue. Whenever a DX club receives such exposure, a small flood of incoming mail requesting information on the hobby follows. This time, it was more like a mini tidal wave. Several ex-WTFDAers who were away from the hobby for years and unaware with the current club address are now back in WTFDA as a result! Again...many thanks to Karl, and to all the folks who publish magazines such as POP'COMM and MONITORING TIMES.

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Thanks to Bill Kretschmer for this month's cover.

# SPECIAL REPORT

GIANT MARCH SOLAR FLARE TRIGGERS SUPER AURORAL DX, E-SKIP, AND 'NORTHERN LIGHTS'

by IAN ZIMMERMAN

It was with much interest that this observer noted the "blurb" in the March edition of FROM THE STAFF (p.2, VUD, March 1989). We were warned to beware of the possibility of auroral activity and its generation of E skip.

One might say they were "bang-on" in more ways than one! Solar activity during March's first week was incredible. As I submit this, we in the Northern Hemisphere are still recovering from fantastic auroral-related DX conditions.

To right is a photograph from astronomer Dan Marcus that shows the root cause of these conditions. This is a very large sunspot..... as it was seen emerging from the far side of the sun on March 8th, excited observers soon were able to estimate it about 800,000 miles across, and associated with the massive solar flare that caused the super auroral DX that followed just a few days later.

As often happens near sunspot peaks, the auroral events of the week of March 12 made press wire service and television headlines all over North America. Solar flares often cast large quantities of charged particles into the "solar wind" (think of it as the Sun's exhaust). This stream of "wind" carries them within several days' time to the Earth's geomagnetic field.

The resulting effects on radio communication are well known to the DX'er, but rarely actually able to be seen by the average person. This time, weather conditions were good, skies were fairly clear, and the quantities of charged particles reaching the Earth was much heavier than usual.....in fact, perhaps one of the heaviest in decades. Aurora Borealis (the fabled Northern Lights) were plainly visible in the northern night sky across much of the continent.....in places as far south as San Antonio! In the Indianapolis area, some terrified folks even phoned enquiries to the local police. In northern Canada, an electrical fault in high-tension switching circuits caused a blackout and was attributed to the Auroral display! In many areas, the ghostly Northern Lights showed colors and durations rarely seen.....in fact to some areas of the Northeast they appeared directly OVERHEAD for the first time in many observers' memories. From approximately 43 degrees North latitude, the photo below shows what could be seen in the night sky (with of course a bit of help from the time exposure lens!):



As this display took place, the A.M. and S.W. bands exhibited extreme disruptions....with at times no signals present other than locals. Simultaneously, very bizarre sounding signals could be heard at 27 MHz and above....TV channels 2 through 13 were unviewable "hash" as FM signals came through somewhat more recognizable. And the next evening, with Aurora still visible on TV, several E skip openings were noted (some over unusual paths). This was no doubt a direct result of all the auroral activity.

I look forward to reading about what other DX-ers logged during these fascinating evenings....

# PHOTO NEWS

APRIL 1989

## Mailing Address:

PHOTO-NEWS - P. O. Box 155 - Clarence, NY  
14031-0155 U.S.A.

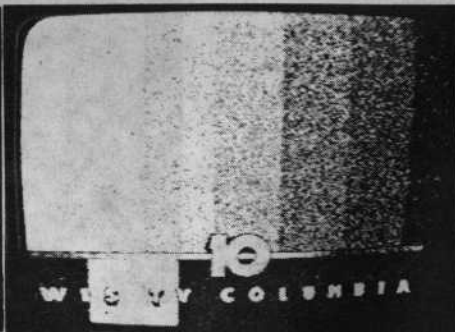
Photos submitted to PHOTO-NEWS become the property of this column and will not be returned.

EDITED BY  
David J. Nieman

John F. Combs - Jacksonville, FL is our first reporter. If you didn't see the March foto column; John took these DX shots on a trip to St. Joseph Peninsula State Park in Florida. Equipment: 4-bay UHF antenna at 18', a small VHF/UHF "motor home" type antenna at 15' and a Sears 9" b&w TV.



**KTXH-20**  
Houston, Texas  
605 mile tropo  
seen Nov. 10, 1988



**WIS-10**  
Columbia, SC  
406 mile tropo  
seen Nov. 12, 1988



**WTAT-24**  
Charleston, SC  
401 mile tropo  
seen Nov. 12, 1988



**WCPT-33**  
Tuscaloosa, AL  
267 mile tropo  
seen Nov. 13, 1988

# PHOTO NEWS

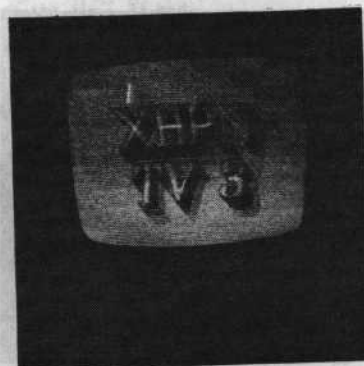
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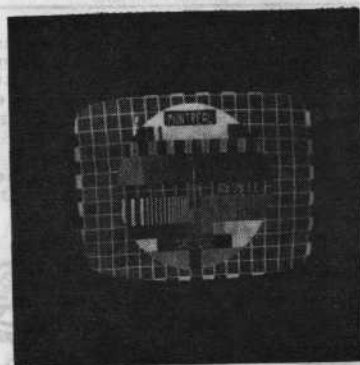
Next up is Bill Eckberg - Dixon, Illinois. Equipment: 1966 Zenith b&w receiver model ch 14N22, modified Zenith 175-1953 detented tuner. Channel Master 1110 VHF antenna, Channel Master 7' UHF parabolic antenna with winegard PA4975 preamp on a 40 foot tower.



**KREG-3**  
Glenwood Springs, CO  
933 mile E-skip  
seen June 21, 1988  
at 1300 CDTime  
Satellite of KREX-5 Grand Junction, CO  
"new on air"



**XHPN-3**  
Piedras Negras,  
Coahuila  
1100 mile E-skip  
seen June 21, 1988  
at 1800 CDTime  
"rare"



**CBFT-2**  
Montreal, Quebec  
812 mile E-skip  
seen June 22, 1988  
at 0839 CDTime



**unidentified-?**  
Cubana  
1000+ mile E-skip  
reception date & time  
unknown



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 EDITED BY  
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Bill Eckberg's Dixon, Illinois foto file continues.....



**CKND2-2**  
 Minnedosa, Manitoba  
 752 mile E-skip  
 seen June 27, 1988  
 at 0620 CDTIME  
 repeats CKND-9 Winnipeg, MB



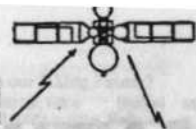
**CJBRT-2**  
 Rimouski, Quebec  
 1085 mile E-skip  
 seen June 27, 1988  
 at 0814 CDTIME



**CIII22-22**  
 Uxbridge, Ontario  
 534 mile tropo  
 seen July 30, 1988  
 at 0500 CDTIME  
 repeats CIII-6 Paris, Ontario  
 "thought was off channel 22"  
 (they are now, as of 1/1/89 djn)

April is not too soon to make your travel plans for the 1989 W T F D A convention at NORTH SYRCAUSE, NEW YORK AUGUST 4th - 6th Hosted by Bill Kretschmer a great time will be had by ALL!!!

DAVE



GEORGE W. JENSEN  
 4604 Armitage Avenue  
 Baltimore, MD 21206-4220

Greetings to all! There are several items of interest this month. The battle between SuperStar Connection and SelecTV continues. As of March 10, 1989 - SelecTV is no longer on the air. It had moved from Spacenet I to Spacenet II unannounced several weeks ago. Now I can't find it.

Also vanished suddenly is the Zap Pay-Per-View moviechannels that were also on Spacenet II - XPDRs 1, 3 and 23 with a barker on 11. Nothing remains of this service.

ESPN is being relayed on PanAmSat K-band - perhaps xpdr 1? Someone also noted on C-Band - XPDR 5. CNN has been on XPDR 1 on C-Band, but has also tested on K-Band.

AFRTS will encrypt its signals this summer. I might mention that the CNN and ESPN feeds on PanAmSat are in the clear for the moment. How is reception of this satellite in the Southern states. C-Band here is next to nothing with the K feed quite good.

SCOLA International Newscasts is now on Telstar 303 XPDR 24.

Orbit Magazine mentions the debut this summer of a new Pay-Per-View service called VideoPal. Much of this will be on Telstar 303 but utilizing a new format VCII descrambler that is not quite compatible.

Tempo TV has ceased operation and CNBC - the NBC Business Cable Channel - has been testing.

Much of TNT is now fully encoded with subscription needed to view the service. Along the same lines - CNN and CNN Headline Service are no longer part of Showtime/The Movie Channel's Extra-View Package.

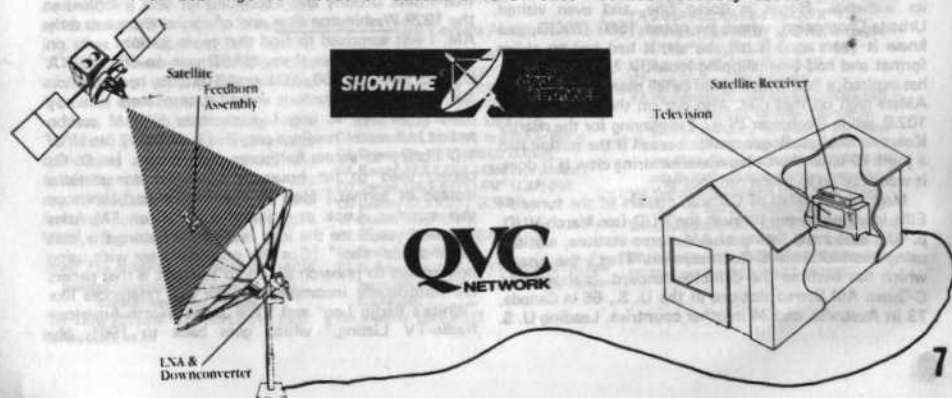
PASS (ProAm SportS Channel) is scrambling with all of the other Sports Channels using the VCII system.

Portugese Soccer can be seen at times on Intelsat VA F13 at 53West.

Moscow Channel 2 is carried on Gorizont 12 at 11 West in SECAM using the Northern Hemispheric Beam at 3875 down.

Lastly - The American Discovery Channel is now being carried into Europe on Intelsat VA F11 (27.5W) on K-Band.

That's all from now - see you in 30. Oops - late items - All services on the Canadian K-Bird C-3 will be transferred to C-1 shortly. C-1 is at 107 West. Also the Z channel from Los Angeles (VCII) on Satcom 3 is silent. It was recently sold.



# FM NEWS

Readers' Reports—A VUD Exclusive!

Eric Fader sent an article about a radio format dubbed by *Billboard* magazine as "adult alternative," which Eric defines as "the industry name for new age and related formats. All of the stations [in the list] should be coded with j and/or m, possibly with b or r as a secondary letter, depending on the station's approach to the format." Stations with that format which are among market leaders, according to ratings, are KQPT 100.5 Sacramento, KINK 101.9 Portland OR, and even KTCZ 97.1 Minneapolis shows up with a 4 rating. Disappointing ratings—2 or less—are shown for WQCD 101.9 New York and WTVW 106.7 Des Plaines, while WNUA 95.5 Chicago has a 2.5 and industry leader KTWV 94.7 Los Angeles is only in the 3 range.

Two articles sent by Bill Niennajadly concern WNYC-FM's sister on 830, moving to 820 AM (New York) and 24 hours/per/day operation, while WEBE 107.9 Westport CT (one of the first of a whole series of FM stations nationwide) banning the playing of any music by Cat Stevens, "until the former singer retracts his statement that he supports the death of Salman Rushdie, author of the controversial book, *The Satanic Verses*. Stevens left the recording world in 1977, before converting to Islam and changing his name to Yussuf Islam. WEBE suffered signal problems for almost a month, but is reportedly back to full power.

