

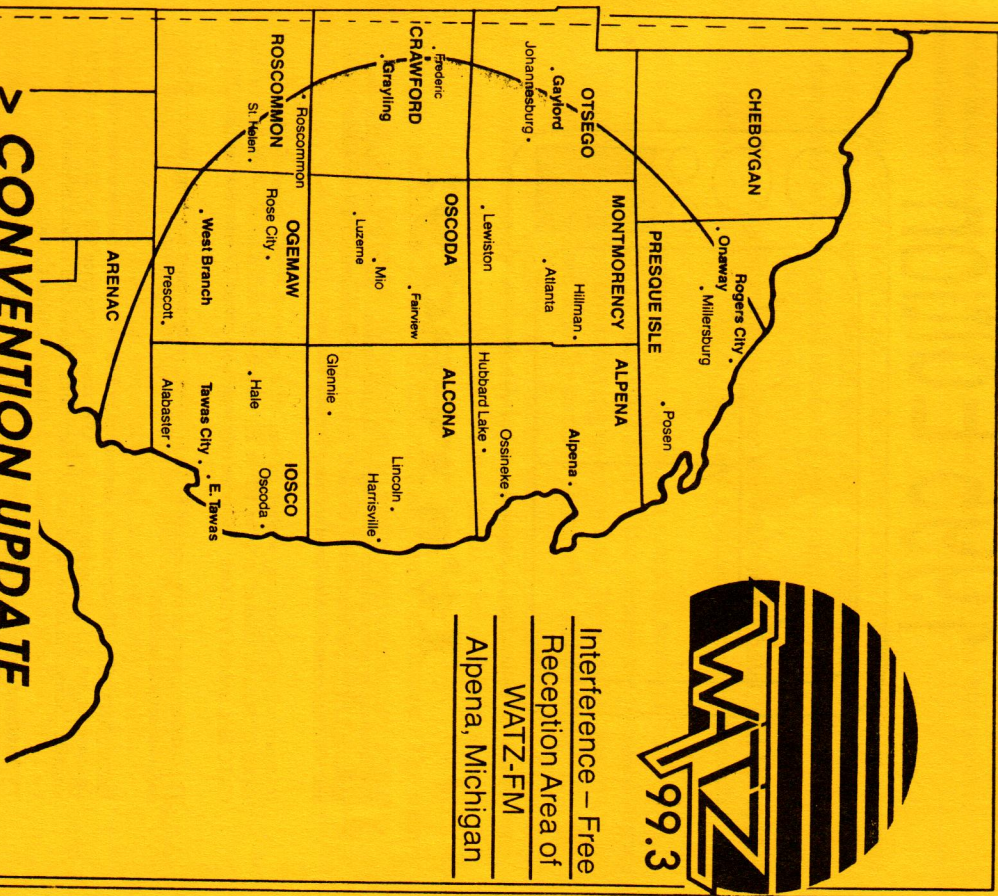
Wf-FM DX DIGEST

The Official Publication of the Worldwide TV-FM DX Association

MAY 1995



Interference - Free
Reception Area of
WATZ-FM
Alpena, Michigan



> CONVENTION UPDATE
> IT'S E-SKIP DX TIME AGAIN!
> THOSE SILLY LITTLE DISHES



WORLDWIDE TV-FM DX ASSOCIATION
POST OFFICE BOX 514-BUFFALO, NY 14205-0514-U.S.A.



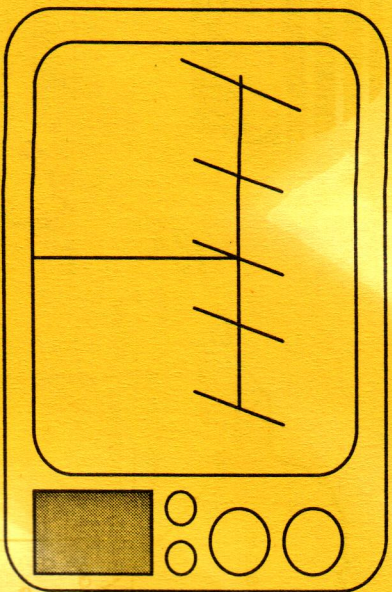
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first class mail

USA TV Database

1995 Edition



It's ready!

The Database is now available. 319 pages of DXable stations. All U.S. and Canadian stations, including LPTVs, are listed (well, almost... Due to space limitations, LPTVs in Alaska, Yukon, and NWT are omitted). Also listed are many Mexican stations.

Information listed includes city & state, call sign, offset, power & HAAT, tower coordinates, and network. Stations believed to be on the air are marked. All data is based on official FCC and CRTIC files, updated by DXers. This is the only reasonably-priced TV reference that lists LPTVs. The Database comes on pre-punched 8-1/2x11" sheets, ready to insert in a 3-ring binder. There's room for notes & updates.

Introductory offer: If your order is postmarked by June 1st, you can have your own copy of the Database for just \$15 postpaid in the U.S. After June 1st, the price will be \$16.95 to WTFDA members. Sorry, I'm not set up to accept credit cards. Please send a check or money order to:

TV Database
Doug Smith
1385 Old Clarksville Pike
Pleasant View, TN 37146-8098

Canadians: due to higher postage costs, I have to charge US\$17 until June 1st, US\$18.95 thereafter. At current exchange rates, that's CDN\$23.80 until June 1st, CDN\$26.90 thereafter. I can accept checks on Canadian banks. Outside the U.S. and Canada, please write for details.

SPECIAL REPORT: WTFDA CONVENTION

(Written by convention coordinator Tom Bryan)

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a full page announcement that may come as a bit of a shock. Boston is OUT...Upstate New York (Lake Placid area) is IN!

Your initial reaction is probably similar to mine...oh, no! Not another colossal foulup!

Fortunately, the answer is no. In fact Peter George's difficulties in securing an acceptable facility in the Boston area may have turned out to be the best thing that could have happened to our '95 gathering.

I've seen the promotional pieces from the Whiteface Chalet, and I've spoken with the people that run the lodge. We have a winner here in all respects!

Not only is this a lovely facility...we have a crack at having it to ourselves...nobody on the premises but dxers! The owners are personal friends of Peter's and are excited about having us as guests. They realize that our hobby is unusual...and are actually curious about what this 'thing' is.

As you read more about the facilities in updates, I feel relatively sure that you are going to come to the conclusion that this is a MUST DO event.

The price package is unbeatable...particularly for a resort area. The rooms are very large, and those of you who plan to make reservations are urged to consider booking up to 4 per room. That's how many beds there are in each unit.

Now, to a few things you didn't know about the '95 convention...things you SHOULD KNOW!

The 'window' for bidding on sites was very narrow...too narrow...(hindsight is a wonderful critter). No bids were received...not even any nibbles.

Keeping in mind recent convention-related problems, and having just been named convention coordinator, I made a commitment to see that WTFDA would have a convention this year, and that it would be a good one.

With that target set, I made several phone calls to members I considered capable of hosting our annual fling, and trustworthy to carry the job through to completion.

FMA NEWS

MPR 1995

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Many of the items listed in this column are taken from the publication:
M Street Journal - 304 Park Ave. So. 7th Floor - New York, NY 10010
PHONE (212) 473-4668, FAX (212) 473-4626

KEY:
GA: granted amendment to table of FM allocations
PG: power change granted (increase)
PG-: power change granted (decrease)
GE: station was granted extension of expired CP
LC: filed for license to cover (for new stat.)
CC: call change/new calls assigned
CC-: new xmt co-ordinates
CCX: a CP has expired, and is cancelled
C1, C2, etc: change in class status
DA: directional antenna
DE: calls deleted, license returned to FCC
FC: station format change

PK-: a power change (decrease)
PG-: power change granted (increase)
PG: power change granted (decrease)
CC: frequency change for this station
DG: frequency change granted
RA: station returns to the air
RE: station requests extension of a CP
RK: station requests re-issuance of an expired CP
SG: station change or update
SI: station is silent
XC: station granted a transmitter (xmt) site change

UNITED STATES:

ALABAMA:

Andalusia: *NS 100.3 AF
Baylor: *NS 93.5 adds SMN Real County
Brierley: *NS 93.5
Carnation: WZBO 94.1 CC (ex WZCQ)
Chadwell: *** 106.1 GA to add class C3
Dadeville: WVDV 88.7 PG-3 to 100 kW (N), 3005 DA
Flint City: *NS 88.1 AF
Florence: W213AP 90.5 NS-19w; WAFR 88.3 Tupelo, MS
Greenville: WCKN 95.9 FC to 2 kW, 275m, XC
Huntsville: W244X 96.7 NS-250w; WFRSA 96.9 Decatur
Jackson: *NS 34-44-16/96-31-57
Mendenhall: WDUJ 94.1 CC (NS)
Ozark: W219BD 91.7 CC: 31-22-50/85-41-30
Selma: WJCA 106.3 NO-CX-DE
Sheffield: WAKD 89.9 CC (NS)
Trinity: WWHX 92.5 FC to hot AC, CC (ex WAZX)

ALASKA:

Anchorage: KANH 90.3 NO-FE
Bethel: KRYD 100.1 RA with religion
Dillingham: KPYD 99.1 NO-GE (3rd)
Seward: *** 105.9 GA to add class A
Wrangell: K235AD 94.9 LC

AMERICAN SAMOA:

Fagafua: KPFI 103.1 NO-GX
Bardot: *NS 103.9 1.4 kW, 659' Bisebe: *NS 90.9 55w, 2217 ft
Camp Verde: K285AC 104.9 on the air
Chine: *NS 107.3 3618 w, 1630 feet
Coolidge: K2BR 103.9 FC to top 40 The Blazer* (Phoenix)
CC (ex K4ZP), PC-1.4 kW, 1345 ft, XC: 33-00-11/111-40-28

ARIZONA:

Agua Fria: K235AD 94.5 LC (KJAFK/RE Little Rock)
Bakersfield: KZLE 93.1 granted class C
Chandler: KGMF 91.7 NO-CX-DE
DeQueen: KDON 92.7 adds "After Midnight"
Jacksonville: KDDK 100.3 FC > 85 kW, 321m, XC
Monticello: K235AD 94.5 LC (KJAFK/RE Little Rock)

ARKANSAS:

Batesville: KZLE 93.1 granted class C
Chandler: KGMF 91.7 NO-CX-DE
DeQueen: KDON 92.7 adds "After Midnight"
Jacksonville: KDDK 100.3 FC > 85 kW, 321m, XC
Monticello: K235AD 94.5 LC (KJAFK/RE Little Rock)



FM NEWS

GEORGIA:

California:
Long Beach: KBUE 106.5 CC (ex KNAC), "Que Buena"
Long Beach: KNAX 97.9 GA: CL to East L.A. (class B)
Los Angeles: KLSX 97.1 will be flagship for the L.A. Raiders
Modesto: KATM 103.3 adds "After Midnight"
Oakhurst: KAAT 103.1 PG-500w, 1122 ft, XC: 37-25-10/119-44-42
Paterson: KZMS 97.1 NO-RE (2nd)
Pensacola: KSQL 86.9 NS-189w(V), KSQL 96.9 S.Fran.
Randsburg: KGBM 88.1 NO-RE (4th)
Red Bluff: KEGH 102.7 CC (ex KZAP)
San Diego: KSDS 88.3 PG-3 kW, 47m
San Luis Obispo: KJLG 98.1 PG-4.5 kW, 463m, XC
Shafter: KLYD 104.3 CC ex KH-A, FC to adult standards
Shingletown: KCFM 105.3 LC
Sonoma: KTLJO 102.1 CC (ex KPAZ)
Sutter Creek: K3AC 107.5 CC (ex KPAZ)
Victorville: KHMS 88.5 PG-150 w, class B1
Yermo: KYHT 105.3 NO-GE (2nd)
Yuba: K2177 91.3 NS-10w; KNSQ 88.1 Mt. Shasta, CA
XC: 41-36-36/122-37-28

COLORADO:

Buena Vista: K235AD 94.5 LC (KJAFK/RE Little Rock)
Burlington: K235AD 94.5 LC (KJAFK/RE Little Rock)
Cedar Creek: WMSG 88.5 NO-FE
Cedar Key: WNNM 102.7 NO-RE (3rd)
Century: WKG1 105.1 FC to urban AC "The Touch" (8)
De Funiak Spgs: WAKK 91.3 CC (NS)
Florida City: *NS 88.5 21 kW(V), 121 feet
Himnokalee: WGOQ 92.1 PG- to 4.2 kW, 394 ft, RA with WW1 Adult Standards (8)
LaCrosse: *** 99.5 GA to add assignment here
Lafayette: WJWF 99.9 CC (ex WHXQ), FC to classic hits "The Fox" (Tallahassee)
Marathon: WUDC 97.7 CC (NS), one step appl. for C1 PG- 100 kW, 466', XC: 24-39-40/81-25-04
Mableton: W222AV 94.3 NS-250w(V); WJWF 91.7 F, CC: 28-08-14/80-42-11
N.Port Pinery: WTB1 105.5 FC to classic rock, CC (ex WGLU)
Olando: WUFC 88.9 PG- to 40 kW (W), 44w (H) 194; DA
Orlando: WQMX 105.1 CC: 28-34-51/81-04-32 (1597)
P.L.Slube: WFBH 94.5 PA to class C, CL of Parker, FL
St.Augustine Bch: *NS 105.5 1.9 kW, 410 ft, granted class C3
Tallahassee: WAIB 103.1 CC (ex WJMN), FC to entry "B103"

CONNECTICUT:

El Lyme: W02Z 96.7 PG- to 5.8 kW, 92 ft, New Haven: W252S 98.3 NS-19w; WNNR 88.1 Monroe
CO: 41-17-38/72-58-23
S Kent: WGSK 90.1 PG- to 100w, 56ft, XC: 41-40-54/73-29-13

DELAWARE:

Dover: WRTX 91.7 NO-RE (4th)
Seaford: WSUX 98.3 CC (ex WECY)

FLORIDA:

Apoplahatchee: *** 105.5 GA to add class A
Cedar Creek: WMSG 88.5 NO-FE
Cedar Key: WNNM 102.7 NO-RE (3rd)
Century: WKG1 105.1 FC to urban AC "The Touch" (8)
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Tallahassee: WAIB 103.1 CC (ex WJMN), FC to entry "B103"

GEORGIA:

Athens: WUGA 91.7 PG- to 6 kW, 325ft, Non Dir.
Atlanta: WPCW 94.9 adds 70's odies at night
Brunswick: WFRD 100.7 CC (ex WBYB), "The Word"
Chamblee: WOLL 101.3 PG- 33 kW, 413 ft, XC: 32-13-01/83-13-32
Dalton: *NS 104.5 3 kW, 328 ft (34-49-42/84-53-41) W289CV 103.9 NS-10w; WAVM 88.7 Columbia, TN
Douglas: WDMG 99.5 de-emphasized amend. for class C1
Gary: WMIQ 96.5 OG to 96.7 (class A)
Helen: WHEL 105.1 FC to WW1 Odies (8)
Lundale: W212AR 90.3 NS-10w; WAVM 88.7 Columbia, TN
Toccoa Falls: *NS 88.3 AF (T.Falls College)
Valdosta: WWHQ 107.7 PG- to 13 kW, 433ft, C3
XC: 30-40-09/83-19-31
Warner Robins: WRPC 101.7 NC to 4.9 kW, RE
Warrenton: *NS 93.1 AF
Zebulon: WERK 92.5 NW, country (8) "The Bear"

HAWAII:

Hilo: KFSH 97.1 adds MGS (8) cont. Christian
Keleha: KAUI 103.3 NO-RE (4th)

IDAHO:

Caldwell: KARO 103.3 CC (ex KH-EZ) FC to 70's odies
Gooding: *NS 100.9 100 kW, 1578 ft, XC: 43-16-45/114-09-14
Ketchum: KRMR 104.7 NO-RX (3rd)
Pocatello: K286AF 101.1 NS-213w; KCVI 101.5 Blackfoot
CO: 42-52-26/112-30-47

ILLINOIS:

Arlington Hts: WGBR 92.7 drops over night sports for all alternative programming (Chicago)
Augusta: WAH1 98.5 NO-GE (4th)
Bloomington: W258AG 99.5 LC (WBI 91.1 L)
Decatur: WJMU 89.5 GX for PG- to 1650w.
Evanston: WCKG 106.9 adds Howard Stern
Flora: W219BL 91.7 NS-55w; WAFR 88.3 Tupelo, MS
CO: 38-39-51/88-30-48
Joliet: WLLI 96.7 FC to SMN Hot AC (8)
Kankakee: WLLI 96.1 CC (ex WZZZ), FC to odies "Valley"
Kewanee: WGNR 88.3 NO-RE
Neoga: *NS 98.9 AF (WSHY, Inc.)
Quincy: WNCOS 103.9 RA with adult alternative
CC (ex WZZZ)
Robinson: WTYE 101.7 CC (ex WTAY)
Salem: W217AK 91.3 LC (WAFR 88.3 Tupelo)
Tuloup: WLES 102.3 NW, adult standards, ranging from the 20's to the 90's

INDIANA:

Battle Ground: WMSK 98.7 CC (ex WITZ)
Berne: WZBD 92.7 PG- 4.1 kW
Corydon: WHKW 107.7 PG- to 96 kW, DA
Hempstead: *NS 91.1 AF (Ball State U)
Mitchell: W210AV 89.9 OG to 91.9 (CC: W220BF)
OWA:
Bedford: KOCS 93.5 CC (ex KTOR)
Cedar Rapids: KDAI 104.5 CC (ex KTRF), FC to soft AC
Davenport: KDDO 106.5 CC (ex KRVR), FC to classic hits, SG Q 106.5'
Des Moines: *NS 89.3 9 kW, 112 ft
Fairfield: KHQE 90.5 LC
Indianola: KSTM 88.9 LC
Iowa City: KSUI 91.7 granted non directional antenna
Newell: K242AM 96.3 NS-250w; KJYL 100.7 Eagle Grove
CO: 42-36-28/95-00-22
Oswawa: KOOD 102.3 NO-GE (6th), inc. to 643 ft



KANSAS:

KANSAS: KLEC102.5 NO-CX-DE
Antenna: KLEC102.5 NO-CX-DE
Lark: 106.9 GA to add class C1

KENTUCKY:

Kentucky: NS 100.7 AF
Beaver Dam: WCAK 100.7 NW, county
Central City: WZ9RAD 103.5 XC: 37-19-42/87-08-37

LOUISIANA:

Louisiana: KOKI 96.3 NC to 25 kW, but RE
Bayou Vista: KOKI 96.3 NC to 25 kW, but RE
Clayton: NS 107.9 6 kW, 328'

MAINE:

Maine: WMDI 107.7 NO-GX (2nd)
Millidge: WMDI 107.7 NO-GX (2nd)
Pittsfield: WPRC 99.5 LC

MARYLAND:

Maryland: WJLF 101.9 will carry Washington Redskins FB
Cumberland: WNGO 106.1 FC > 5.5 kW
Hawwood: WAAI 100.9 OG for 100.5, 6 kW, 328 ft.

MASSACHUSETTS:

Massachusetts: WBCH 104.1 will carry the New England Patriots
Boston: WBCH 104.1 will carry the New England Patriots
Concord: WUJZ 101.1 CC (ex WFAL), FC to modern rock

MICHIGAN:

Michigan: WZ5IAD 98.1 on the air (WGMF 106.1)
Benton Har: WFOI 92.1 FC > 1.6 kW, 183m
Berault: WFOI 92.1 FC > 1.6 kW, 183m

MINNESOTA:

Minnesota: KNEB 91.3 LC (MN Public Radio)
Bemidji: KSOE 94.7 PG- to 2.1 kW, 560 ft.
Caledonia: KSLU 96.5 Sh-returns their license to become a cable only at 99.9 amendment for 99.9-class A desc.