Ken Onyschuk hopes his card can make this issue, which of course it did. The wild world of Chicago radio call changes, which began with WBMX going to WVAS (102.7 Oak Park), continued with WSEX 92.7 Arlington Heights going to WCBR-FM (Chicago's Bear). "Then last month 93.9 WLAK dropped its beautiful music image and changed to WLIT, for lite rock. Now, WCLR 101.9 Skokie-Chicago dropped its pop adult format (call letters were for Chicago's Lite Rock), for WTMX, The Mix, an oldies based adcon sound with new program director Michael Phillips. WTMX will compete more directly with WJMK, the all-oldies powerhouse on 104.3, less directly with WKQX the resurgent hybrid of pop and contemp. hit mix, WFYR 103.5 is badly losing its adult oldies battle with Magic 104. . . WCLR (now WTMX) is currently rated 16th with a 2.5 share, down from 13th and a 3.0. Thanks for the swell Xerox job." Roger Winsor (remember him?) called last night and agreed that WFYR is not doing well with its format or its audience. Roger is doing fine, and even visited Urbana-Champaign, where he noted 1580 (WKID, as I knew it years ago) is off the air; it had had an oldies format and had been slipping recently. Now the patient has expired, a fate which could befall many low-coverage AMers high on that dial. Also not on the air Delphi IN 102.9, while Rochester IN 92.1 is playing for the nearby Kokomo market. Roger couldn't recall if the station had a joint ID with the Delco-manufacturing city. If it does, it would be an extreme rim-shooter.

Magnum/Dynalab of Canada, makers of the tuner AI Ellis is trying to sell through the VUD (see March VUD, p. 47), sent me a listing of AM stereo stations, stations using the Motorola C-Quam system. That's the system which has become the defacto standard. It shows 514 C-Quam AM Stereo stations in the U. S., 66 in Canada, 73 in Australia, and 34 in other countries. Leading U. S.

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Contributions earnestly solicited!

stations are WGN, WBBM, WMAQ Chicago, KFI, KFVB, KMPC, KNX, KLAC Los Angeles, and WINS and WFAN New York. Not listed is WQXR, which probably still has the Kahn system.

"The nerve of KOED-FM," seems to sum up John Jefferson's reaction to a Christmas party for the TV-FM stations at the S. F. Hilton, which was supposed to have run up a tab of \$38,151, including a \$4,710 tip. Capitalizing on that, rival KALW \*91.7 sent out a promotional blurb saying all it spent on its own

## KALW

Christmas party was \$30 for a gallon of eggnog, one liter rum, two pounds of cookies, and one large focaccia (?). John says: "It's been some years since I subscribed to KOED, or I'd be demanding a refund. Next time one of their volunteers calls me to rejoin, he'll get an earful for sure. They couldn't afford to give more than two pages of listings per month for their FM, but they can spend the equivalent of 1000 regular subscriptions on a Christmas party. Phew!" John goes on to say KDVS \*90.3 Davis is "again at reduced power, allowing both KAZU Pacific Grove and KUSF San Francisco to leak through their signal. KAZU was operating in mono, so may be having problems. . . Just reviewed John Ebeling's tape of Spanish mysteries from last 6-28. Nice opening!"

From the "Home News" of New Brunswick NJ, a newspaper which carries lots of radio-TV info, was an article on the firing of 21 employees of WIOQ 102.1 Philadelphia. The station was clearing the way for a change in ownership and formats. It's now a probably less labor-intensive sr format, "Q-102."

Joe Fela says his MR-78 will be out of action for a few weeks as it's going back to the factory for a complete checkup/realignment. "I feel it's been losing some selectivity of late. So you probably won't hear from me for a couple of months."

Gus Mancuso: "Re dial histories. There is a very easy way to get info on these! Most libraries have microfilm of old newspapers so if you could get one club member in each metro area to hit the library one day, they need only look up the radio-TV page from years past to find the station list. I intend to do a double check on the one that Frank Drobny and I supplied for you. I looked at the 1929 *Washington Star* and of course there was only AM. I was surprised to find that most stations were on different frequencies then. WABC was on 860, KDKA on 980, WRC on 950, WOL on 1310 (they had a section for 'out of town' stations and all stations were listed by meters, as well as kcs; I guess some SW-AM combo radios had meter readings only?). I'll probably use U. of MD library to access Baltimore papers, also. [In D. C., papers used to list hours of operation for stations instead of format.] May try the Ohio 'super' bandscan this summer. Look at Bellefontaine OH on FM Atlas map and you'll see the idea real fast. It's along the 'east coast divide' also." [Gus the problem I see with using newspapers to research old radio stations, is that papers are notoriously incomplete. I like old references like "White's Radio Log" and Vane Jones' "North American Radio-TV Listing," which goes back to 1961. My

### FCC-FM

earliest White's is from 1949. Also, you can check "Broadcasting Yearbook" for the starting year of most stations. White's and Jones are valuable in showing information on c-ps, stations that may not have made the air, but interesting to read about, nonetheless.]

Somebody sent a story about the U. of TN getting an AM on 850 for an all-news station, operated by students, along with WUTK-FM \*90.3. WUTK AM is commercial, with students getting experience in selling and writing commercials. Students "will be working with agencies, working in news, management and sales."

George Mileon sent an article about the NAB approving, in principle, increasing the power of most Class A FM stations from 3 to 6 kw. "In its filing on an FCC proceeding to upgrade the FM service, NAB said its support for the concept of Class A upgrades is based on the requirement that carefully established technical standards govern which stations are eligible to increase power." A group of NJ Class A stations, however, charges the NAB is too conservative. The NJ group contends that all class A stations should be allowed the 6000 watts. I calculate the increase from 3 to 6 kw at maximum 100 meters would bring a station's primary coverage up from 24 to 28 km. For \$3.00 you can receive the new FCC metric curves with instructions for calculating FM station coverages, as well as the older non-metric curves. Included also is a new sheet defining FM station classes, showing the prospective 6 kw Class A and a new prospective class of station, the "C3," with its distance separations from other stations given. This sheet even lists the new "i-f taboo" distances between FM stations at 96.5 and TV channel 6, 87.75 mhz.

For those wanting to QSL the new WXYB \*89.3, Ralph Strobel sends their address, Echo Broadcasting, Box 40, Zealand MI 49464. "They will send you their broadcast schedule by writing this address. Yes, they are \$[tereo]."

Now, read on and see the more "official" FM news, plus anonymous comments placed throughout the following pages, which made my rag, FMedia! And look for the feature, culled from last month's VUD, "See Also."

### New FM Station, Translator Grants

Selected translators only; more are in my monthly newsletter, FMedia!

AZ Yuma K217AW \*91.3 (KNLB 91.1 Lake Havasu City), on air

### 6 kw Class As in our DXing Future?

AR Cabot 102.5 3000 h.; 100 m [Hodges]  
AR PineBluff 101.3 3000h.; 100m, Madison/  
CA Barstow 95.9 1500 h.v.; 134 m, Hub Jctg.  
CA Visalia 96.1 3000h.v.; 100 m  
DE Milford 101.3 3000 h.v.; 100  
FL Springfield 101.9 3000 h.; 100 m  
IN Corydon (Louisville KY) 107.7 6000 h.v.;  
150 m, Harrison County Bcstg. Co.  
IN Fort Branch WBGW 101.5 1000 h.v.; 171 m,  
Branch Ministries, Inc., to be g  
LA Brusly (Baton Rouge) 96.3 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
LA Erath 92.9 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
LA Washington 104.7 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
MN Crosby 101.7 3000 h.v.; 100 m, to be \$  
MS Vicksburg 101.1 3000h.v.; 90 m  
NJ Margate City 96.1 3000 h.v.; 69 m  
NY Flat Plain 101.1 1400 h.v.; 148 m  
NY Law Paltz \*88.7 10 watts h., 10000 watts  
vertical; 13 m, State U. of NY  
NY Poughkeepsie \*08.7 250 watts vertical only,  
378 m, WMHT Ed. Telecommunications, to  
share time with New Paltz  
NC Scotland Neck 102.7 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
ND Bismarck 98.7 10000h v.; 300 m  
OK Choctaw K202BH \*88.3 (KNYD 90.5  
Broken Arrow, transmitter near SE 29th St. and  
Indian Meridian Road, Oklahoma City)  
OR Agate Beach (Newport) K219BJ \*91.7  
(ostensibly a KPRA 89.5 Ukiah CA translator,  
but the distance therefrom makes it appear to be  
a "snack in" application by Family Stations,  
Inc., to pick up KEAR \*106.9 San Francisco by  
satellite)  
OR Gold Beach K218AH \*91.5 (KSOR 90.1  
Ashland)—did not delete when K220AJ came on  
(see "Facilities," below)  
OR Hood River K213AW \*90.5 (KOPB-FM 91.5)  
PA Elizabethville WLIZ 100.5 1200 h.v.; 157 m,  
Great Scott Bcstg. Although calls were given  
earlier, I failed to list the grant itself  
PA Port Allegany 94.9 530 h.v.; 230 m, L-Com  
SC Georgetown 93.7 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
SC Marion 100.5 3000 h.v.; 100 m, Pittman  
SC St. Stephen 105.9 3000 h.v.; 100 m  
TX Abilene 92.5 16700 h.v.; 282 m  
TX Olney 97.5 5000h.v.; 124 m, Wes-Tex Bcstg.  
TX Pampa K220C? \*91.9 (KPDR 10.5 Wheeler)  
VA Bridgewater 105.1 3000 h.v.; 94 m  
VA Ruckersville (22 km west of Orange) 92.1  
3000 h.v.; 100 m, Ridge Bcstg. Corp.  
VA West Point 107.9 3000 h.v.; 77 m  
WV Fairmont 94.3 3000 h.v.; 100 m, F. Bcstg.  
Co., initial decision, subject to reversal  
WV Postoffice (Charleston) 88.7 1200 h.v.; 157  
m, Roger F. Heigle (as 3-cstg.)  
WV Welch 102.9 3000 h.v.; 100 m, Pocahon-  
/8N Tijuana XHTLI 97.7 3000 h.v. \$ m.  
Translated into English: "Tuned into radio  
XHTLI, transmitting at 97.7. . . NonID (not  
strict): "Sanido de Mexico." Its format is a bit  
more contemp.; oratory than the slogan would  
imply—kind of a relaxing Spanish adult contem-  
porary, format."

### Call Letters Assigned

AL Zeark 103.9 WNER (WORJ)  
AR Murfreesboro 95.3 KMTB (KJKK)  
AR Walnut Ridge 106.3 KRLW-FM (KCAZ)  
CA Camarillo 95.9 KZTR-FM (KZTR; AM is in  
Santa Paula), "Classic Rock ZTR"  
CA Elwood 94.5 KQOR, to 880 h.v.; 899 m  
CA Grover City 107.3 KWCD (KOSZ)  
CA Merced 97.5 KABX (KMYY), r (oldies).  
CO Denver 105.9 KBPI-FM (KBPI-FM)  
CO Greeley 92.5 KDHT (KYOU)  
CT Sharon 103.3 WMPR  
FL Naples \*90.9 WSDR (WLSF)  
FL Ocala \*88.1 WHUJ  
FL St. Petersburg 99.5 WQYK-FM (WQYK; now  
has an AM on 1010), ID with Saffner-Tampa-  
Clearwater  
GA Irwinton 103.7 WSYI

April, 1989

HI Honolulu 93.9 KIKI-FM (KMAI)  
IL Arlington Heights 92.7 WCBR-FM (WCBR);  
AM is in Richmond KY), "Chicago's Bear"  
IL Dundee 103.9 WABT (WCRM)  
IL Skokie-Chicago 101.9 WTMX (WCLR). r.  
"The Mix" (oldies-ad con.)  
IN Clinton \*93.9 WPP-L  
IN Huntington 103.1 WBZT (WOWO-FM)  
LA Shreveport 107.1 KMJJ-FM (KMJJ-FM;  
AM has new calls) (reunited k  
MD Haver de Grace 103.7 WXCX (WHDG)/  
MD Salisbury 105.5 WDVH (WLWV)  
MI East Lansing \*88.9 WOBM (WOBM)  
MI Muskegon 104.5 WSNX-FM (WSNX-FM;  
AM has new calls) ["Music-104"]  
MI Owosso 103.9 WMMZ (WQAP-FM)/  
MN La Crescent 102.7 KQEG  
MN St. Louis Park 104.1 KJIO-FM (KJIO-FM;  
AM has new calls), still "Rock 104"  
MS Hattiesburg \*88.5 WUSM-FM (WUSM)  
MS Lexington 102.5 WDLG [mono  
NE Holdrege 97.7 KUVR-FM (KKTU)/  
NH Berlin 103.7 WZPK (WMOU), "Pack 1 Oh 3  
-7," ID with Portland (ME)-Portsmouth. Still  
r (CHR). "They have a toll-free number  
asking listeners to 'build your radio station'  
and claiming calls have come from Quebec  
(Montreal area), Boston, Worcester, Bangor,  
and several m.c. twntys, but none from  
Vermont or New York."  
NM Rio Rancho 101.7 KZKL (KZIA "FM"),  
r, "Cool," Stereo assumed  
NY Amsterdam 97.7 WKOL-FM (WKOL-FM;  
AM has new calls), still r  
NY Arlington 96.9 WQLS  
NY Cape Vincent 102.7 WKGG  
NY Fredonia 96.5 WCOA  
NY Irondequoit 106.7 WOSB (not WUSB; WUSB  
calls remain at Stony Brook NY, 90.1.)  
NY New York 97.9 WSKO-FM (WEVD), I, \$,  
Spanish, WEVV moves to AM 1050. Danny  
Stiles, formerly of 97.9 fame, "couldn't be  
happier" to be on 50 kw AM. "Now, for the  
first time, with our new 50,000-watt transmit-  
ter, we can be heard as far away as Canada."  
NC Gastonia 101.9 WUKO-FM (WCKZ-FM)  
NC Goldsboro 96.9 WTKC (WEQR)  
OH West Union \*89.5 WVXW, to have \$[tereo]  
OR Portland \*91.5 KOPB-FM (KOPB-FM, "I  
called KOPB, and found out their satellite  
stations, KOAR-FM 9and KRBM Pendle-  
ton, will keep their call letters."  
191.1 KKCY (KYTE-FM), "The City," n.j.,  
"slightly jazzy instrumentals"  
OR R Roseburg \*91.5 KSRS, to be \$, it  
OR Tri City 104.3 KTRQ-FM (not KIRQ)  
SC Abbeville 92.9 WZLA-FM  
SC Orangeburg 103.9 WRKO-FM (WORR)  
TN Spring City 93.9 WAYA  
TN Sargonsville 104.3 WOTH [Ster 98.," \$  
TX Anson 98.1 KKHR (KCTE), r (JGies), "Lone"  
TX Brady 95.3 KIXV (Jack, tu. from KNEI-FM),  
"K-3," [AM back to KAFX calls]  
TX Dabell 95.5 KAFX-FM (KAFX-FM, "K-3";  
TX Houston 96.5 KNGY (KKHT), sr (dance/  
CHR), "Ener., Su.5" (strict)  
UT Bountiful 95.5 KLVV (KJEM)  
VT West Rutland 107.5 WVNH  
VA Martinsville 96.3 WRDQ-FM (JIMVA-FM), r.  
ID with Roanoke, facilities changing to  
13800 h.v.; 635 m, "on a higher site nearer  
Roanoke." Still programming with WAAA  
AM 1440. "I guess this is while WRDQ-FM  
gets its staff and programming assembled."  
VA Suffolk 106.9 WAFX (WSKX), r, "The  
Fox," to 388 m (100000 h.v)  
WA Opportunity 96.1 KKPL-FM (KKPL-FM;  
AM has new calls)  
WV Wheeling 107.5 WZMM-FM (WZMM-FM;  
WI Sturgeon Bay 99.7 WQZZ (WSBW)

Facilities Changes Granted

AL Selma WALX 100.9 50000 h.v.; 150 m, C2
AZ Phoenix KKLT 98.7 100000 h.v.; 532 m
AZ Tucson K288CQ 105.5 carrying KQYT 92.1
CA Glendale KMPC-FM 101.9 2400 h.v.; 850 m,
d-s (directional antenna. This will extend the
station's coverage greater than the maximum
allowed under FCC rules, but move seen as
necessary since KMPC-FM changed its trans-
mitter site, losing a previous grandfathered
status "as a superpower Class B."

KMPC-FM Gets Super-Max Coverage

"Radio Sol!" Audio sounds compressed and
distorted.
Stereo, or to be Stereo
FL Okkechohee WOKC-FM 103.1
FL Trenton WCWB 101.7, k, "Stereo Country
101.7 FM"
GA Alma WKXH 95.9, k, "Kicks 96"
GA Douglas WOKA-FM 106.7, now on with
100000 h.v. (90 m)
IL Mendota WGLC-FM 100.1, now "G-100,"
3000 h.v.; 100 m.
OH New Paris-Richmond IN WVXR \*89.3, off
the air for a week, now back on with stereo,
most of its previous distortion gone.

April, 1989

PA Summerdale WUCP \*91.7 to be j, Stereo. "I
received your yellow brochure several weeks
ago, and I would like to try a subscription to
FMedial for a year. . . While you're at it, toss
in another copy of the [FM] Atlas for my
bookshelf at the office. I'm still using a
dog-eared copy of the ninth edition. As usual,
the book is extremely useful and the FMusings
section is always interesting."
PA Susquehanna ("Halledstead PA") WKGB 92.5 r,
expected on by now, to be 1400 h.v.; 143 m,
and operate 24 hours a day. Is it stereo?
PA Williamsport WKSB 102.7 r, "gold intensive
FM, 25-54, a leader in eight counties, with the
biggest FM coverage in PA. I can understand
your confusing this market with Wilkes-Barre.
We are in the same ADI, although a consider-
able distance to the west." SCA remains TM,
67 kHz.
SC Goose Creek WWHT-FM 94.3 r (oldies)
TN Harrison WWBR-FM 92.7 g, "religious
contemporary," while its AM goes silent
TX Abilene KESE 101.9 k
TX Corsicana KAND-FM 107.9 rs, SMN program-
ming until 8 p. m., from 8 p. m. to midnight
they have "BET Radio."
VT Manchester WEQX 102.7 rp, "album rock"
WA Seattle KSEA 100.7 r
BN Tijuana XHITC 88.7 l, mono, "Radio
Technologico Cultural" (strict). "Good indig-
enous music, very enjoyable."
"See you get a nice mention in the March
Popular Communications." "I read your
article in the new Monitoring Times, and
wonder where I can get one of those
SCAdapters I can."

FCC—FM

W.D.St. Mary's City WMSD \*91.7, "CP cancelled"
OH McConnelleville WTLB 100.9.
TN Nashville W269A 101.7, "application
dismissed for extension of time." [2-1-89]
VA Winchester WWPU \*91.7, "CP is cancelled/
"I received my first copies of FMedial yesterday;
it is quite interesting and I'm looking forward
to continuing my subscription and possibly
contributing some material."
See Also March VUD For
AR Dermott KXSA 103.1—Pugh, p. 21. Need to
know if Stereo.
MA Milton WMLN \*91.5, Wylie, p. 28. Stereo?
MA West Barnstable WKML \*90.7 has S, Pugh, p.
21
MI Caro WIDL 104.9 m, S, Nieman, p. 22
MI Dearborn WNIC 103.3 r, Nieman, p. 22
MS Amory WAFM 95.3 s, Pugh, p. 21
MS Oxford WOXD 95.3 s, Pugh, p. 21
NY Salamanca WQRT 98.3 s, k, "Great 98
Country," ID with Olsen-Bradford (PA),
Nieman, p. 22
OH Cleveland WCSB p, "punk rock," Falconer,
p. 25
OH Mansfield WYHT 105.3 "Hit-105," Falconer,
p. 25
WVNO 106.1 r format, Nieman, p. 22
PA Edinboro WMYJ 97.9 on air, Falconer, p. 25,
but does it have stereo?
ON Owen Sound CIXX 106.5 r, "K-106.5,"
Soransen, p. 22, but does it have stereo?

WLEW-FM Now DXable on 102.1

92 kHz), nonID on main carrier: "Jazz 90."
Facilities change to 12000 h.v.; 308 m, d-a
"YYY-FM \*90.9 rT, 67, talking book for the
blind
[retains Y data, 92
WWDB 96.5 rR (foreground), 67 (from FM);
WUSL 98.9 rR, 92 (in addition to 67 kHz FM)
WIOQ 102.1 n 57, "The Blueprint AR
system has been deactivated" (retains TQ, 67)
WSNI 104.5 n SCS (had TM, 67)
WDAS-FM 105.3 Z data, 67, "Hot 105"
WEGX 106.1 rX 67 (had TM, 67)
"Every time I call you, you put ideas in my head.
Now I am thinking of using my SCA
capability for the local schools, to program as
they wish, and for their shop classes to install
the adapters in students' radios. Another idea
is that I have two satellite services with farm
market news (talking, not data) and I could
put those on the SCA for farmers, grain
elevators, etc. to use."
FMistakes, VUD, FM Atlas-11
AL Camden 102.3 WYVC former calls of WOBB
not listed, Nov.
AK Anaktuvuk Pass K268AB 101.5 (not "Y266-
AB"), FMA-11, p. 128
CA Tahoe City 96.5 calls are KRZQ, not
"KRXQ," Mar.
HI Humuula K276DG is 103.1, not "106.3,"
FMA-11, p. 130
HI Kahului K257CQ 99.3 (not "K257CAQ"), /
OH Van Wert WBYR's former calls were WKSD,
not "WKSJ," Feb. WBYR only says Van
Wert (with Fort Wayne) at the top of the
hour; otherwise, it is only Fort Wayne which
is mentioned.
WA Wenatchee KSSY 104.9 former calls were
KYJR, not "KYFR," Nov.
WY Casper old calls for KMCN 94.5 were
KRGQ, not "KRGD," Mar.
?Q Chicoutimi CFXI is on 94.3 (not "96.3"),
Dec.

NonIDs, Not Just Slogans

AR Bentonville KBCV 98.3 Sonenine 98
CA Los Angeles KODJ (see call letters next
month) 93.1 93.1 FM
FL Belle Glade WSWN-FM 93.5 Best Country
93.5 (from "Countryland 93")
[99
FL Fort Myers Beach WQEZ 99.3 Lite and Easy/
FL Fort Pierce WKOR 98.7 98.7 K-Rock
FL Havana WMLD 104.9 Mellow-105, still S
FL Jacksonville WQIK 99.1 FM-99
FL Lehigh Acres WMOJ-FM 107.1 Classic Rock
107.1, id with Fort Myers "and the Beaches"
FL Live Oak WYUL-FM 98.1 Great 98
FL Naples WRGI 93.5 Laser-93.5 (not "G-93")
FL Naples Park WIXI 105.5 Wick-a-105
FL Ocala WMPQ 92.9 FM-92.9, still B
FL Port Charlotte WEEJ 100.1 J-100
FL St. Petersburg WWRM 137.3 Warm-107
FL Stuart WZZR 92.7 Z-93, ID with Port St.
Lucie/Fort Pierce "and the Palm Beaches"
GA Douglas WDMG-FM 99.3 99.5 Alive, now S
GA Valdosta WVVS \*90.9 91-VVS
IL East St. Louis WUWV 101.1 Rock 101-FM
(strict), ID with St. Louis MO
MI Bad Axe WLEW-FM; 102.1 Cruise-162, having
moved from 92.1
NJ Lincoln WBJB \*90.5 Jazz and More
NY New York WPLJ 95.5 still using "OWS 25,"
and is soliciting, via TV spots, the public's
suggestions concerning their format.
NC Moxock WQFM 92.1 FM-92 (not strict)
WA Bellingham KIS 1.92.9 with Victoria (BC)-
Vancouver (BC), still "Kissum FM."
BN Mexicali XHMC 104.9 Estereo Vida
BN Tijuana XHITZ 90.3 2.90 (in English), with
"ful" IDs in Spanish inserted frequently in
English pop program, "although one reporter
claims the calls changed to "XHTZ."
XHRM 92.5 Hot-92 (in English)
XHTY 94.5 Radio Tampera