MISSISSIPPI:

Mississippi: WDTL 92.7 OG to 92.9 class C2, 50 kW
Cleveland: WDTL 92.7 OG to 92.9 class C2, 50 kW
Drew: WOHM 95.3 CC (ex WMCZB), FC > 6 kW, 100m, XC

MISSOURI:

Missouri: KZPD 104.1 CC: 37-15-22/93-41-14 @ 243 ft.
Ash Grove: KZPD 104.1 CC: 37-15-22/93-41-14 @ 243 ft.
granted class C3 status

NEBRASKA:

Nebraska: KNCY 106.5 FC- to 6 kW, 328 ft.
Auburn: KNCY 106.5 FC- to 6 kW, 328 ft.
Lincoln: KRK 93.3 FC- to new rock (Omaha)

NEVADA:

Nevada: KRUC 95.3 FC- to 25 kW, 768 ft.
Las Vegas: KRUC 95.3 FC- to 25 kW, 768 ft.
(Las Vegas: KRUC 95.3 FC- to 25 kW, 768 ft.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

New Hampshire: WAEE 96.5 NO-RX
Conway: WMLY 104.5 NO-RX (6h)
Gorham: WXLG 107.1 NW, WWY Country (3)

NEW MEXICO:

New Mexico: WXOD 98.7 NC to 1750w, 613 ft. GE
Winkler: WXOD 98.7 NC to 1750w, 613 ft. GE
New Mexico: WXOD 98.7 NC to 1750w, 613 ft. GE

NEW YORK:

New York: WDNW 98.9 NC to 88.1, 3 kW, GE
Bridgehampton: WLE 102.5 NO-RX
Bristol Cr: WNRV 95.1 FC to new rock 'The Nerve 95-1

NORTH CAROLINA:

North Carolina: WGWG 98.3 FC- to 50 kW, 302 ft. DA
Boling Spc: WGWG 98.3 FC- to 50 kW, 302 ft. DA
Davidson: WDAV 89.9 XC: 35-13-52/81-42-57

NORTH DAKOTA:

North Dakota: AF (Prairie Public Broadcasting)
Devils Lake: NS 90.3 AF (Prairie Public Broadcasting)
Fargo: KFGO 101.9 one step appl for class C1, 1000'

OHIO:

Ohio: WMBP 91.9 CC from 91.7, FC? 4.5 kW, 99m, XC
Bellevue: WMBP 91.9 CC from 91.7, FC? 4.5 kW, 99m, XC
Columbus: WLZA 107.5 NO-RX

OKLAHOMA:

Oklahoma: KRVO 90.9 adds MGS contemp Christian
Hokkeville: KHLA 106.5 FC to Christian country
Label: KBEL 96.7 GX for 25 kW was resched

OREGON:

Oregon: KBDN 96.5 CC (ex KALT)
Bandon: KBDN 96.5 CC (ex KALT)
Bend: KTWB 98.3 NC to 6.8 kW, 626', RE

PENNSYLVANIA:

Pennsylvania: W22AAU 92.7 NS-60.8w: WWFM 89.1 Trenton, NJ
Allentown: W22AAU 92.7 NS-60.8w: WWFM 89.1 Trenton, NJ
Clearfield: WOCR 92.7 FC to WW1 adult contemp (3)

PUERTO RICO:

Puerto Rico: WPRH 106.1 CC(NS)
Homigueros: WPRH 106.1 CC(NS)

RHODE ISLAND:

Rhode Island: WBRU 96.5 NC to 50 kW, 492 ft. GE (2nd)
Providence: WBRU 96.5 NC to 50 kW, 492 ft. GE (2nd)

SOUTH CAROLINA:

South Carolina: WFBC 93.7 FC to CHR 'B 93.7'
Greenville: WFBC 93.7 FC to CHR 'B 93.7'
Kingstree: NS 94.1 AF
Orangeburg: WNSO 96.7 NO-RX (4th)

SOUTH DAKOTA:

South Dakota: WYUN 102.1 CC (ex WYEQ), FC to soft AC (3)
Mankato: WYUN 102.1 CC (ex WYEQ), FC to soft AC (3)

TENNESSEE:

Tennessee: WAFS 92.9 CC (ex WRFRM), FC to rock
Bartlett: WAFS 92.9 CC (ex WRFRM), FC to rock
Columbia: WAVA 88.7 PG- to 16.5 kW, DA



TEXAS:

Arantia: KBUY 94.1 adds SMWN Real Country (8)
 Atlanta: KPVN 99.3 NC to 100.1, 50 kW, 472 ft.
 Bonham: KFTZ 98.3 PG-25 kW, class C3.
 CO: 33-33-16/96-13-24
 Cameron: KHLR 103.9 FC to modern rock
 "103.9 Express FM" (College Str-Bryan market)
 College Str: KTRS 92.1 NC to 107.3, 25 kW, 328 ft.
 Conroe: KHRT 106.9 FC to talk and religion (Houston)
 Corpus Christi: KBSO 94.7 PG-25 kW, class C3, DA
 Denton: KQVE 101.7 FC to soft AC, "Dove 101.7"
 Dimmitt: 100.5 GA for class C3
 Fallurus: K265DU 100.9 NS-25.0w; K265U 91.7 C, Christi
 Ft Worth: KEGE 97.1 NC to 98.6 kW, 1673, RX
 Gregory: 104.5 PA to delete class A
 Harter Hts: KLTJ 106.5 NC to 36 kW, CX
 Hereford: K214CC 90.7 NS-25.0w; WARR 88.3 Tupelo
 CO: 34-51-18/102-26-07
 Los Ybanez: KYMI 107.9 GA for 98.5 class C2
 Lufkin: K201CV 88.1 NS-90w; KYFS 90.8 San Antonio
 Neacogoodies: K2190CO 91.7 NS-90w; KYFS 90.9 San Ant.
 Odessa: KADM 107.7 GA for 107.9 class C1
 Orange: KOOC 106.1 FC to straight top 40
 Pearisall: 104.1 GA for class A
 Parnham: K214CD 90.7 NS-25.0w; WARR 88.3 Tupelo, MS
 CO: 34-14-05/101-47-25
 Port Isabel: KPVA 101.1 PG-4 kW
 Rockstown: KMIQ 105.1 PA for class 104.5 - C3
 Sherman: KWSM 104.1 reported SI
 Stephenville: KSTV 105.7 PG-90.3 kW, 2056 ft, class C
 TX, CL: Decatur, Texas, XC: 33-23-12/197-33-57
 Tyler: KVNE 89.5 FC-96 kW, non-dir.
 Wichita Falls: NS 88.7 AF (Cameron U)

UTAH:

Alta: K212BA 90.3 LC
 Midvale: KOMB 102.7 NO-FE (7th)
 Moab: K201CW 88.1 NS-25.0w; KANVZ 88.9 T, Falls, ID
 Park City: KPCCW 88.5 PG to 88.3, PG > 88w, 647m, XC
 Panguart: K243AG 96.5 NS-690w(V); K8BE 94.9 Cedar City
VERMONT:
 S Burlington: WXXX 95.3 NC to 95.5, yet, GE
VIRGINIA:
 Buffalo Gap: WZXI 105.5 CC (ex WSKO)
 Chesapeake: WMCC 93.7 granted change to class C1
 Churchville: WBOP 106.3 PG- to 7 kW, 574 ft.
 Crozet: WAFR 103.5 PG-3.28 kW, 446m, XC
 Edinburg: WOTC 88.3 LC
 Ettrick: 93.1 GA for class A
 Farmville: 92.9 GA for class A
 Manassas: WJFK 106.7 will be Wash. Redskins flagship
 Martinsville: WPM 90.5 PG- to 4 kW, 387ft, XC
 Monterey: WWS 89.7 NO-FE
 Norfolk: WUCD 105.3 CC (ex WMNN), FC to jazz
 SG CD 105.3*

WASHINGTON:

Williamsburg: WLEE 96.5 CC (ex WDCK), FC to 70's oldies
WASHINGTON:
 Bremerton: KPMN 106.9 SG Wiam 106.9*
 Roy: KMFI 89.7 NO-GE
 Royal City: KRQW 96.3 PG-130 watts
 Sunnyside: K216CP 88.1 CC from 91.1
 Wilson Creek: KVF 103.3 NW, Spanish "Viva 103"
WEST VIRGINIA:
 Barnadesville: WVUC 83.1 CC (ex WMNN), FC to country
 //WBUC 101.3 Buckhannon, WV
 Morgantown: WZMA 93.3 NO-GE (2nd)
 Ravenswood: WFRZ 106.1 GA, CL to Elizabeth (class A)
 Romney: WJUB 100.1 FC, adds jazz at night

WISCONSIN:

Eau Claire: WHEM 91.3 NO-GE (3rd)
 Menasha: WNCM 100.3 CC (ex WAUJ)
 Philadelphia: WHDG 97.5 XC: 45-22-50, 89-11-22
WYOMING:
 Buffalo: KLG 92.7 PG-100 kW, 26m, XC
 Ft. Bridger: 99.3 GA for class A
 Powell: 104.1 GA for class C1

CANADA:

ALBERTA:
 Cheate: CBVA 103.5 PG-165 w.
 Ft. Bragg: CKIZ 90.5 NO-CX-DE
BRITISH COLUMBIA:
 Cache-Creek-Kaslo: NS 105.9 new low power stn (17W)
 Kimberley: CJFW 92.9 NS-10 watts (// CJFW 103.1??)
MANITOBA:
 Gods Lake Narrows: CBWN 99.9 PG-456 watts
 Winnipeg: CKMM 103.1 CC (ex CKLU)
NEW BRUNSWICK:
 Clair: CJEM 104.3 NO-CX-DE
 St-Leonard: CJEM 95.1 NO-CX-DE
NOVA SCOTIA:
 Chatham: C777 106.1 NS-3 kW (Community station)
 Halifax: CBAF 92.3 PG-91 kW
 Heliport: CBH 102.7 PG-92kW
 Heliport: CBHA 90.5 PG-91 kW
 Sydney: CHER 95.0 the silent AM station has been granted a yet to be determined FM frequency

ONTARIO:

Ajax: CJCK 95.9 PG-5.11 kW
 Brockville: CHXL 103.7 PG-53 kW, XC
 Ft. Albany: CBG 102.3 PG-500 watts
 Midland: C1CZ 104.1 PG-1,500 watts
 Niagara Falls: CFJZ 91.9 BW, Tourist station is now stereo
 Pembroke: CHVR 1350 OG for 96.7, 100 kW
 Perth: CBOD 96.7 OG to 92.5 (to make room for above), will be 49 kW
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:
 Charlottetown: C1AN 90.3 NS-24 kW, to be community and culturally oriented (ex cable only station)

QUEBEC:

Donnacona: NS 100.9 3.1 kW, to be French
 Iles de la Madeleine: CBGA 88.5 PG-4.4 kW
 Iles de la Madeleine: CBMA 95.3 PG-4.2 kW
 Jonquiere: CHOC 92.5 PG-2,693 watts
 L'Ac: CFS 102.9 PG-5,315 watts
 St-Arve des Plaines: CFIC 100.1 NO-CX-DE
 Sainte-Croix-de-Lodhiviere: NS 105.5 to be a translator of the Donnacona 100.9, 18 watts

SASKATCHEWAN:

Carleton Place: C777 92.7 NS-5 watts, to be religious
 Saskatoon: CFQC 92.9 NW, country, "101.83 FM", CFQC moves from AM 600 (where they were also), FM power is now 100 kW, 640 ft.
YUKON:
 Pelly Crossing: VF2041 105.9 OG to 100.1
 Upper Landing: VF2038 90.5 OG to 96.1

BAHAMAS:

Nassau: NS 100.3 NW, urban "100 Jams". They also have a relay, either on 100.3 or 100.1 in Freeport

FM NEWS

Neil Griffin of Ottumwa, Iowa writes via Internet with some local information. KILBA 96.7 Albia, IA was recently reported as coming on the air. Neil notes, however, that they have gone silent on again as a result of complaints from the area made by KMEMM 96.7 Memphis, Mo. not all that far away from KILBA's Southeast Iowa location, about 65 miles apart (and KILBA is a full powered class C3, trampling over KMEMM's class A signal). KILBA was supposed to pay for technical costs for KMEMM to move to 100.5, something that has yet to take place. Also in this mix is KZBK Brookfield, Mo., currently 97.7 class A. KZBK is waiting for the KMEMM move so they can move to 96.9 and become a class C3. Neil also mentions that Iowa State Univ. wants class C3 89.1 in Ottumwa to relay 90.1 WOI in Ames, with news programming relayed from WOI AM 640. This conflicts with an application for 89.7 by Grassroots Community Broadcasting for that area, but Grassroots may agree to seek a different frequency. Neil also mentions that 104.3 (class C3) in Eldon, Iowa (near Ottumwa) is expected on the air this summer, in an MA deal with KKSJ 101.5 Oneonta, Mo. In a recent listing the WVVXMA station, which should have read "WVVXU Cincinnati", who is creating quite a network (also taking over a silent station in Crawfordsville, Indiana, recently). Thanks for the report, Neil!

Scott Fybus of Waltham, MA writes also on the Internet. He noted the April FM NEWS item about WGLL 102.3 Auburn, Indiana. He notes that WGLL is indeed running parallel to WGL 94.1 Rea, Ind. (WGLL is north of Ft. Wayne, and WGL is sort of SW of the city) but that these stations sometimes run separate from their AM partner: WGL AM 1250 Ft. Wayne. Scott wonders how these two don't overlap, as WGL-FM is right off I-69 with many of the other area towers, and WGL-LP FM is not all that far away. In Auburn, from my visits to Ft. Wayne, it would also seem to me that there is quite a bit of overlap between these two signals, not to mention that the owner has another station, WKQW 96.3 Chubbuck, also blanketing the area.

Bruce Eving of Esko, MN writes with some comments about the March FM News, and also says that the new FM Athens should be ready by "late March" so he'd like to have been ready for awhile now! I will shortly be ordering my copy, as all previous editions that I have ordered have gotten quite a bit of use, in both DXing and traveling! An excellent publication! Bruce has some questions about items appearing in the March VUD. On p.27 94.1 Salt Lake City is listed as KALL, but he correctly points out, it should read KODJ. The slogan of "Oldies 94" is correct though. Bruce wonders if WOWZ Whitesboro, NY (97.9) is "Stereo" if anyone within the coverage of that station can check, and whether the slogan of WBOZ 104.9 Woodbury, TN is "2105" or "3105". He also thought that WMCG Metter, GA should have been on 103.7, and not 104.9. I don't know on that one. I show 104.9 maybe a permit expired or something?

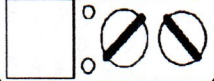
Randy Miller of Ashland, Oregon writes with some local changes (that appear in the "Oregon" section this month), and sends in some newspaper clippings from the *Medford Mail Tribune*. One article deals with the purchase of KDOV, AM 1300 in Phenix, Oregon, by the Tucson, Ariz based "Family Life Network". The new owners plan to broadcast on FM, specifically on 91.7, "in late May or June", said Perry Atkinson, the station owner and operator. (This will be taken over by another local religious group, and will become KAPL-AM.) Another article appearing in the March 17th edition of that paper announces the debut that very same day of KZZZ 106.3 Eagle Point, Oregon, with an unknown format (Randy mentioned that they are rock). They use the "Eagle" slogan and are located at 1016 Court St. in Medford, with a phone number of (503) 857-0340. Thanks to the following people for contributing this month: Tom Bryant, Matt Stiff, Randy Miller, Scott Fybus, Bill Kretschmer, Neil Griffin, Paul Mount, Pat Dyer, Bruce Eving, Mike Lazaro, Tim Noonan, M Street Journal, and special thanks to Mike Cherry and Dong Smith for providing hard to find official Canadian information!

NOTICE: THE 1995 WFTDA CONVENTION SITE HAS BEEN MOVED! IT IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR THE SAME WEEKEND, BUT NOW IN LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK, NOT THE BOSTON AREA. IT STILL SOUNDS LIKE PETER GEORGE HAS A GREAT SHOW LINED UP - SEE PAGE 3...

This August...
 Come and DX up
 in the 'Dacks!

TV News

Doug Smith
1385 Old Clarksville
Pleasant View, TN
371 46-8098



Abbreviations used in this column:

ERP= Effective Radiated Power in kW

HAAT=Height Above Avg. Terrain

nc= no change

TL= Tower Location

CP= Construction Permit

Pr= Province (of Canada)

*= Non-commercial

CRTC=Canadian Radio-Television Commission

DBS= Direct Broadcast Sat.

SS= Spanish language

LPRT=Low Power Relay Transmitter (Canada)

TBD= To Be Determined

CHANGES GRANTED TO EXISTING STATIONS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
PA 27 2138 346 WHTM Harrisburg
PR 44 2108 nc WVEO Aguadilla
(was 251kW)
SC 36 2213 520 WCTP Charleston
(TL: 32°56'24"N, 79°41'45"W)
(WTAAT-24 tower NE of town)
TN 28 229 279 WKZX Cookeville
(TL: 36°07'44"N, 85°20'47"W)
(about 5km NW of town)
(was 265m)

CHANGES GRANTED TO CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
CA 44 nc 451 KRPA Palos Verde
(New TL: 33°21'00"N, 118°21'05"W)
KS 33 74 72 nc KWCV Wichita
(TL: 37°33'58"N, 97°19'28"W)
(downtown Wichita. Was 3310kW)

APPLICATIONS FOR NEW STATIONS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
AB 17 5.2 Lethbridge; relist.
ON 6 87w Windsor; CHWI-16

CONSTRUCTION PERMITS GRANTED FOR NEW STATIONS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
CA 23 15 47 Ceres
(TL: 37°35'21"N, 120°57'23"W)
(non-commercial; owned by the ethnic organization that operates) (KBBS-89.5)
TX 16 211 83 Lubbock
(TL: 33°33'12"N, 101°49'13"W)
(co-owned w/KRPV-27, to be TBN)

CALL LETTER CHANGES

Was Now City, state
KKAK-61 KRAQ-61 Porterville, CA
KRBK-31 KPWB-31 Sacramento, CA
W32AC WKUN-LP Muncie, IN
none WFXZ-35 Jacksonville, NC
CHS03-13 CBAT7-13 Boletown, NB
CHS01-6 CBAT7-6 Bon Accord, NB
CHCR-4 CBAT7-4 Campbellton, NB
CHCN-6 CBAT7-6 Chatham, NB
CHS02-8 CBAT7-8 Doaktown, NB
CHM0-7 CBAT-7 Moncton, NB
CHS04-69 CBAT7-69 Parker Ridge, NB
CHS07-4 CBAT7-4 St. John, NB
CJAB-3 COM-3 Argenteia, NF

(call-letter changes, contd.)
Was Now City, state
none KZIR-15 Las Vegas, NV
KRIR-21 KUPN-21 Las Vegas, NV
W38AM WXNY-LP Long Island C., NY
CICAI0-22 CHLF2-22 Joggles, ON
WETG-66 WFXP-66 Erie, PA

The CBAT changes reflect the sale of New Brunswick Broadcast- ing's TV stations to the CBC. The Joggles, Ontario change is the result of the people of Joggles requesting a French-language station instead of an English-language outlet.

NEW STATIONS ON THE AIR

Fairbanks, AK: KFXE-7+:
I don't have any technical parameters on this one. Judging from the call sign, I'd assume this is a Fox affiliate.

Ketchikan, AK: KNRB-TV-42:
965W/-174m, 55°20'59"N/131°40'12"W
Presumably right in town.
Granted an operating license in late March. They sure built this one fast, note that the CP was granted just last month!