April, 1989

XHKY 95.7 X-96
XHOE 98.9 Radio Sensacion
XHBCN 99.7 Radio Amor
XHLTN 104.5 Radio Latino
Multi-City IDs in Use
(see this feature in FMedial)
"Since you are trying to include a wide range of
data on a growing number of stations, I believe
it is time to delete some unnecessary information,
as you did with secondary coverage figures. I
would suggest deleting multiple-city and non-ID
information, as I don't believe this serves a
useful purpose."
AM Happenings Most Likely Caused
by FM (selected)
AL Decatur WHOS 800 ditches all-Elvis Presley
debut. Despite good promotion via billboards,
"the effort failed because more than 75 percent
of radio listeners tune in to FM stations, which
provide better sound quality. People just don't
use AM any more. If it were not for our FM
station [WDRM 102.1], we would be taking it
hard. We have to find something (or the AM)
that will serve the public and survive at the same
time."
WAJW AM 1490 off the air.
AL Huntsville WAAY 1550 500 kw day, 500 w
night, off the air. Both of above said to have
"succumbed to a decreasing audience."
AZ Tucson KJMM 580 still off the air. "You'll
remember that they went dark on 4-30-88, and
promised to be back by late summer 1988. I
suspect they are gone for good, though the three
towns still stand."
LA Baton Rouge WJTE AM "being sold to a
religious outfit for \$450,000."
MO Springfield KGBX AM auction sale held by
Michael Fox Auctioneers, Inc., for radio station
and "valuable office building located on 6 acre
parcel." [was oldies.]
NJ Dover WMHO 1510 still silent. "Format/
NY Albany WROW AM, now simulcasting with
FM 95.5, lost audience, dropping to 2.2 from 3.3
last fall, according to Arbitron. WGY 810 AM
"logged the biggest drop, 8.9 from last fall's
14.1." WQBK 103.9 a point, "while its
ninth-ranked sister station, WOBK-AM lost 1.2,
reflecting the national trend of shrinking AM
listenership." The only other AM station men-
tioned, WTRY, is at 3.7, "down from 5.5 in the
summer and 7 last fall." All FM stations reported
in the survey were up, except for WPHY-FM,
which went from 11.7 in the summer to a 10.6 in
the fall.
NY Syracuse 1390 "appears to be occupied
again. It is time, simulcasting with WKTF 104.7
Fulton NY. I don't know if they're official, on
air, or just testing. The signal is not strong as
when WFBL held the frequency."
PA Ebensburg WEEB 1580 silent.
TN Knoxville WEMG 1430 reported silent.
VA Richmond 1480 has "turned in their license
to the FCC." WBBL inquired as to what the sale
price of the station would be, but it was "too
much. In the meantime, 1320, which had been
off the air, came back on as WLEE. WBBL is now
just a charre remote on Sundays on 1320."
WA Spokane CKCO 1380 off the air, and the
FCC has asked the licensee (probably using an
"ET" phone system) why the station license
should not be revoked. "In a visit to the station,
the FCC could find no evidence of a transmitter
building or antenna towers."
WA Sumner (Tacoma) KFRS 1560 silent.
"I love the FMedial AM happenings amuse me.
Beginnings of early FM radio stations, listener
comments and more. Keep up the excellent
work! More pages!"
"How about some equal time/space for AM, now
that its getting a rush of favorable publicity in the
wake of talk hosts mobilizing public pressure
against the congressional pay raise?" National

media have focused on how a group of radio talk show hosts—exclusively AM—inspired listeners to put pressure on their congresspersons to oppose the 50 percent pay hike. Such hosts have been known to mobilize opinion locally, but this is their first national success, and has drawn attention to AM radio. "The radio uprising against the raise was a logical, if surprising, result of both technological change and of AM radio's struggle to maintain its audience when most music fans have shifted to FM. In search of new audiences, scores of AM stations turned to talk in recent years." Jerry Williams, now at XETRA



Jerry Williams, talk show host

Tijiana BN, but formerly in Boston where Ralph Nader called his show to protest the pay hike, was a leader of the estimated 40 to 50 talk show hosts who energized America against the pay increase. Williams had previously led a successful campaign against mandatory seat belts in MA, and had spearheaded the ouster of Gov. Evan Mecham, when Williams was a talk show host in AZ.

Also on the pro-AM side is Bob Kimmel, president of New England Media of St. Albans VT, brokers and consultants. He said, "If I were investing in stations, I'd be buying nothing but AMs. Their prices are more realistic. Their financial returns are so much greater than those of FM's," with talk and information seen as the way to bring people back to that medium. Boston is mentioned as one of the best markets in the country for talk radio, with three of the top five radio stations being AM talkers: WBZ, WRKO and WHDH.

"I applaud your stand on Christianity, and on Christian broadcasters, in the November issue of FMedia! It is a bold stand for an industry publication, and I'm pleased to see that the unethical actions of a few Christian companies have not caused you to throw the baby out with the bath water, something which secular viewpoints traditionally do."

**FM Translator Abuses, Including Satellite Applications by Noncommercial Licensees**

(selected)  
AL Anniston \*88.3, WMBI-FM 90.1 Chicago OK KNYD \*90.5 Broken Arrow seeks 17 more translators in this state; not by satellite, but by conventional means. These include \*89.5 Enid, \*89.7 Ada and \*91.1 McAlester.  
VA Danville \*88.9, WMBI-FM WY Cheyenne \*88.7, WMBI-FM  
"I would like to 'borrow' some of the information you have published about Family Stations recently. This outfit broadcasts on short wave (WYFR, Your Family Radio) and has gained a reputation for piggish use of the SW bands, as well as for its 'remoteness' from the general international broadcasting community."

A religious broadcaster comments: "I have a suggestion that might solve the problem regarding FM translators which are fed via satellite vs. those which receive their signal directly from the primary station. Simply require that FM translators which receive their signal directly from a primary station have precedence over those that receive their signal by other means. This would

permit a local applicant to obtain a frequency which is being used to rebroadcast a distant station from a satellite signal. The rule would hopefully be made retroactive to cover existing authorizations."

Howard Enstrom in his "Signal Source" translator newsletter says: "The freeze on commercial FM translator applications continues, and the FCC has a hold on NCE translator applications proposing non-off air signal feeds. I spoke with a Commission engineer and attorney. There is a concern about networking by satellite-fed translators, and translators using different primary stations. Applications showing a primary station over 160 km might be set aside. . . The FCC has also taken a long look at applications where a higher TPO feeds a single transmission line to a power divider, especially where multiple major lobe patterns are proposed." Enstrom noted at year's end there were 1655 licensed FM translators, and a greater interest in FM boosters now that they can go as high as 20 kw.

**An Electronic Shoot-Out**  
Excerpts of a report by Lee Shoblom, KBBC 101.1 Lake Havasu City AZ (read this in March's FMedia!)

**FM Rulemakings Proposed (selected)**

First date below is deadline for filing comments at the FCC; second date is for replies. Stations affected, if any, are listed before the dates.  
AZ Colorado City 107.1C1, Mar. 20, Apr. 4  
AZ Prescott Valley 106.7C2, for 106.3A, K1HX, Mar. 16, 31  
WV Dunbar 94.5B1 for A, WBES-FM, or WV Montgomery 93.3A, Upper Kanawha Valley Broadcasters, Mar. 10, 27, or Mount Gay-Shamrock 93.3A for 94.7A (with Dunbar)

**FM Rulemakings Finalized (selected)**

Dates are when FCC filing windows are open  
FL Bonifay 97.7C1 for A, WTBB  
FL Orlando 98.9C2 for A, WURG  
FL Panama City Beach dismissed as technically deficient WPCF-FM's bid for 100.1C2 for A  
FL Rock Harbor 102.3A remains in place of 102.1C2, with WKLG concurring. WMXJ 102.7 Pompano Beach complained about a short-spacing which already exists  
FL St. Augustine 97.9C2 for 97.7A, WUVU, denying 98.1C for C2 to Live Oak, WQHL-FM  
GA Sylvester 106.1A, site to be 9.1 km SW because of a WUFF 92.1 Eastman GA proposal, Mar. 14-Apr. 13  
GA Warrenton 93.1A, Feb. 22-Mar. 24  
IA Grundy Center remains 97.7A (instead of 96.1A), KGGI. KHAK-FM 98.1 Cedar Rapids not moving to a site requiring KGGI to change.  
KS Cherryvale 100.5A not granted because J. E. Hotelling failed to file supporting comments  
KS Emporia 99.5A, site to be 6 km SW because of KMBR 99.7C Kansas City MO, Mar. 21-Apr. 20  
KS Norton 106.7C1 FCC rescinds filing window, with a new window to be announced  
MN Blue Earth 104.5C2 for 100.9A, KJLY  
MN St. James 100.5C2, Mar. 21-Apr. 20  
MN Sartell 96.7C2 for 96.1A, KKSRR  
MS Greenwood 93.9A for 101.9A  
OK Heavener denied Double Eagle's bid to change 92.5A to a C2, reaffirming its action giving 92.3A to Roland OK

**Flip Over FMX Brings Contenders Out Swinging**

Dr. Amar Bose, founder of Bose Corp., and an MIT professor of electrical engineering, gave a scientific paper that largely rejects FMX's claims of increased stereo coverage. "Broadcast station coverage, instead of being increased as

originally hoped, is decreased by the FMX system, [and that] FMX transmission degrades reception on existing FM stereo receivers." This was a conference to which the press was invited, including one manufacturer of high-end FM tuners, who confided that "FMX won't work in its present state." Working closely with Bose is Delco-General Motors, whose contributions were cited in a Reuters dispatch: "General Motors Corp.'s Delco Division, which makes five million car radios a year, evaluated FMX and rejected it." No reason for the rejection given except that "this is a touchy subject." BTP, FMX's developer, denied the allegations, saying that the earlier multipath-like problems which plagued the system have been corrected. What this means is that a healthy discussion of both sides of the FMX issue will now ensue, rather than FMX having its tests done in secrecy.

"You may be interested to know that WRTI [90.1 Philadelphia] has been testing the FMX system for the past month, and I currently have a prototype FMX car radio on loan," writes Mark Humphrey, chief engineer and assistant general manager. "I have read the Bose-Short paper which I'm sure you have heard of by now. My opinion at this time: I haven't noticed any significant increase in multipath problems since we put the FMX generator on line. The fact that we are already running an SCA probably masks the additional multipath distortion created by the FMX subcarrier. However, I believe the major drawback of FMX is that, under certain conditions (most music material), the FMX subcarrier will combine with the regular stereo subcarrier so that the peak modulation exceeds 100% by up to 2 dB. [rest of this report may be read in FMedia!]"

**Other Small-Print News and FM Industry Happenings**

FCC proposes lotteries to replace hearings, such as when two or more parties apply for the same FM frequency. Move could streamline a rather cumbersome and, to the listener, meaningless process.

The Florida Institute of Technology has had its dismissal of an application for 90.3 at Palm Bay affirmed by the FCC, keeping the conflicting bid of Palm Bay Public Radio on file.

Another educational FM dispute is in Austin TX for 91.7, said to be the last noncommercial channel. TX Ed. Bcstg. Cooperative, melding minority, women's, hispanic and children's groups, is opposed by the University of TX for a student-run station. Students now on cable "KTBS," but want over-air FM. Latter group is seen as extremely well-funded, and says they will also present minority programming. "Fight expected to last until 1990—and could go longer."

KRIM 104.3 Payson AZ fined \$5000 for failing to timely file copies of a network affiliation agreement and an ownership report.

It's designed for commercial stations, but what's stopping a noncomm operator from going after this? Drake-Chenault has announced a commercial-free, fully live version of its "Great American Country" radio format. Affiliates will pay a monthly fee for the format, which will come with four hourly three-minute spot breaks, and an optional news break at the top of the hour. Music will be broadcast during all spot and news breaks for stations that don't cut away. Studio and uptlinks will be in Denver. And Brad Burkhardt Christian Media, Atlanta, is developing a new "AC-Christian" format which "will cover the spectrum from light to uptempo AC sounds." FCC decided it was impractical to have

labels put on various pieces of electronic gear that may tune in frequencies Big Brother might not want your ears to hear (as defined by the ill-conceived Electronics Communications Privacy Act of 1986). The Commission "agreed with some of the commentators that a warning label, by calling attention to a prohibited activity, might encourage it."  
KWIC-FM 107.9 and AM Beaumont have their license renewals designated for hearing, to determine, among other things, if the stations discriminated against blacks.

Stations wanting to downgrade, say from a C2 to a C1, can now do so without going through FCC rulemaking. This takes interested parties out of the process, so stations can reduce power (and service) without hardly anybody noticing. The FCC pointed out that this would save a station about a year's time between when it applies for and when it receives its new classification. AM daytimers applying for FM stations would still be accorded a preference, even if they broadcast with low power at night, such as under 250 watts. Designated for hearing are 18 applications for 96.1A, Center Moriches NY.

Interesting is that the FCC threw out several citizens' complaints to the allocation, who charged that adding the channel will eliminate reception of WQXR-FM 96.3 New York City in western Suffolk County NY. The parties claim this should be avoided since WQXR-FM is one of only two classical music stations heard in the county. FCC: "The arguments advanced in these objections are without merit. WQXR-FM, being an existing station, is entitled to some protection under the Commission's Rules. Sec. 73.207 of the Commission's Rules requires that all applicants for the Center Moriches Class A allocation give 105 km of protection to WQXR-FM, a Class B facility operating on the first adjacent channel. Despite the fact that those who reside outside of the protected contour of WQXR-FM may receive interference, denying a grant of a construction permit to any of the Center Moriches applicants is not warranted." Then the FCC goes on to say the parties who objected to the channel should have done so when it was allocated to Center Moriches.

Nobody knows what it means, but a panel of the U. S. Court of Appeals in Washington DC told the FCC it had violated the Administrative Procedure Act in awarding nearly 700 new FM channels. "Conceivably, the decision could lead to the undoing of much of the Commission's work in the omnibus FM proceeding (Docket 80-90), even in those situations where grants have been made and stations built." Apparently, when the ruling came out not enough time was allowed for the filing of comments where something went wrong.

More court meddling in broadcasting. The U. S. Appeals Court in the DC granted a stay of the FCC regulation which would impose a 24-hour ban on "indecent" radio-TV programming. The stay will be in effect pending the outcome of litigation, expected later this year. "The court also vacated and remanded the allotting of 106.7 at Semora NC."

Station totals as of Jan. 31, 1989: AM radio (mostly commercial) 4934, FM Radio (92-108 mhz) 4167, FM educational (88-92) 1378, with 1876 FM translators.

**FM Mumbblings**  
**Random Thoughts on the FMedia**

Aviation and FM apparently don't mix. Last month an FMedia! reader sent word about the strict rules regarding use of FM on airliners. In the wake of Lockbie, carrying on board a radio (or stowing it in the baggage compartment) could open you to suspicion.

We could have the Ayatollah Khomeini to thank for restricting our freedom in using—or carrying along—electronics equipment as we travel.

My expose of Family Radio's quest for FM translators in obscure towns has been noticed in quite a few places. Maybe even the FCC, but that agency's not giving my rag any credit. For a while, Doug Tanger was angry, re what was printed in FMedia! about his FM on Cape Ann. He called, and I think everything's smoothed out. Nothing is ever printed here out of malice.

I like what some of you say about freedom of the press—and this column tries to carry out press freedoms in a responsible, and sometimes even irresponsible way. As I told Doug [at WBOQ 104.9 Gloucester MA], I'm not so concerned that a critical comment is accurate, as that it helps to make for interesting reading. I assure you that all comments are authentic. I get too much mail to have to "invent" comments. There are enough readers who write in, just on the subject of AM radio, to

keep the section, "AM Happenings Most Likely Caused by FM," a lively part of my newsletter and FCC-FM news.

Think of this as the National Enquirer of the FM industry, with a smattering of the Wall Street Journal, RadioPhiles, DX Monitor, or whatever other publication you might like to compare this to.

Some in-house notes. The 12th edition *FM Atlas* is coming along fine, but it did not get to the printer last month as hoped. I expect it to be at the printer's by the time you read this. Hold off any advance orders until I can say more.

I'm working to hold the line on costs, and will strive to keep the cover price of the *FM Atlas* the same as last year—just as FMedia! did not have a subscription price increase at the beginning of this year. Just got a printer's quote, and his bid is lower than what two other bids were, making price stabilization a distinct possibility. Expect a small increase to help defray the cost of mailing books, however.

Recently came back from an exhilarating afternoon of skiing at one of the local hills. A nice break from the word processor, and before plunging into the challenge of trying to make FM "rulemakings" interesting. Makes one feel old when a kid riding the chairlift says "Yeah, I just went up with another old guy."

So far, everything's working fine with the 64-K Data General computer, which is connected to a modified IBM ESC/Composer. I'm trying to get a second computer working as a backup, so that problems like happened a year ago, when the February FMedia! was not able to be published, won't come up again.

Most of you who have ordered modified radios from the catalog which went out to broadcasters would have received them by now. After almost a six-month delay, General Electric came through with a shipment of 48 Superadios from the orient, model 7-2885. I've been busy installing 67 and 92 kHz SCAdapter boards in those radios.

If you don't have a copy yet, write for our radios' and electronics catalog. Included is mention of an article you can order on tuning in cellular mobile telephones. I thank the National Federation of Community Broadcasters for mentioning this catalog in their latest newsletter. Factsheet Five, which reviews mostly alternative publications, from 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer NY 12144-4502 (copy price \$2), said of my December newsletter: "No. 11 includes some fascinating correspondence on deceptive tactics being used by some Christian broadcasters to get FCC approval without public outcry, like listing their home bases in ghost towns, instead of the cities they're actually in."

"I would like to know the real phone number which is printed on FMedia! It reads (218) Try PM-PM. I really cannot understand that." Sorry for the misinformation. Our real telephone number is (218) Try So-So. Publishers don't usually like phone calls; the mail is the best medium to use for inquiries, or when sending information for publication. And to confuse you more, our real address is Box 336, Esko MN 55733-0336, with the Anderson Road address a subterfuge, the site of a former Christian commune!

Thanks for all the mail and for your support of this column. I'm sure other editors like you to write in and contribute to their columns as well.

73ily,

# WTFDA CONVENTION 1989

WELCOME TO SYRACUSE! There is much to see in the Central

New York area including Syracuse University and the Carrier Dome.

Other interesting sights include the Salt Museum, the Everson Museum, and the Erie Canal Museum. We also have a local AAA baseball team, the Syracuse Chiefs. There are many fresh water beaches near by, so bring your swimwear, it could be a hot one. Oneida Lake County Beach is within 5 minutes of the convention site.

## AGENDA

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 4th:

- \* Convention opens at 5:00 pm.
- \* The evening will feature DX, viewing video airchecks, promotion trading, and open flea market. (This will continue through out the weekend)
- \* Dinner will not be served on Friday evening, however there are many restaurants within walking distance.
- \* Convention closes at 11:00 pm.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 5th:

- \* Convention opens at Noon with lunch.
- \* The afternoon will feature optional tours of local stations or remaining at the convention site for more DX & trading.
- \* Dinner will include a catered barbeque outdoors. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm.
- \* Tech talks will follow dinner.
- \* Convention closes at 11:00 pm.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6th:

- \* Convention opens at Noon with a hot lunch.
- \* DX, video aircheck viewing, promotion trading and flea market will continue.
- \* Convention will close at 5:00 pm .

Any member wishing to record tapes are required to bring their own Video Cassette Recorders or Cassette Recorders. We will not be responsible for any personal property, however, that is brought to the convention site. Members are responsible for their own lodging accomodations. If you would like a list of local hotels and rates please send a self addressed stamped envelope to Bill Kretschmer.

## CONVENTION 1989 CONTINUED

The fee for the convention this year will be \$35.00 per person.

This registration fee includes:

- \* 3 meals
- \* Open Flea Market
- \* Optional Tours
- \* Promotion Trading (including t-shirts, stickers, airchecks, etc)
- \* Video Aircheck Viewing
- \* DX
- \* Tech Talks & MORE!!!

NOTE: Registration fee is non-refundable

The deadline for the registration fee is June 1, 1989. We are aware this is a little bit earlier than usual, however, my wife is due with our first child a few weeks before the convention and we need a few extra weeks prior to prepare as we will be very busy in July. Please send a check or money order payable to Bill Kretschmer along with the registration form below to:

Bill Kretschmer 104 Kopp Avenue, N. Syracuse, New York, 13212

### YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND!!!

#### CONVENTION LOCATION:

The convention this year will be held at our home in North Syracuse, New York. For those members who will be flying into the Syracuse Airport, we are located within 5 minutes of the Airport. If coming by car, Take the New York State Thruway to Exit 36, then North on Interstate 81 to Exit 29 north to Route 481 to Circle Drive & US 11. Take a left on circle Drive to first light then left on US 11 to first left which is Kopp Avenue. Kopp Avenue is directly adjacent to Red Lobster, and next to Dunkin Donuts. We are currently trying to arrange ample parking for those who drive. If you run into any difficulty finding the convention site, please feel free to call Bill at (315) 458-7924.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in Tours \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ Interested in Flea Market Space? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
\_\_\_\_\_ Interested in giving Tech Talk? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_ Members are required to provide their own transportation through out the entire weekend.  
DAYS ATTENDING: (circle) \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ S  
Please return this form with registration Fee. If you have any questions, call or write Bill Kretschmer.



# WESTERN TV-DX

Fred McCormack  
Box 9077  
Prairiewood Station  
Fargo, ND 58106-9077

# SOUTHERN FM DX

Danny Buntin  
1312 N. Skyline  
Stillwater, OK 74075

April 1989

Deadline: 05-04-89

April 1989

DEADLINE: 10th

For FM DX reporters from: AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, KS, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, NM, NV, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA & WV. Also DC.

New \_\_\_ New Mode\_ \_ Tent. - t Unidentified - unid S/On - + S/off - =  
ID Color Bars - # Unid Color Bars - % Misc. Test Patterns - &  
Parallel Programming - //

BN Baja California Norte

## COLORADO DXER MAKES GOOD WITH NEW DENON TUNER

Keith D. Pugh, 227 Martin St., New Hope, AL 35760

Equip.: Onkyo T-9090, \$ Probe 9 at 30'

1/2 tr

1205 WCLD 103.9 MS Cleveland, r, ID  
1206 WLZA 101.7 MS Eupora, incl. ads, \$  
1222 WHOD 104.9 AL Jackson, k, ID  
1226 WMFC 99.3 AL Monroeville, k, ID  
1236 WJDB 95.3 AL Thomasville, g?, ID  
1250 WZNU 106.3 AL Demopolis, r, Z-106  
1259 WQEZ 106.3 GA Fort Valley, ID  
1306 WWSL 102.3 MS Philadelphia, rp, ID  
1400 WQZX 94.3 AL Greenville, k, ID

1/2 tr

1455 WWZZ 106.3 MS New Albany, k, ID, ex WTMK  
1600 WLSM 107.1 MS Louisville, k, ID, Miss 107

2/14 gw-tr

1920 WKYJ 106.1 MS Starkville, rp KY-106  
2000 WQIC 103.1 MS Marion, ID, Magic 103.1, \$

2/25 trs

1400 WYER 94.9 IL Mount Carmel, promo, calls

This Jan. 2 tropo was misplaced and should have been with my last report. Found it after reviewing my DX tape. And the Feb. logs are just luck catches except WKYJ is a new regular.

Doug Allen, w2crrs, P. O. Box 5646, Woodland Park, CO 80866

Equip.: Sansui TU 517 tuner and Finco 6 el. at 25 ft.

12/6 gw & tr

1600 KSQI 96.1 CO Greeley, "K-SKY" with rock, exKISF, don't know exact date KISF left air, but 96.1 was an open freq. for several months, but no news.

1620 KCMH 96.9 NE Terrytown, rel, with spots for Kimball, Sidney, and Terrytown. This station suddenly became a regular and is almost always IDable, antenna or power change? 234

1930 ???? 98.1 NE Hastings, very tentative, poor reception of station with mention of Nebraska weather. Is this station on air? CL?

1930 KERMT 98.3 WY Torrington, Confusion regarding this and above 98.1 tentative. My log suggests I heard call KERMT ID, but thought it was ID for Hastings station. I was tuning on the low side of 98.3 to minimize KYGO 98.5 slop; both stations may have been mixing. I'll be trying to check this out when conditions warrant.

2047 KJCO 100.9 CO Yuma, poor with KOSI splatter 150 miles

1220 KPNY 102.1 NE Alliance, noisy as usual. 245

2130 KSPK 102.3 CO Walsenburg country music, good stereo signal at 95 miles, perhaps due to knife edge reflection over Pikes Peak thes 2200 watter is as strong as it would be over "flat earth."

12/ 7 tr scatter

0926 KRZD 98.3 CO Wray, splatter from KYGO. 150

1000 KLSF 96.9 TX Amarillo, fades up frequently. 309

12/10 tr scatter

1900 KRTYT 97.7 NE Holdrege, poor, rock oldies show, ID in noise sounded like KKSA??

12/12 ms

0743 WLSH 96.9 IL Mattoon, basketball promo, ID, state #22

1/2 tr scatter

1616 KELN 97.1 NE North Platte, poor with KBCC slop 251

(Not much monitoring because winter conditions pretty poor with some slight enhancement when we have regional snow storms, which increases humidity. MUF(Es) noted to 70 Mhz 12/12. MUF(F2) noted to 50 Mhz on several occasions. The Sansui tuner is marginally better (slightly more selective and equal in sensitivity) to the Kenwood 5010 receiver, which I previously used. I've been reading reviews and will buy a state-of-the-art tuner with excellent adjacent channel selectivity.)

NEW EQUIPMENT:

Equip.: Denon TU 800 tuner and Radio Shack V-185 on 2/7 & 8, then replaced with Finco 6 el. on 2/9, both at 25 ft. with Archer rotor.

2/7 gw

0723 KATM 95.9 CO Colorado Springs, KATM translator heard on car radio in Springs, but not here with old tuner, CL? 221 mi.

1316 KNEB 94.1 NE Scottsbluff, poor to fair copy on Denon with no copy on Sansui or K-wood

1630 KZMC 105.3 NE McCook, "Z-105", local spots, ID on hour 241 cont.....

Pat Dyer, 5315 Silvertip Drive, San Antonio TX 78228-2744

CST

### Equipment:

1980 model Penncrest 9 inch black and white, Archer V-100 and 8 bay bow-tie UHF array at 20 feet with rotor.