New Haven, CT: WTVU-59+:
100kW/261m, 41°25'23"N/72°57'06"W
on the WTNH-8 tower near Hamden
Reported on by several mem- bers, beginning April 3. WB affilia- te. IMAG'd by WTNH, and carries many WTNH promos. See "Other Stuff" for some interesting notes about this unique station!

Perry, GA: WPGA-58+:
1100kW/118m, 32°33'20"N/83°44'14"W
near Fort Valley, Ga.
John Combs saw this one test- ing early on March 22. Expected to be a Fox affiliate for Macon.

OTHER STUFF

It's been an unusually active month on M Street. The Canadian information is courtesy of Bill Hep- burn and Industry Canada's FTP site.

WTVU-59's appearance on the air marks the end of a bit of tele- vision history. Their construction permit was issued on June 24, 1951! Construction permits are generally valid for a few months, and are routinely extended for as long as five years. 42 years, on the other hand, is not standard practice! If any members out there have any more information on the history of this unique station, please send it to Tom Bryant at the address in the From the Staff or TV Time Tunnel columns; WTVU will probably be the subject of a future Time Tunnel.

Besides the channel 17 appli- cation in Lethbridge, two other ap- plications for Canadian religious stations have been filed. Mike Cherry advises one has been filed in Vancouver, but I have no techni- cal details.

Another group, in Dawson Creek, British Columbia, has ap- plied for Canada's first Legal TBN, channel 20 with 100 watts. The station would, in its first year, air 20: local programming, expand- ing to at least 50+ over the next several years.

Both this group, and the Leth- bridge group, have had their appli- cations returned for clarification.

FORUM

Richard McDonald, Buford, GA:

Richard asked me to explain the difference between an ADI (Area of Dominant Influence) and DMA. (Designated Market Area) I'd heard of the term DMA but didn't know what it meant, so I asked MSNV salesman Jim Geison to explain. His response is that "DMA" and "ADI" are essen- tially the same thing. ADI is Arbi- tron's word; DMA is Nielsen's.

A city's ADI consists of the counties in which the majority of TV viewers watch stations in that city. For example, if the combined viewing share of Madison's five sta- tions in Rock County, Wisconsin is 57%, while the combined share of Rockford's four stations is 41%, Rock County is placed in the Madison ADI.

APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
CA 7 nc 484 KIXO EI Centro
(TL 33°03'06"N, 114°49'41"W)
(within a mile of the KECC-9)
(tower near Quartz Peak)
NC 50 nc 548 WACN Raleigh
(TL 35°40'35"N, 78°32'09"W)
(WRAL-5 tower near Auburn)
NV 15 1058 601 KZIR Las Vegas
(TL 35°56'44"N, 115°02'31"W)
(KFBT-33 tower, Black Mtn.)
WI 57 3890 380 WJMN Janesville
(TL 42°41'08"N, 89°09'23"W)
(about 17km west)
(was 2510kW/317m)

APPLICATIONS TO CHANGE EXISTING STATIONS

St Ch ERP HAAT Call City
BC 26 34.8 nc CBUFF Vancouver
(was 146.2kW)
CA 25 500 675 KCAH Watsonville
MI 62 5000 418 WGNR Detroit
(TL: 42°26'50"N, 83°10'23"W)
(12700 W. 8 Mile Road, Oak Park)
(near, but not on, the other De- troit towers)
ON 3 72.4 nc CITO Timmins
(was 55kW)
PA 66 882 271 WFXP Erie
SA 13 103 nc CBKRT Regina
(was 319kW)

NETWORK CHANGES

Station Was Now
WTWS-26 New London, CT Ind IN
WTTX-20 Waterbury, CT HSC UPN
KFXK-51 Longview, TX Fox Fox/UPN
IN is Informall, Lloyd Paxson's all- infomercials network.

(Forum, McDonald, cont'd.)
Richard also asks how these relate to Rand McNally's "Basic Trading Areas" and "Major Areas". I have no ideal. Can any other readers explain these latter terms?

John Combs, Orlando FL:
Over the Internet, John wrote to note that WB affiliate WTMV-32 is advertising a second translator on channel 56 in Sarasota. They already operate W63BS in St. Petersburg.

Returning to Orlando, John says W40AQ is trying yet another format. After relaying W11BW (The Box), they've switched to a continuous tape loop. Programs have included a country music video, ads for "Brian Magne Productions", and old cartoons hosted by a rather poor announcer.

Pat Dyer, San Antonio TX:
Pat has appeared on the Information Superhighway...

First, as of March 31, he notes K02MK has finally found some real programming. (Long-time WTPDA members will remember Pat reporting this station airing a test pattern for several years!) The station is now carrying Bloomberg Informational TV. I've heard of several other LPV's carrying this; it seems to be an expansion of his business news stations WBBR-1130 New York and WBNW-590 Boston.

Pat has also found a new local LPV on the air. K48DS is fairly low power, as he first noted it under the signals of KTM-48, 200-mile DX! K48DS is operated by a local junior college and airs generic instructional programming.

Pat believes K67DW may be off, as all he sees there now is KHSB-67 Alvin.

Fred McCormack, St. Paul MN:
Fred provided quite a bit of information used elsewhere in this column.

He also notes that, on March 15, the FCC granted twenty UHF LPV's to the same coordinators in Fairbanks, Alaska! Indeed, I believe this group of LPV's leaves only two open UHF channels in Fairbanks!

Dennis Smith, Santa Barbara CA:
More news from Central California. Dennis took another trip in mid-March, this time to Masco. (near Bakersfield)

K58DU Bakersfield has made yet another change in programming. It's Home Shopping Spree until 8pm, then translates KMPH-26 until KMPH signs off, at which time it returns to HSS. KMPH has also added a translator on channel 40 in Porterville; I have no information on this one.

Going up to Fresno, Dennis asks, regarding K66CQ, O'Neals, "this one has always called itself 'KHSR Fresno'; could it officially be KHSR-LP now?" Good question. Unfortunately I know of no source for call changes except an expensive commercial service. The best way to tell if one of your local LPV's has changed is to watch over the hour. Presumably they wouldn't go through the trouble of changing call signs if they didn't intend to ID!

Another new shopping service has turned up on channel 68 in Fresno. It's called the "Video Catalog Channel" and auctions jewelry, paintings, etc.

Going back to full-power stations, KKAK-61 has changed calls to KKAG. (Why?) They've also dropped the Viavue home shopping for All News Channel. Merchandise Entertainment Television (yet another home-shopping service), and Bloomberg Information Network.

Danny Ogleshorpe, Shreveport LA:

Yet another secondary UPN affiliate. Danny says KFKK-51 Longview, Texas is now carrying the new network, along with its regular Fox affiliation.

Mike Bugaj, Entfield CT:

"New over-the-air television stations are like black-and-white sets. They don't make many new ones anymore." An interesting comment by Matt Buckler, TV/radio editor for the Manchester Journal-Inquirer.

Buckler was referring to WTVU-59. The station, which signed on April 3, takes over the WB affiliation for Connecticut; WB programs had been seen late Saturday nights on WTNH-8.

(Forum, Bugaj, cont'd.)

The reporter notes that channel 59 has been around for a long time, relaying WVT-30 for 23 years. Actually, the WVT translator (W59A West Haven) is a completely different operation, with a tower in New Haven proper, about 8 miles south of WTVU's. Mike asks, "Will the WVT xlr move or vanish now?" Yes.. It will definitely be bumped from the channel. Whether WVT will move it to another channel is a good question. My guess is that, with cable so popular and WVT having a fairly powerful main transmitter, they won't bother.

GM Murphy says the station is in the process of building a new tower, to be completed (hopefully) in October. WTVU is currently operating at the relatively low power of 100kW.

Buckler comments on the vanishing independent TV stations of Connecticut. Since 1991, WHCI-18 has gone dark. WTX-20, a former NBC affiliate and then independent, is now mostly home shopping. (though it does air UPN programs) And WTVS-26 New London has been sold to Paxson's Homecommercial network.

Mike Collins, Stratford CT:

Mike also has information on WTVU-59. The new station carries MOR Music Videos overnight. Most of the daytime programming consists of the traditional old sitcoms. When available, however, WTVU is relaying KTLA-5 Los Angeles with O.J. Simpson trial coverage. At 7pm, the station airs some more recent syndicated programming. (Rescue 911, Donahue, Extra, etc.)

"The studios and offices are at the channel 8 (WTNH-TV-ds) studios/offices in downtown New Haven. The antenna is on the channel 8 tower on Downes and Hoadley roads in Hamden CT. (WKTI 101.3 and WPLR 99.1 are on the same tower.)"

"Channel 59 was the longest idle FCC construction permit for a TV station in the nation's history. The CP originally was granted in 1953. Its original call letters were WELI-TV. The CP was sold in the mid 1960s and it became WTVU. The CP was sold again to RW-TV of Illinois, the current owner. Channel 8's parent LIN is operating channel 59 under a LMA agreement." Again, if anyone knows more about how this station kept its inactive CP for so long, or about why it took so long to build, please let Tom Bryant or myself know.

About the same time WTVU appeared, a new LPV has appeared in New Haven. W51BZ has been running tone and a slide "Best Video Hits". Mike says the signal is weak in Stratford, 15mi. away.

Another LPV has changed programming. Most of W28AV's day is filled with AIN, a program of old cartoons and movies. 8-9am and 4-8pm (4-9 Fridays), the station carries National Empowerment Television (NET). Finally, 5:30-6pm weekdays, they carry Bloomberg Direct. Presumably, this is the same business news network Dennis Smith mentions on KRAG-61. W28AV is listed as WNHW in the phone book, but Mike says their legal IDs on the air still say W28AV.

WVTH-LP-23 Southampton, Long Island (formerly W23AA) has also changed programming. They also run NET 8-9am, 6-7pm, and 8-11pm. Also carried are Network 1, MOR Music Videos, CNN Headline News, and Bloomberg Direct.

Finally, WNYX-LP-38 Long Island City. (Mike says their transmitter is on 90th St. in Manhattan) Mike confirms the call change - it was W38AW - and that the station has not yet moved to channel 39. Programming consists mostly of 900-number fortune tellers.

This LPV is also carried on five other LPV's:

- W63BT Amityville, L.I., NY
- W44AI Brooklyn
- W54AY Bronxville, NY
- W57BC Mineola, L.I., NY
- W07CB Philadelphia

Karl Zuk, Croton-on-Hudson NY:

Karl also has some information on WNYX-LP-38. For a few weeks, the station (but not the five translators listed above) carried a Spanish-Language home shopping net. Now, the stations have switched to "bizarre phone-in chat lines". Bizarre is an understatement!

The screen is split three ways. One box fills the left half; this box is in color & shows the host whose audio is heard. A second box, also in color, takes the lower right quarter of the screen. No audio is present from this box. Finally, the upper right quarter is occupied by a third host, no audio, and in black-and-white. All three pictures have phone numbers superimposed.

(Forum, Zuk, cont'd.)

Karl says that on occasion, they run the left half of a music video. (not the left channel audio—the left half of the picture!) All this craziness is simulcast on Parsippany, NJ radio station WMC-1310. At least it should be easy to ID!

Note that messages on Com-puserve in mid-April indicated WOTCB Philadelphia is for sale; programming may change soon.

Ben Wilkie, York ME:

A new TBN has appeared on channel 18 to the southwest of Ben's location near Portsmouth, NH. I don't list anything southwest of there, but W18AY Portland, ME was granted an operating license a few months ago. There's also a new Tele-mundo (W32AY Boston) on the air; Ben says "it seems weaker than Boston's 'Box' on ch. 33". How they got channel 32 and 33 in the same city is beyond me!

WZBU-58 was seen back on the air in early April, relaying WABU-68. Ben hasn't yet seen anything out of WJHT-21; this station is to eventually also relay WABU.

Ben is among a number of folks who wrote asking about LPTV directories. "...there seem to be quite a few now, and none of them ever seem to 'd.'! All too true! See the end of this column for a new source...

Charles Gauthier, St.-Lambert PQ:

Charles confirms that the "WMBI-27" reported in February Western-TV is indeed W27BI Plattsburgh, NY. The WMBI calls, and "TV-27", appear on IDs, but the real W27BI callsign also appears on all IDs— admittedly, in small print. Programming is regular independent syndicated stuff, and movies. Charles says they're a bit snowy but watchable in Montreal on an outdoor antenna.

Another LPTV has just shown up in Vermont. W39AS Burlington calls itself "Family TV 39", and is an affiliate of the Family Network. The signal is almost unwatchable, even on an outdoor antenna. (I think Greg Coniglio has also seen this station)

"Strange thing is I get the best signal by pointing the antenna in the station's opposite direction !!!" I've noticed a similar effect, with some Kentucky stations coming in better with the antenna pointed south! Maybe one of our more antenna-minded

members can provide a better answer, but I'll give it a try.

The TV bands cover a wide range of frequencies. It's very difficult to design an antenna (except a dish) whose directional characteristics are constant through such a wide range. I would imagine most Yagis and corner reflectors are not directional the same direction on every channel.

Bill Hepburn, Brampton ON:

Bill provided much of the Canadian information above. He also indicates that CTV-9 Edmonton is now on with Access, the Alberta educational channel. Bill says CIAN-13 Calgary also carries Access. This solves a mystery on my part; CTVL and CIAN appeared in databases about 2 years ago, but no programming information was available. Access is widely available in Alberta by cable and LPRTs; these are the first two full-power stations carrying it.

The "BBS" slogan seen on many Ontario CTV affiliates is also appearing in western Canada. CFC-8 Saskatoon and its relay stations are now using this slogan. I have yet to discover what it means!

DX ETC.

The word is "WOW"! I've shattered my tropo records yet again, with three loggings over 900 miles on the morning of April 9. Also logged a 680-mile channel 2 through a 25-mile local, via tops!

The database is now ready. See the announcement elsewhere in this month's VDU for details.

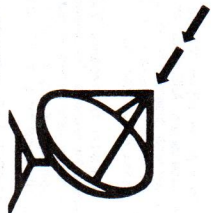
73 Doug

Doug Smith (W9MI/4)
185 Old Clarksville Pike
Pleasant View, TN 37146-8098
Internet 72777.3143@compuserve.com

20
WTXX-TV

SPRACHMAN'S CORNER

by STEVEN SPRACHMAN



After I gave up my position as WTFDA ANARC rep, I had great plans about writing great articles about Satellite TV. I wrote the following article months ago... I hope it helps those who have been thinking about purchasing a DSS Satellite system. I plan to contribute more articles in the future about Satellite TV from the viewpoint of a viewer and DX hobbyist.

DSS VS. THE FULL SERVICE DISH (OR THE LITTLE SILLY DISH VS. THE BIG UGLY DISH)

DSS, or "Digital Satellite System" has now been in operation for almost a year. Many articles have been written in video, home theatre, audio, and science magazines. With an ad on page 2 for RCA or USSB, the objective of these magazines should be questioned. The hype has been tremendous. All the articles I've read praise DSS as the Future of Television, giving a picture that is laser disk quality. Most articles mentioned the problem of rain fade, which is mentioned as a minimal problem, but few articles have mentioned any other problems with DSS. Most articles like to bash the big dish. They make it sound like the big dishes are obsolete. They make it sound as though the same programming is available on the little dish as is on the big dish.

The big dish has been around for over 20 years and the technology has been proven; it works under a variety of conditions. DSS has been around for only about one year. The technology works, but there are problems with it. It is slowly improving.

The picture quality on the big dish ranges from poor to excellent. This depends on the size and location of the dish and the power of the transponder on the satellite. (get an excellent picture on almost all the cable channels. On DSS, the picture looks good. To me, the picture looked dark on the demonstration television sets in several stores displaying DSS. This may be due to the sets being used and not due to the product. On some channels where the compression ratio was high there was some artifacts or breakup of the picture. This is not a major problem and probably won't be noticeable to most viewers. The quality of the picture will depend more often on the quality of the picture being downlinked off the satellite (which is what is being received by the big dishes). If the DSS dish becomes misaligned, or if there is a heavy local rain or snow storm, then the picture will either freeze-up or dissolve into little squares. On the big dish, rain and snow do not affect the picture quality on C Band, but can cause fading on the Ku Band. Under extreme weather conditions, there can be a total fade out on the Ku Band. Luckily, most of the programming is on the C Band. There are no artifacts as only analogue transmissions are available to the home dish market.

The sound quality on DSS is excellent. The sound is digital CD-like sound. The best aspect of DSS at this time is the approximately 25 commercial-free audio channels. On the big dish, only the encrypted channels have digital audio. But, there are well over 150 audio subcarriers on the C and Ku band. These include a wide range of music, foreign language programs, old time radio, talk shows and in-store radio announcements. For additional radio programming there is SCPC (Single Channel Per Carrier). Many radio stations, sports broadcasts, and syndicated shows are on SCPC.

When you walk into a store selling DSS, the first thing you see is "Up to 175 Channels of Laser Disc quality programming." Don't think that you will be getting 175 channels of programming. About 25 channels are the previously mentioned audio channels. 40 channels are pay-per-view with several channels of Video Nearly on Demand (popular movies starting every 15 minutes). The rest of the channels are the regular basic cable channels, the premium movie channels, and TV ASIA. I mention TV ASIA because it is the only ethnic service available on DSS. There is no home shopping and there is no religious programming. There are some regional sports channels, but the one called "SportsChannel" (SportsChannel New York, SportsChannel Philadelphia, etc.) aren't on DSS yet. There are other glaring omissions: AMC (American Movie Classics), BVAVO, and the regional superstations. Your local over-the-air stations are not on either sized dish so you would need either an outdoor antenna or basic cable. The new channels such as FX, The Game Show Network, Home and Garden TV, The Talk Channel, and Z Music are not on DSS yet (if ever). There are about 10 channels available on DSS that are not available on the big dish. The Encore Multiplex numbers 2 to 7, a Canadian channel called "TRIO," the "All News Channel" and a sports channel from Pittsburgh called "KBL" are found only on the little dish (or cable). The big dish has several hundred channels. Besides almost all cable channels, there are several Canadian channels a channel from Germany, a channel from France, one from Portugal, and one from Greece. There's TV ASIA and ASIANTV with Indian programming. There are two channels in Chinese and one in Korean. In the South, reception of the two Mexican satellites is possible. For those hobbyists willing to pay for fancier equipment, the satellites over the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans may be viewable.

There are over 175 free channels on the big dish. There are no free channels on DSS. If you stop paying for programming, then your equipment will be useless. And you pay no separate charges for programming DIRECT-TV and USSB. The cost of programming runs from \$7.95 to over \$80 per month depending on the package chosen. There is no alternate payment plans on DSS. The big dish allows you to pay only for those channels that you want. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$25 a year for the basic cable channels; \$80 to \$130 for a premium channel and approximately \$200 for a package of porno channels.

Now it is time for an editorial. DSS is basically a good product. It is a moderate priced alternative to cable TV. The size of the dish is less objectionable to the neighbors. The potential as a program provider is great. The promise of the future use of DSS for widescreen and HDTV will probably be realized within the next few years. But, I wish they would tell the truth about the product. They should stop making claims that they will give you all the advantages of a big dish. While I am not suggesting that they advertise the system's faults, they should train their salespeople better. I've heard such wild claims from some of the salespeople, I cringe listening to them.

If DIRECT-TV/USSB wants more subscribers and RCA wants to sell more DSS systems, they should lower the price of the equipment and the programming packages. They should allow for alternate pricing of channels so it can be added on to your basic cable, or if you have a big dish, to allow access by channels not available on the big dish. And they need a few free channels so that when you decide that you no longer want to pay for programming, the system is still useful. Finally, more "niche" channels and less Pay-Per-View (PPV). Do the movies really have to last every 15 minutes?