January 1989

1 tr 1010 WVLA 33 LA 435	17 tr 0422 KLFY 10 LA 370	15 Es 2036 KVBC 2 NV 1055
Es 1316 KCBS 2 CA 1190	February 1989	16 Es 1030 KNMZ 2 NM 635
1329 KEYT 3 CA 1300	1 tr 1048 K67DW 67 TX loc	1129 KVBC 3 NV 1055
1349 KVBC 3 NV 1055	(San Antonio LPTV)	1159 KTVK 3 AZ 840
6 tr 1814 KPLC 7 LA 335	8 Es 1024 KCBS 2 CA 1190	1231 XHBC 3 BN 1010
7 tr 0433 KLFY 10 LA 370	13 Es 1159 KDKA 2 PA 1290	1329 WFMY 2 NC 1170
9 Es 1329 WDIQ 2 AL 735	15 Es 1831 XHBC 3 BN 1010	1726 KGAN 2 IA 960
1330 WCBD 2 SC 1135	2030 KNAZ 2 AZ 845	1848 WKRN 2 TN 815

Considering the relatively poor winter E skip season here, a lot of it was around in February. K02MX remains off (apparently by order of the Houston FCC office due to its spurious emissions). Hopefully, I may catch some channel A2 F2 while it is. In spite of a few days with highs in the 80's, no super-tropo yet this year.

(Distances were calculated by your editor using San Antonio coordinates from the Britannica Atlas. They may differ slightly from Pat's own calculations which were not provided. I believe distances make for a much more interesting report, and I encourage all reporters to include them. fm)

Randy Miltier, 1068 Fairview Avenue, San Jose CA 95125 (N6HMO)

### Equipment:

1986 23" Mitsubishi, 12" b&w Zenith, Channel Master 1160 VHF/UHF antenna and Channel Master rotor. Fisher VCR.

No sporadic E here since my last report. Tropo on February 24 was interesting with KHSL-12 (about 150 miles) in Chico in here almost snow free. Generally they are a snowy picture and sometimes not even there. Considering the mountains between San Jose and Chico, a near snow free picture is something to brag about.

Speaking of bragging, and since I don't have anything else DX related to talk about, I'll talk about my TV-DX totals from here in San Jose. I've been TV-DX'ing off and on since the late 1950's, not sure when I first got bit. I've been DX'ing off and on since the 50's with large gaps due to the Navy, marriage, divorce and so on. I started keeping records in 1969 but only show I've TV-DX'ed in 69, 70, 71, 80, 84, 86, 87, and 88. I've recorded DX from 15 western states, 1 eastern state, 3 provinces and Mexico. The only two states I haven't seen west of the North Dakota to Texas border are Oklahoma and Nevada. Channel totals include: 20 on channel 2, 16 on channel 3, 10 on channel 4, 4 on channel 5 and 7 on channel 6. These totals include one double-hop catch in 1969 with WCBS-2 and two meteor scatter catches, KATU-2 and KBBC-4. It hasn't been easy with locals on channel 2, 4 and 5 at 40 miles and semi-locals on channel 3 and channel 6 at about 75 miles. Actually, it makes DX that much more challenging with all the channels filled up. I plan to DX from the Fresno-Visalia area this June just to see what it's like to DX from a VHF free area, should be most interesting! As can be seen by the above totals. KPIX channel 5 is very difficult to get through. At this location, for the years that I've been TV-DX'ing, 1987 was my best year...let's hope 1989 is even better! 73

(Thanks for the DX summary. In a better month, it might be hard to fit it in the column; but this month, it made the column possible! fm)

With any kind of luck the column will grow beyond one page next month. There has been no sign of TV-DX here in Fargo, but in warmer climes, perhaps?



2/8 gw & tr  
 0830 K261CB 100.1 CO Buena Vista KRMH translator, stereo quality 57  
 0900 KZRU 92.1 CO Castle Rock, ex KADX, prog. rock 40  
 1930 KOGA 99.7 NE Ogalla, local spots, faded in over KVVU sloop several times 226  
 2000 KNEB 94.1 NE Scottsbluff, stereo copy at times 221  
 2008 KSID 98.7 NE Sidney, fair to good 185  
 2010 KPNY 102.1 NE Alliance, poor to fair 245  
 2010 KCM1 96.9 NE Terrytown, usual rel., fair to good 234  
 2034 KTRS 95.5 WY Casper, good on 95.4 to avoid KSIY sloop 268  
 2118 KELN 97.1 NE No. Platte, fair on 97.9 to avoid KBCC sloop 251

## 2/9 gw &amp; tr scatter

0710 KRAZ 96.9 NM Farmington, country as usual, good on fades 232  
 0712 KKOR 94.5 NM Gallop, best ever heard-on fades 310  
 1615 KMCX 106.5 NE Ogallala, fair, stronger than KOGA 99.7 226  
 1630 KOLL 96.9 WY Rock Springs, news, sports, ID, 2nd time, 226  
 1700 KQLT 103.7 WY Casper, "bright and easy" music, local spots, ID, not as strong as KTRS on 95.5 268  
 1715 KSIY 104.5 WY Rock Springs, local spots, 2nd time 295  
 1742 KWYK 94.9 NM Aztec, local Farmington spots, good on fades, sloop from KHHH and KRDO, freq. impossible before Denon 220  
 1836 KSKU 106.1 KS Lyons, in & out of noise on quiet freq., legal ID, 2nd best tr DX to east 380  
 2150 KTRA 102.1 NM Farmington, country music, "102 KTRA" 232

## 2/11 gw

0801 KCRT 92.5 CO Trinidad, "KCRT Trinidad" on 92.4 or 92.6 because of greater frequency deviation than stronger KYOU.

## 2/11 tr

2110 KWWS 105.3 CO Rifle, "the all new 105 KISS FM" 154

## 2/11 ms

2136 KQZYt105.3 TX Dallas, short burst, "ZY"

## 2/12 gw

2115 Kafa 104.5 CO Col Springs, new Air Force Academy, 20 watts, station, 0600-2400

## 2/13 tr scatter

1012 KDjW 94.1 TX Amarillo, singing ID, k 310  
 1135 KPNY 102.1 NE Alliance 280

## 2/17 tr

2232 KAMI 104.5 NE Cozad, m 266  
 2246 KSKU 106.1 KS Lyons, r 385

## 2/20 tr

1502 KWYK 94.9 NM Aztec-Farmington, r 220  
 1503 KRAZ 96.9 NM Farmington, k 232  
 1508 KMOY 104.5 NM Bloomfield, oldies 230

## 2/21 tr

1400 KTRS 95.5 WY Casper, "Wyoming's 100,000 watt music machine" 268  
 1630 KZMC 105.3 NE McCook, singing non-ID "Z-105" 245

## 2/22 tr scatter

1753 KRST 92.3 NM Albuquerque, k 270

## 2/22 tr

1530 KSKU 106.1 KS Lyons, r 385  
 2020 KQSK 97.5 NE Chadron, basketball 296  
 2040 KSDZ 95.5 NE Gordon, basketball 304  
 2050 KERMT 98.3 WY Torrington 210  
 2119 K269AE 101.7 CO Boulder, KVOB t 60  
 2143 KYCN 101.7 WY Wheatland, k 331

## 2/23 tr

0735 KQLT 103.7 WY Casper 268  
 1934 KKTU 97.7 NE Holdrege, HS Basketball 310  
 2030 KGLS 93.1 KS Pratt, "LS Radio", k 350  
 2044 KQIZ 93.1 TX Amarillo, r 310  
 2105 KSIY 104.5 WY Rock Springs, basketball 280

## 2/24 tr

1750-1830 Farmington, NM stations at 230 miles strong around sunset

## 2/27 tr

1145-1800 Casper-Rock Springs, WY stations at 270 miles strong with fading

## 2/28 ms

0810 KQID 93.1 LA Alexandria, short burst with ID over KGLS, cont...

## 2/28 tr, gw

0810 KGLS 93.1 KS Pratt 350  
 0935 KEYN 103.7 KS Wichita, "Power 104" BEST TROPO! 417 mi.  
 1400 KTLF 89.7 CO Col Springs, new "listener supported Christian radio"

## 3/1 tr

0800 eastern Nebraska stations fairly strong  
 0932 KKTU 97.7 NE Holdrege, k 310

## 3/2 tr

0737 unID 98.3 sounded like "It's 7:37 at KVCL Hastings, NE??  
 1000 western KS stations strongest ever heard  
 1015 KFDI 101.3 KS Wichita, k, weaker than KEYN 417  
 1048 KERM 98.1 WY Torrington, k 210  
 1055 KQSK 97.5 NE Chadron 296  
 1100 KYEZ 93.7 KS Salina 390  
 1108 KWYK 94.9 NM Aztec-Farmington "95 Quick" 220

Nine new stations in 3 days with the new tuner! Conditions were average for winter. I'm able to DX adjacent to semi-local Denver and Colorado Springs stations for first time. Did an antenna comparison between the V-185, Radio Shack's best VHF-FM antenna, and my old Finco 6 el. yagi (also with my Quantum 1110 on TV) which I judge to be similar to the Stereo Probe 6. Not only is the front-to-back and front-to-side ration(nulling) of the Finco much better, but it also has about 3-6 db more gain on the FM band. In my opinion, the V-185 is not recommended for FM (or VHF TV) where good directivity and nulling ability is desired.

FM DXing is really fun with a good tuner! With the Denon I've become aware of the slight enhancement that often occurs when we have storms and high humidity here or the sometimes better enhancement that sometimes occurs when there is high pressure over the area. The 2/22 and 3/2 openings occurred when we had high pressure and regional temperature inversions. Now I need a better antenna. The Stereo Probe 9 is no longer manufactured in the USA and is expensive to buy from Canada. Alternatives? Has anyone built a loop yagi for FM? I've built them for 144 Mhz, and they are fairly broadbanded and have excellent gain and directivity. If I'm copying central Nebraska, central Kansas and the Texas panhandle stations from here, the Colorado Springs stations must be much stronger there because the Springs stations are located on Cheyenne Mountain (about my elevation-9000 ft.) 20 miles SW of here with a clear 60 mile shot at the horizon from north thru east down to the south. My horizon from NE to WSW is Rampart Range, about 306 miles away and 200-400 feet higher than us and only a mile away. But to the south I can see 8 miles--all 14,110 feet of Pikes Peak! What I'm saying is that you guys in eastern Nebraska, eastern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, etc. probably have a better chance of hearing Col. Springs stations than I have of hearing your stations. So turn your yagis west! Let's see if you can hear Col. Springs before I hear the Lincoln-Omaha, Topeka-Kansas City, and Oklahoma City, Tulsa areas, all around 500 miles from here! Good luck. (It's refreshing seeing someone praise rather than complain about DX equipment for a change. Evidently, you've made a wise DX investment. I probably need to tune in more to the west for trop when my work schedule permits it. Good luck to you. DE)

Eric Fader, 64 Wild Birch Farms, Peekskill, NY 10566

DX from Sanibel Island, FL on Sony portable ICF-2002 w/whip antenna.

2/14 pm 2200 to 0015 2/15: Strong trop along a northeast to southwest stationary front.

Orlando in on 90.7, 92.3, 96.5, and 100.3 very strong, as were the following others:

92.9 WMFQ Ocala "FM-92.9 Music", EZL	98.5 WKTK Crystal River
93.7 WMMZ Ocala, "Z-93.7", rock	99.1 WQIK Jacksonville, "FM-99", k
95.1 WAPE Jacksonville	99.9 WNFI Palatka, "I-100", "The Boss of the Beach"
97.5 WPCF Winter Haven-Lakeland-Orlando	102.9 WIVY Jacksonville, "Y-103", jazz/dance mx
"97-Country"	104.5 WFVY Atlantic Beach, "Rock 105"
98.1 WQHL Live Oak, "The Great 98"	106.7 WCAT Leesburg, r
	107.7 WJYO Mt Dora

Danny Buntin, 1312 N. Skyline, Stillwater, OK 74075

Equipt.: Onkyo T9090 tuner, \$ Probe 9 at 34' with rotor

## 3/5 gw

1923 K272B0? 102.3 OK Shawnee, KNYD Broken Arrow-Tulsa county translator, g, not on 97.7 as in FM Atlas. 55 mi.

I also have a new unID KNYD translator on 88.1 Seems to be coming from the Oklahoma City area or closer. I've even heard it faintly on my car FM. Other KNYD translators break in sometimes to promote themselves or air a local ad, and so I make an ID. I've yet to hear this KNYD mystery of 88.1 break in. Oklahoma City's National Weather Service radio believes it issued a severe thunderstorm warning under likely unprecedented circumstances on March 4th because the temperature at the time was only in the upper teens. The storm had nickel sized hail, high winds and heavy freezing rain. Temps that afternoon--mid 70's.