I could continue for another page or two, but it is best I stop here. I'm sure I will talk more about DSS in the coming months. And I'd like to hear from you. If you have DSS, tell me what you think of it. If you want to know more about satellite TV please feel free to write me at:

STEVEN SPRACHMAN - 15 Berry Lane - Hicksville, NY 11801

Until next time, 73s

WTFDA CONVENTION '95...(continued from page 3)

The nod of acceptance from Peter George took a big load off my mind. Here was an active member who had attended previous gatherings and knew what they were all about. That's a big plus.

I'll have to admit that I think my heart stopped beating for a few seconds when he called to inform me of the change...but once I recovered from the shock and began to soak up information about the Whiteface Chalet...the mood changed from skepticism to elation.

The proof will be evidenced August 4, 5 and 6; and I'm willing to bet that no one will be disappointed.

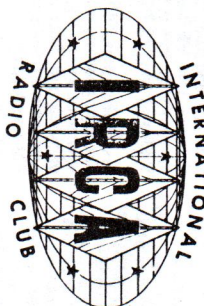
Why dwell on the complexities of convention planning and structure? Because they are a very serious item. We all seem to want to have an annual convention, but more times that I suspect anyone would like to admit, there's been some serious arm-twisting to get a volunteer host.

Pulling off a successful convention doesn't require the skills of Houdini, but prospective hosts should be prepared to expect the unexpected. No matter how well thought out your scheme...there will be a glitch (or several!). Quick thinking and positive action can and do save the day.

It has been stated previously in this space that our entire convention process is going to be thoroughly reviewed. The ultimate goal will be to begin planning at much earlier dates...so that, in effect, the conventions dovetail. For example, announcement of the 1997 convention site at the 1996 convention.

Your comments and suggestions are needed, and welcome for consideration. As a WTFDA member, you have a vested interest in the success of our annual **1**gatherings; and hopefully you will have ideas as to how they can be improved.

CONVENTION 1995



BOISE, IDAHO

JULY 14TH, 15TH & 16TH

For the first time in history, a major ANARC (Association of North American Radio Clubs) member club, the INTERNATIONAL RADIO CLUB OF AMERICA will have its annual convention in the State of Idaho.

The 1995 IRCA Convention will be held at the Owyhee Plaza Hotel, in downtown Boise on July 14th, 15th and 16th. In addition to the regular station tours, guest speakers, quizzes, equipment demonstrations, club auction and picnic, the convention plans to have a tour of the National Inter-Agency Fire Center, the Birds of Prey Center, and a Beverage DX'pedition. Door prizes are also planned.

Boise is generally located to many tourist destinations and the 1995 IRCA CONVENTION could be part of a larger summer vacation. Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks are only 7 hours away. Crater of the Moon National Monument, the Famous Sun Valley Ski resort and Hell's Canyon (North America's deepest gorge) are all less than 3 hours away. Just a few of the many sights to see in the region.

Several major airlines and buslines service the area as well as AIRTRAK.

For a registration form write: Frank Aden, Jr., N7SOK, 4096 Mercia Place, Boise ID 83704. Phone messages can be left at 208-377-5346 (No collect calls please).

BOISE 1995!!!!

Western TV DX Dave Pomeroy's report concludes

K4360 4.5 Topoka, KS (LPTV) (primarily repeats K4360 6 from Junction City, KS) (IDs as K0KZ-6; 10p daily)
 K1500 9.5 Wabash, KS (translates K0KZ-6)
 K1518 15e Northridge, MN
 K222K 22e Northridge, MN
 K222 22 Normal, OK is K222M or K222H? Have seen it several times with music videos.

A new LPTV on channel 14 is in Lawrence, KS and "on the air" sort of. I haven't seen it yet, but it is only 25 miles east on a hill and I suspect will be strong here. It is operated by the University of Kansas and has only been on the air for 30 minutes. That was in early February when I was in Washington, D.C. KU does not have the money to operate it and signed on briefly to keep the license and to televise the William Allen White ceremonies at the university. I would like to see them, but don't look forward to another good channel blocked. I did talk to someone in Topeka who happened to see them that day. He asked me what it was, but it may be an illusive station for a while. If anyone in the WTTDA saw channel 14 from Lawrence that day, they have a rare catch! I'll keep you posted on that one.

Not much (DX) lately. I don't include everything I see outside of my local area. Frequently seen are channels 3, 6, 7, and 42 from Omaha (KPTM-42 is always in, but sometimes quite weak), KHIN-36 from Red Oak, IA is always in and usually good and often like local KDBE-27 when local KSNB-27 is on. KMEG-14, 3, 8, 10, 12 and 24 from Wichita-Hutchinson, KS. KDOR-17, KRSC-35, KOKI-23, and KWHY-45 from Tulsa, KAAS-18 from Salina, KS and TBN-31 from Manhattan. Considered local in addition to Topeka are KMCI-38, WDAF-4, KCTV-5, KMBG-9, KCP-19, KSHB-41 and KSMO-67 from Kansas City. KATC-50 from Kansas City is good whenever KTKA-49 is off in Topeka. I have channel 38 and 49 traps, but they don't quite take care of the co-channel problem. Channels 17 and 25 in Columbia-Jefferson City and 30 and 46 in the St. Louis area are quite regular as well.

Pat Dyer (WASTYX), 5315 Silverlip Drive, San Antonio, TX 78228-2744

Equipment:
 Emerson 1987 model 872 VCR, used as the tuner ahead of a 9" B&W Keopsalter CCTV monitor. Archer V-100 and 8-bay bow-tie UHF array at 20' AGL with rotator

| August, 1994: | 3 MI | 1161 | 1020 | WJKB | 2 MI | 1238 | CST |
|-----------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 2 Es 1018 WMT | 2 IA | 960 | 1256 | WOTN | 2 OH | 1076 | |
| 1344 WAVE | 3 MI | 1123 | 1406 | WCIA | 3 IL | 931 | |
| 4 Es 0959 WSAZ | 2 OH | 1076 | | | | | |
| 6 Es 0959 WOTN | 2 PA | 1022 | | | | | |
| 1100 KDA | 3 GuA | 1120 | | | | | |
| 3 Es 1609 WMT | 3 MI | 1161 | | | | | |
| 9 Es 1029 WMT | 3 MI | 1244 | | | | | |
| 10 Es 1443 KOLH | 3 MI | 1244 | | | | | |
| 1859 KGE | 3 MI | 1289 | | | | | |
| 14 Es 0852 WAVE | 3 TN | 974 | | | | | |
| 1001 KTVI | 2 MI | 782 | | | | | |
| 19 Es 1101 WBY | 3 GuA | 1183 | | | | | |
| 20 Es 1824 TIG | 3 GuA | 1120 | | | | | |

September, 1994:
 28 tr 0555 KPLC 7 LA 340

October, 1994

03 tr 0257 XHRTV 57 Tam 147
 08 Es 1129 KGM 2 IA 960

November, 1994

18 Es 1959 WJLB 3 IL 792
 2222 WAVE 3 MI 1161
 2223 WAVE 3 MI 1123
 20 Es 0729 KGM 2 CO 802
 0729 KGM 2 CO 942
 1258 XHBC 3 BCN 1022
 21 Es 2232 XHBC 3 BCN 1022
 22 Es 1502 XHBC 3 BCN 1022
 30 Es 1759 KGM 3 SD 1071
 1905 WBY 2 WI 1183

December, 1994

02 tr 0526 KATC 3 LA 375
 05 tr 0340 WJLB 7 LA 446
 05 tr 0159 KPLC 7 LA 340
 06 tr 2126 KATC 10 LA 376
 23 Es 1403 KID 3 MI 1261
 25 Es 1101 XHBC 3 BCN 1022
 27 Es 1228 WJLV 4 AL 376
 1354 WJLV 2 AL 776
 1533 WJLV 3 MI 1090
 1429 WJLV 2 TN 819
 1536 KOIA 3 SD 1039
 0609 KPLC 7 LA 340
 0542 KPLC 7 LA 376
 0413 KPLC 7 LA 340

These are "first of day" only loggings (i.e., a re-log may've occurred 12+ hrs later), and the numerous days of unIDs are not listed.

The Ch 57 Fox station (in Nuevo Laredo) is a new catch. WTVY (ID under our local at 25 miles) was a new Es logging (prior by meteor scatter).

Neil Kazantoss 25820 Sunset Lane, Barrington IL 60010

Equipment:
 Antennas: CM428A 8-Bay, Chicken-wire screened CM7, Chicken-wire screened P7, Mitsubishi color TV. Antennas alternately used at 25 ft.

| December, 1994: | 32 IA | thru | local | all w/8-bay |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|-------------|
| 24 tr 1112 K81M | 28 WI | 1112 | K81M | 42 NM |
| 1113 WFTC | 29 NM | 1113 | WFTC | 42 NM |
| 1115 KRF | 43 MI | 1115 | KRF | 42 NM |
| 1122 K42M | 42 IA | 1122 | K42M | 42 NM |
| 1129 KX1 | 41 MI | 1129 | KX1 | 42 NM |
| 1143 K4B | 28 WI | 1143 | K4B | 42 NM |
| 1205 WMC | 22 WI | 1205 | WMC | 42 NM |
| 1220 W69A | 69 WI | 1220 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1250 W69A | 18 WI | 1250 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1306 W69A | 48 WI | 1306 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1328 W69A | 48 WI | 1328 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1351 KTN | 24 IA | 1351 | KTN | 42 NM |
| 1342 K14F | 14 IA | 1342 | K14F | 42 NM |
| 1343 K14D | 41 IA | 1343 | K14D | 42 NM |
| 1355 WJLB | 58 MI | 1355 | WJLB | 42 NM |
| 1448 K8B | 27 MO | 1448 | K8B | 42 NM |
| 1426 K08 | 40 AR | 1426 | K08 | 42 NM |
| 1428 K08 | 40 AR | 1428 | K08 | 42 NM |
| 1520 WJF | 58 AL | 1520 | WJF | 42 NM |
| 1600 W69A | 23 WI | 1600 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1820 W69A | 45 WI | 1820 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1858 W69A | 45 WI | 1858 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1890 W69A | 24 OH | 1890 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1920 K11U | 34 MI | 1920 | K11U | 42 NM |
| 1921 W69A | 47 WI | 1921 | W69A | 42 NM |
| 1923 K370C | 57 MI | 1923 | K370C | 42 NM |
| 1932 W69A | 42 AL | 1932 | W69A | 42 NM |