## KREK

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# NORTHERN FM-DX

GREG CONIGLIO  
500 GLENWOOD DRIVE  
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

FOR DXERS in: Canada, ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, IA, MN, ND, SD, NE, MT, WY, ID, WA, OR, AK, and HI.

APRIL 1989

DEADLINE: THE 5TH

A rather short column this month due to a general lack of good DX. However, Bill Nienajedly did catch FM skip up to 93.7 on March 1, and Bob Zent has had some good tropo openings. If you have a report, please do send it in. Remember, everyone is welcome to report to NORTHERN FM DX. I would also like to wish all members a very happy Easter..

**BILL KRETSCHMER - 104 KOPP AVENUE - NORTH SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13212-1606**

**EQUIPMENT:** Yamaha TX-900U Stereo Tuner, CAC-11 coax, microwave filter trap SKV- 93.1, CM Stereo Probe 9 @ 40' AGL, CM Automatic Rotor.

FEBRUARY 1989

2 TrS/AR  
1020 WSSH 99.5 MA Lowell, 886-5000 Brookside Hospital, o/WGY-FM.

(See the March VUD for loggings by Bill on 2/4 and 2/5-gc)

25 Tr  
1900-2300 Strong Tropo to Rochester, Buffalo area, and Southern Ontario (Toronto/Hamilton) P.O. Box 95 Syracuse, New York 13250 315-472-0200 FAX 315-472-1146



Besides receiving WKXC on MS burst (see March VUD-gc) I also heard WAIJ in Grantsville, Maryland. I called on air announcer and he played back the tape which I heard earlier. He then invited me to write to WAIJ General Manager for verification. I did but haven't received a reply yet. 73's Bill

**HARRY J HAYES - 9 HENRY STREET - WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18702**

**EQUIPMENT:** Superradio II, antenna: homemade FM double quad loop cut at 104 Khz. Facing south window.

"I've sort of come back to square one in my FM DXing. After a few years of experimenting around with using a 9 element FM yagi with amplifier and also my double quad loop with amplifier I decided one day a couple weeks ago to try the quad loop without any amplification. I am somewhat surprised by its sensitivity. I would say it is by far the best antenna one could use indoors for optimum results. My problems with using amplification with the above antennas was unbearable overload on the Superradio. I will save my 9 element for when I invest in a better receiver. Using the quad loop "barefoot", I've eliminated 98% of the overload problem and am pulling stations in well out to 170 miles on airplane scatter. I must rely mostly on airplane scatter to the south because I face a high mountain ridge in that direction. Tropo and skip have little problem it seems with this ridge. Experimenting around here are a few things I can hear on any given day from the south side of the house. WFME-94.7 NJ, WDSB-94.7 DE, WHKS-94.9 Harrisburg, PA at 100 miles. WFLN-95.7 PA, WLAN-96.9 PA, WBSS-97.3 Millville, NJ, which literally blasts in at times at 140 miles.. WPST-97.5 NJ, WJBR-99.5 DE, WGAY-99.5 DE, WGSN-103.5 DC, WYNY 103.5 NYC, WHGM 103.7 NJ, WHCN-104.3 NYC, WBSB-104.3 MD, and WSNi-104.5 PA. If I move the antenna to the north room in the house I receive perfect reception of the Binghamton, NY stations plus less than perfect reception on some of the following: WKXZ-93.9 NY, WYXL-97.3 NY, WQNY-103.7 NY, WITU-103.5 NY (oops, out of order) (new calls for 103.5 Cobleskill are WACS-gc), Magic-104.3 Rome, NY (this must have new calls) (Nope, even though they use the Magic 104 slogan, their calls remain WKGW, Utica/Rome-gc) and Syracuse-107.9 (WRHP-gc). One thing I should mention is that the antenna does a very good job at receiving meteor bursts. I hear quite a few at all hours in the day in February. One drawback is that I notice with my loop is that sensitivity seems to fall off dramatically above 104.5, this isn't noticeable when amplified. Only DX of note: during a warm spell about 2 weeks back I had solid reception of WHKS 94.9 I didn't mark date as DXers should but believe it was the morning of 1/29. (Harry, have you noted WHKS to be stronger than they have before? They have been overriding my semi-local CKQT quite a bit lately; they never used to do that as WMSF.-gc) I am really looking forward to tropo and skip season on this. 73s (Thanks for the update, Harry. I am looking forward to seeing you report in the upcoming DX season!-gc)

NORTHERN FM DX

APRIL 1989

**BOB ZENT - 1835 FRUIT STREET - HUNTINGTON, INDIANA 46750**

NOVEMBER 1988

15 Tr  
1234 WKSE 99.9 NC Asheville, local ads 400  
1256 WQUT 101.5 TN Johnson City, r, calls 350  
1300 WEKH 90.9 KY Hazard, c, ID with WEKU 88.9 280  
1308 WCIR 103.7 WV Beckley, r, calls 310  
24 Tr  
0203 WRFL 88.1 KY Lexington, r, lcl events 210

DECEMBER 1988

5 Tr  
0101 WCBH 104.3 IL Casey, r, ID 170  
0105 WVLJ 105.5 IL Monticello, call letters 175



Greetings from the hometown of Vice President Quayle. Everyone here is quite proud to have been in the national limelight the past few months, and know "our boy" will bring honor to the office to which he was elected. Enough said...DX here has been sparse, although I did manage to log a few new ones. In February WBVR 98.9 Van Wert OH (formerly WKSD) moved it's transmitter closer to Fort Wayne, IN, and are now 24 hours, thus ruining my best MS frequency. They call themselves "The Bear" most of the time and carry lots of Fort Wayne ads, seldom mentioning their city of license, even at station IDs.

**BILL NIENAJEDLY - 98 HIGHLAND AVE - CLIFTON, NEW JERSEY 07011**

FEBRUARY 1989

10 TrS  
1931 WQXX 94.1 PA Sunbury, ID Cent. Pa's Weathers on WQXX, in for one minute 137  
1951 WXNI? 88.7 went MASS univ, NPR, antenna pointed to the Northeast

14 GW

Put up rotor & R.Shack Antenna's stacked in attic

1846 WBJR 90.5 NJ Lincroft, ID/slogan: "Jazz and more for the Jersey Shore" signal OK but AS prone QRN. 37

15 Tr

0043 WHUS 91.7 CT Storrs, 1st time in 10 yrs I've heard this stn! some fading, AOR 117  
0058 WTKY? 90.3 Nostalgia mx 40's & 50's, wierd sounding DJ, in for minute then gone!  
0100 Long Island 90.3 off air  
0108 WAMC 90.3 NY Albany, ID, stable, local! 123  
0149 WXCJ 91.7 CT Danbury, ID, modern music 51  
0652 WPKT 90.5 CT Middlefield, ID finally! From 0020 heard all night IDs, very stable signal except fading on the top of the hour when legal ID went! (Doesn't that always happen, hi-gc), classical, Connecticut Public Radio

0744 WNVHT 91.7 PA Allentown, went Allentown mayor and local area, 3 min in, no pos. ID 74  
18 TrS/AS  
0719 WTSR 91.3 NJ Trenton, ID, "...to the alternative as WTSR Trenton NJ begins its broadcast day...", fade 54

20 GW/Tr

0240 lcl 96.3 off, WLEV 96.1, Hartford/Philly 96.5  
0320 WFRST 88.9 NY Smithtown, prg // WFME, no positive ID hrd (very likely was WFRS-gc) 49  
0358 WSCI 89.5 MA Salisbury, RARE! local WSOU off, ID & American Public Radio, OK signal with some faded 188

0404 WRTI 90.1 PA Philadelphia, ID very stable signal, jazz music 83

DECEMBER 1988

14 MS  
0216 WQCR 98.9 VT Burlington, "and the rest of the story on WQC...." 660  
0400 KZBS 98.9 OK Oklahoma City, ".BS Oklahoma City." (Bob, calls are KZBS-gc) 770  
0408 WJML 98.9 MI Petoskey, "...JML..." 295  
0522 KTUX 98.9 TX Carthage, "...radio Tux 99..." 790

JANUARY 1989

2 GW  
0000 WVXR 89.3 OH New Paris-Richmond IN j new station, satellite of WVXU 91.7 80

FEBRUARY 1989

15 Tr  
0100 WXYB 89.3 MI Zeeland, g, new station // programming & dual ID with WGNR 88.9 120

FEBRUARY 1989

21 AS  
1758 WYBC 94.3 CT New Haven, brief ID 72  
25 Tr  
2015 WAYV 95.1 NJ Atlantic City, ID stable for 3 hours, called in for a request and got put on the air

Below TX-900 JVC Tuner used with better ADJ rej qualities, antennas still in attic.

26 Tr

1421 WHRV 105.7 NY Endicott, ID, signal fair, but with many fades 131  
1608 WQXA 105.7 PA York, farthest PA to date, ID-Q106, went York area, later came in better, 4 hours with deep fades! 148  
1624 WSTW 93.7 DE Wilmington, fair signal with much fading 106

27 TrS

2159 WGCB 96.1 PA Red Lion, ID-This is WGCB Red Lion PA, over semi WLEV! 2 mins. in 144

28 Tr

0653 WJLM 106.5 PA Bloomsburg, Pover 106, area went. signal steady but weak 121  
2023 WLEV 99.3 NY Ellenville, ID and pretty stable signal 56  
2036 WSKG 89.3 NY Binghamton, ID, address given P.O. Box 3000, signal poor/scratchy 126  
2134 WRFY 102.5 PA Reading, ID, weak and scratchy, not heard in 2 years plus 101



## BILL NIENAJADLY'S REPORT - CONTINUED

MARCH 1989

1 Tr/Ea/TrS

0629 WHYY 90.9 PA Philadelphia, ID signal steady but QRM from local 91.9 (WNTI?-gc) not heard in a long time 83

0735 WMMZ 93.7 FL Ocala, 2-93.7 Laser Hits and North Central Fla. went, 46 dBm in for 5 minutes, no other DX via Ea 950

0752 unID 95.3 mentioned Hamilton & McCobb

1234 WDMH 95.3 PA Honesdale, local ads, went weather for area, weak to moderate, WPLJ 95.5 QRM, positive ID heard later 76

1834 WDST 100.1 NY Woodstock, ID w/Z-100 splatter, signal full quieting a few sec. 79



TX-900 JVC Tuner a lot better than GE portable, specs, 1.0 capture ratio, image 80 db, IF 100 db, sens 1.8 mwa, alternate 80 db (400 khz), 70 db (300 khz), tunes in 50 + 100 khz steps. Major complaint: must push in mute out everytime you change the frequency for DX. About \$240; not bad; but satisfied for now. Still must put antenna outside for better results. Adjacents like 94.5 WCHR, WLEV 96.1, WNNJ 103.7, WAEB 104.1, WBLI 106.1 now almost semi-locals with medium spillover from NYC. Also a lot of cable leakage in my area with local 92.3 NYC on 91.7 in stereo, I'll let you know how much better things get DX wise... Does anyone know of a gospel and nostalgia (40s-50s) station on 91.5? I keep hearing them, mornings 6:30-7:50, before I go to work when local WNYE is off. It comes in very brief (2 or 3 seconds); any insight would be appreciated-BN GOOD DXING!, Bill

## GREG CONIGLIO - 500 GLENWOOD DRIVE - WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

EQUIPMENT: Pioneer TX-9100 tuner, radio shack 5-element roof mounted 20'

AGL, archerrotor and coax used.

FEBRUARY 1989

21 Tr

2144 WKQZ 93.3 MI Midland, rp o/WNSE, slogan, "Z-93 / KQZ", into ADR by Van Halen. (new, ex:93.5, never heard there)

MARCH 1989

7 TrS

1602 WNTI--91.9-NJ-Hackettstown, Top 40 (Banques), legal ID into more Top 40 (Information Society), signal was strongest I've ever heard them.

8 TrS

LOCAL WBLK 93.7 DEPEW/BUFFALO NOTED OFF AIR

1852 WLVH 93.7 CT Hartford, Spanish language program, only 2nd CT heard (other was WHCN)

WSTW 93.7 DE also noted, along with CFHO 93.9, and a station on 93.9 to the southeast that was very likely WKXZ Norwich/Danbury, NY.

There has been no real DX of any kind here in Western New York in February and March (so far). Also, troposcatter and groundwave to Detroit seems much less strong this winter compared to last; conditions have been dead for some time. Hopefully things will pick up in late March and April when things start warming up. 73



Post Office Box 2309 • Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29574

STATION NEWS: WZZU 93.9 Burlington/Raleigh/Durham, North Carolina, formerly Top 40 and "94-2" has changed its slogan to "U-93.9", with more of a rock oriented approach. WKTC 104.3 Tarboro, NC (coastal Carolina) has moved to 96.9 and Goldsboro, thereby deleting WEQR there. 104.3 is empty for now (Thank you Matt Sittel for that info!) KNX-93.1 Los Angeles has changed to KODJ; format: oldies. Easy listening KIQQ 100.3 in Los Angeles is expected to change to a top 40 format soon. There has been a station testing quite close to Clarence, New York (to the Southwest) on 96.5, presumably the new Dunkirk/Fredonia, New York station. They had stereo, but no idea on calls or format yet.

Logos this month courtesy of: Bill Kretschmer, Matt Sittel, Larry Funn, and Joe Fela. Thanks!

73, Greg

# A COMPARATIVE TEST OF HEADPHONES UNDERWATER

by Alain Pepin

Summer is almost here, this means water sports for many of us, leaving the radio behind: an unthinkable situation to a hard core DXer! That's why they came up with water resistant radios... or are they? I tried out my own WM-F45 using different kinds of headphones. I'm surprised I even got results, but here's how they fared:

SONY MDR-W15: The best sounding headphones u/w. They're actually louder during immersion! Less conspicuous than "Mickey Mouse" ears, they do have drawbacks. They're light, and the split wire gets in your way. A solution is to run the wire on your back and cover it with a shirt, a B.C. or a P.P.D.

ROTEL RH-711: Great sound and fast flooding make these one the best full size h/p tested. Get a "Y" adapter and let your buddy in on the action.

REALISTIC PRO-10: They had the highest buoyancy rating. Ever seen CTV's "The Last Frontier"? Anyway, they offer strong sound but only medium fidelity u/w. They float so much they'll take the receiver up with them before you can say "Beam me up, Scotty!" Best for on-board listening.

SOUNDESIGN 338: Nice sound quality but volume had to be really pushed up u/w. Depth and volume are always inversely proportional with full size h/p and these give you a real blast upon surfacing.

\$2.50 SPECIAL: Personal stereo h/p do work u/w, but I like better the full size because they hold better and a strong coiled wire tangles less than a thin split wire. Also, I'm having a liquidation sale on good used ears so now is a great time to buy! Have fun!

Next time, matching the right antenna with the right buoy, how to prevent boat propellers from chopping your longwire and fishing for QSL cards. 73s and gud DX

Globber blobble glub glub!

P.S. This bona fide article was written following actual experimentation under controlled conditions and represents the views and opinions of the writer, who is among other things a certified open water diver.

P.P.S. Whatever possessed me to submit this to an FM/TV club, VHF reception was virtually non existent!

# ANARC UPDATE

ANARCON '89

It's April and spring has finally arrived. With our crazy winter weather, we thought that spring would never come. It won't be long before summer is here. And summer means another ANARC convention. ANARCON '89 will be held from July 14 to 17 at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Petersburg, FL. The convention will have a Latin American and Caribbean theme. Expected seminar topics will focus on broadcasting to and in the Caribbean region, Olandistine radio and DX'ing Latin America. The festivities will include the annual ANARC Banquet, the WRTM Quiz and the International Broadcasters Forum. For more information and to reserve a room, contact Jeff White, c/o ANARC 1989, P.O. Box 272301, Tampa FL 33688, or call Jeff at 813-384-2354. There are only a limited number of rooms and this will be a well attended convention, so make your reservations as soon as possible.

The Boy Scouts are looking for a few good SWL's. They changed to radio merit badge to include Shortwave Listening activities and they are looking for local SWL's to advise troop leaders and evaluate individual merit badge efforts. If anyone is interested in volunteering, contact your local Scout council.

The FCC dropped plans to put labels on receivers that picked up frequencies covered under the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. The ECPA is too complex to make a simple label meaningful.

## SPRACHMAN'S CORNER

### New York Media Briefs

As mentioned in last month's VUD in various places, the final switch in New York City's great radio station shuffle was completed on February 1st. The "Great 98" became the "Greater 1050" when WJVD moved from 97.9 to 1050. WSKQ-FM took over the 97.9 spot. WSKQ-AM remains on 620 kHz with separate programming. Both "SKQ's" broadcast in Spanish. WJVD gave up its FM frequency for the money. The money was needed to keep "The Forward" operating. The Forward is America's only Yiddish language newspaper. Up until a few years ago, it was a daily. Now it is a weekly newspaper. With the declining use of Yiddish in New York, the paper has fallen on hard times.

WJVD is an interesting station to listen to. Its format is very varied. In the morning they have a program featuring big band music. This is followed by the Art Raymond Simcha (Simcha is Hebrew for "A Happy Occasion"). This is a one-of-a-kind show on American radio. The show features Jewish, Yiddish, and Israeli music, from classic to contemporary to silly songs. (My favorite are the Klezmer pieces Art occasionally plays.) Art is hard to describe. He calls himself the man from "Borough Park" and he's "Glatt Kosher". At 2pm, Danny Stiles Nostalgia show takes over with music from the 1920's to the 1940's. The Afternoon drive time program is the Greek show with Ads and traffic reports in English. After 8pm is more Big Band and Jazz music. Also, WJVD carries the NY Islanders games.

WSKQ-FM has caused major changes in the listening habits of the Hispanics in the New York Area. WQHT ("HOT 97") and WRKS saw an immediate loss of listeners. The Spanish language AM Stations WADC 1280, WKDN 1360, and WJIT 1480 have poor coverage areas outside of New York City. All have stations on adjacent frequencies in the suburbs. WADC has taken a unique step to increase its coverage range. It has applied to purchase WGLI 1290 in Babylon NY. WADC plans to close the station, thus making its signal more audible in Suffolk County. WGLI has been in financial trouble for years. Last year, the oldies station got rid of most of its staff and replaced it with a satellite music service (with "Zippo in the Morning").

Wometco Home Theatre (WHT) is no more. W60AI is no longer scrambled. We now have a second Home Shopping Club program that is different from channels 67 and 68.

Where's W53AA? They were on testing one night in January, but not since.

I caught an announcement on W44AI that they were putting on a rebroadcasting station in Brooklyn on channel 54. They said the station was to be on the air in early February. I heard the announcement in early March. I am unable to confirm if they are on the air yet. I did receive an Un-ID on Ch 64 with the antenna pointed towards New York City. Any one have any ideas what this can be.

## A.N.A.R.C. UPDATE

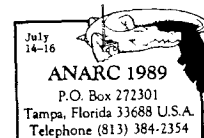
(continued)

Pirate radio station WMCB 91.7 Massapequa claims to be licensed to a Massapequa Educational Organization by the FCC. They claim to be legally broadcasting with 250 watts. Is there any truth to this? (Their sign-on announcement did fail to give the location of their transmitter!) They are on the air on a regular basis in Stereo. All the other pirates remain active with regular broadcasting schedules in Stereo. Do other areas have as many pirates as Brooklyn and Nassau County?

Finally, be on the lookout for the Spring/Summer edition of a magazine called TRAVEL SOUTH. They promise to have an article called "Radio on the Road". As per the last issue, "You'll find that radio programs across the South are as distinctive as the towns and cities from which they broadcast".

That's it for another couple of months. '73's,

Steven P. Sprachman.



## THE DX'ING PUZZLE

Circle the words below that relate to DX-ING

N A R R O W B A N D  
U A S R P A N N E L  
A U R O R A L U H F  
V E R T I C A L U C  
H I T O W E R L A H  
F K Y R G E B Q O A  
B E A M T J I F M N  
S C A T I R E Z U N  
S C A L M M O I F E  
E C O D U C T P X L  
S I O F R I Z R O I  
K O F A Q G B E S F  
I D A D X E R A T G  
P O P F S E T M R H  
W T F D A E L P T V

### ANSWERS:

MUF	WTFDA	ESKIP
TOWER	VERTICAL	SCA
NULL	VHF	OFFSET
UHF	COAX	CHANNEL
SCATTER	BEAM	NARROWBAND
TROPO	FM	DUCT
PREAMP	ROTOR	AURORAL
DXER	LPTV	

From BILL NIENAJADLY 98 HIGHLAND AVE. CLIFTON N.J. 07011

SOLUTION on page 27.....

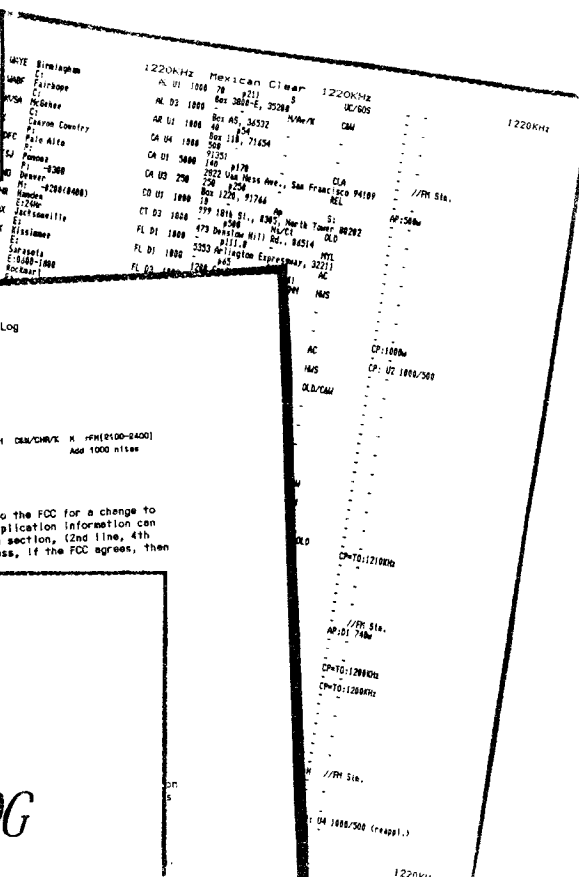
.....GOODXING!!!!

*Bill Nienajadly*



# FOR AM DXERS!:

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 AP = Application; someone, somewhere has applied to the FCC for a change to an on-the-air station (AP# U1 1000/1000). Application information can be found under the Station Status Information section, (2nd line, 4th column). This is the first step in the process, if the FCC agrees, then construction permit.

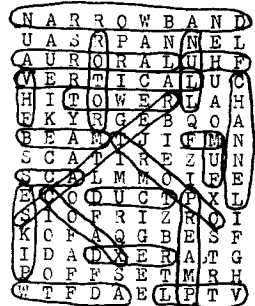
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## THE DX'ING PUZZLE (SOLUTION - FROM PAGE 25)

ANSWERS:

- MUF, TOWER, NULL, UHF, SCATTER, TROPO, PREAMP, DXER, WTFDA,
- VERTICAL, VHF, COAX, BEAM, FM, ROTOR, LPTV, SKIP, SCA
- OFFSET, CHANNEL, NARROWBAND, DUCT, AURORAL
- BILL NIENAJADLY 98HIGHLAND AVE CLIFTON N.J. 07011

## STATION BREAK

WTFDA  
 P.O. Box 514  
 Buffalo, NY 14205-0514

WTFDA member ads only. Items may be edited to conserve space.

- WANTED - Any 89 WLS, Big 10 WCFL and 95.5 WDFW Chicago airchecks (scoped and unscoped). Also, any promotion from these stations and other Chicago stations. Promotion includes music surveys, stickers, buttons, etc.  
 Bill Kretschmer - 104 Kopp Ave. - N. Syracuse NY 13212-1606
- WANTED - Desperately wanted: Winegard PA-4975 UHF booster. No help from Winegard factory nor dealers in my area. I'll have to skip phone contact - never know when I'm coming or going.  
 Lee Anthony - 2902 Myrtle St. - Erie PA 16508-1841
- WANTED - Information on where I could buy a Teknika 6510 or 6510-T (new or used) remote tuner.  
 Paul Estes - 476 Val Mar Dr. - Kewanee IL 61443

FOR SALE - Onkyo T-9090 tuner, great shape, \$280.  
 Lee Anthony - 2902 Myrtle St. - Erie PA 16508-1841

YOUR non-commercial ad can appear in the VUD free of charge! Got a piece of DX gear you'd like to sell? Looking for something? Advertise in STATION BREAK. This feature appears on a space available basis. WTFDA and the VHF-UHF DIGEST assume no responsibility for any claims made by advertisers--our trust is implicit, as fellow DXers.