Yep, things were really hopping by now: was getting from MN to AL, to eastern OH to western IA at the same time and some stuff was

Western TV DX Neil Kazantoss's report continues

24 1640 W69A 31 MI s/f 2000 WJLV 49 IA
 2040 WJLV 44 MI s/f thru local
 2121 W3AV 53 MI (Chop, mass signal, not channel, did they move?)
 2200 WJLV 44 MI s/f thru local
 2207 WJLV 35 OH s/f thru local
 2233 W69A 48 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2235 WJLV 48 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2300 W69A 66 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2302 WJLV 69 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2320 WJLV 43 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2328 WJLV 51 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2330 WJLV 38 MI (Detroit, MI)
 2340 WJLV 67 OH (Toledo, The Box)
 2351 WJLV 61 OH (Detroit, MI)
 2359 WJLV 48 MI (Detroit, MI)
 25 tr 0013 W69A 64 IL (MTO-35 back on now)

0038 WJLV 51 AR s/f
 0136 WJLV 64 MI s/f
 0138 WJLV 68 OH w/VIA TV, transponder 6-3
 0140 WJLV 68 OH w/VIA TV, transponder 6-3
 0200 WJLV 22 OH
 0232 WJLV 44 MI (Detroit, 18 this them w/MSR bearing is perfect)
 0251 WJLV 43 IN
 0304 WJLV 18 MS network s/off
 0309 WJLV 44 FL v-pd peaks
 0358 WJLV 27 IL (Tidy, The Box)
 0400 WJLV 47 MI (Tidy, The Box)
 0403 WJLV 20 LA 10 in lower right corner during 7:00-7:30 peaks!
 0412 WJLV 27 MO (Springfield, TN)
 0430 WJLV 47 OH (Springfield, TN)
 0440 WJLV 38 IN (Evansville, TN)
 0446 WJLV 52 IN (Evansville, TN)
 0513 WJLV 15 KY s/f
 0529 WJLV 15 KY s/f
 0533 WJLV 14 MS CB
 0539 WJLV 42 AL CB
 0621 WJLV 60 AL TN just cutting in behind local, thank Frank Merrill for tip.
 1245 WJLV 29 IL (Decatur, TN)
 2151 WJLV 57 MI
 26 tr w/screened 87 now up
 0350 WJLV 33 IL
 0351 WJLV 15 MS CB s/f for over an hour!!
 0400 WJLV 24 TN w/TFD
 0405 WJLV 57 IL (Robinson, TN)
 0421 WJLV 44 bearing east TP w/44 in lower left with location under the 44, TT later but was too weak to see w/V44DF w/local off. Looked similar to what I remember I saw on WJLV on 11/20/94
 0433 WJLV 28 IL
 0458 WJLV 14 LA oddly only other deep south and was weak, while WJLV was still totally s/f
 0502 WJLV 44 MI same MSP ping as Chicago 38
 0555 WJLV 51 IL s/f
 1400 WJLV 25 OH
 1455 WJLV 45 OH
 screened on 7'dish now up. It is best of the three.
 1630 WJLV 18 MO (St. Louis, TN)
 1631 WJLV 21 MO (St. Louis, TN)
 1634 WJLV 21 MO (St. Louis, TN)
 1653 WJLV 57 MI (St. Louis, TN)
 1658 WJLV 52 KY (St. Louis, TN)
 1707 WJLV 42 OH
 1723 WJLV 16 OH
 1730 WJLV 42 OH

By now the deep south had died and opening had moved east, from Ontario to Kentucky, and extending into western NY and PA.

2038 CITY 57 OH | 2039 CBFL 25 OH

2040 CBFL 10 48 OH | 2048 CBFL 45 OH
 2049 CBFL 19 53 OH | 2100 WMT 57 KY
 On some channels the dish was able to separate video from 4 or 5 stations within the bearings of 60 to 180 degrees!

2102 CITY 31 OH 68 NY audio only w/local
 2113 WJLV
 Ford dealer and who I called to confirm
 2117 CBFL 17 68 OH | 2118 WJLV 67 OH
 2134 WJLV 36 OH | 2143 WJLV 53 PA s/f
 2145 WJLV 45 OH s/f | 2145 WJLV 49 OH s/f
 2152 WJLV 23 OH | 2158 WJLV 40 PA
 2159 WJLV 22 PA | 2203 WJLV 51 MI
 2220 WJLV 31 KY net s/off // many others
 2223 WJLV 23 KY net s/off
 2255 C1059 59 OH s/off
 2300 WJLV 54 OH (Bucyrus, TN)
 2301 CBFL 54 OH (Ashland, local sds)
 2310 WJLV 59 OH (Ashland, local sds)
 2344 C1032 32 OH | 2345 CBFL 34 OH
 2347 C111 29 OH TP | 2354 CBFL 64 OH
 0001 CBFL 115 34 OH | 0402 WJLV 35 PA
 0005 WJLV 21 W/MSR o/VIA bearing east
 0413 WJLV 23 OH | 0422 WJLV 55 OH TP
 0426 WJLV 16 PA P85 16 TP bearing east
 0430 WJLV 24 PA
 0432 WJLV 23 W/MSR bearing east, dummy but WJLV had ABC world rx here at 04:13.
 0438 WJLV 66 MI u/local
 0440 WJLV 65 TN (Terre Haute, TN)
 0600 WJLV 67 OH
 0615 WJLV 58 PA s/f and local-1 like!
 0628 WJLV 68 OH
 0659 WJLV 69 OH (Eastlake, WJLV-25)
 0700 WJLV 54 PA
 0706 WJLV 64 OH (Connetquot, WJLV-25)
 0800 WJLV 49 MI | 0800 WJLV 21 KY
 0812 WJLV 28 OH (Youngstown, WJLV-45)
 0850 WJLV 28 OH (Youngstown, WJLV-45)
 0924 WJLV 24 PA (Buffalo, OH)
 0925 WJLV 58 MI (Buffalo, OH)
 1000 WJLV 21 OH net | 1030 WJLV 33 OH
 1130 WJLV 52 OH v-speed

All this finally died by about 1330 when WPGH slipped away.
 Was changing antennas during this as a test to determine best antenna to put up on my tower for the coming season. Screened CM7 seems best and only way to beat it I think would be with an array of several 8-bay side by side horizontally, which I hope to do in next couple of months. My OTH is on somewhat high ground 35 mi NW of Chicago.

Todd Emslie, 13 Warren St., Rydal, Sydney, Australia 2112

Equipment:
 Com R7000 VHF/UHF receiver, DX labs
 UA700 VHF preamp (used in shack), 5 element 4.5-59 MHz Yagi, horizontal @ 30 ft AGL, 9 element 88-108 MHz FM/TV Triax Yagi (horizontal), 14 element 175-220 MHz ch 6-11 highband TV Yagi (Vertical), Emtora for 105T5 rotator used to rotate above antennas on 1st mast.
 14 element ch 6-11 Yagi (Vertical), 54-70 MHz 5 element Yagi (Vertical), 9 element 88-108 MHz Triax FM/TV Yagi (Vertical), Keipro KR4000 used to rotate these ones on 2nd mast.

SOUTHERN FM DX

Danny Burtin
1312 N. Skyline
Stillwater, OK 74075

DEADLINE: 14th

OFF SEASON DX SURE HAS BEEN DEAD LATELY

SOUTHERN FM DX IS FOR REPORTERS FROM: AL, AR, AF, CA, CO, DE, DC, FL, GA, HI, KS, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, NM, NV, OK, SC, TN, TX, UT & WY. Also this month Australia!

cont. from last month....
 Todd Emille, 13 Warren St., Ryde, Sydney, Australia, 2112
 1/13-95 ES
 1600 104.5 5RCB Kieith, S. Aust 2000
 1610 98.8 FM-96 Suva, Fiji (1kw)
 ES
 1624 100.9 3 WAY Warrnambool, Victoria
 1624 99.3 3RC Portland Victoria
 1635 91.3 7W/TJ Lileah
 1636 93.9 VIZINI Norfolk Island
 1636 92.9 2BRC-RR Norfolk Island
 1/14 ZBS
 1619 100.1 BHCJ Darwin Northern Territory
 (10 kw) 1940
 ES
 1648 90.9 3WR Hamilton, Victoria
 1648 96.9 3WR Portland, Victoria
 1648 99.3 3RC Portland, Victoria
 1648 Alice Springs FM: 94.9, 96.9, 97.9,
 99.7, 100.5, 1021
 1650 92.1 7THE Hobart, Tasmania
 1726 93.3 4ABC RN Queensland
 1743 104.3 5ABC FM Port Pirie, S. Aust. 760
 1750 103.7 2BRC FM Broken Hill
 1800 93.9 4ABC RN Emerald, Queensland 700
 1809 105.9 4ABC FM Cairns, Queensland 1230
 1855 Adelaide FM
 1907 104.5 5TCB Keith, S. Aust.
 1/18 ES
 1039 102.7 4ABC RN Mackay, Queensland 840
 1054 93.9 4ABC RN Emerald, Queensland 700

1054 103.9 4ITT Townsville, Queensland 1010
 1054 103.5 4HCJ Cairns, Queensland 1230
 1102 93.1 4ABC RN Herberton, Queensland
 1102 94.3 4TAB Charters towers(horse racing service)
 1256 95.9 4ABC RN Gladstone
 1300 100.4 RRB Noumea, New Caledonia
 1335 95.1 4Ino Ingham, Queensland
 1335 103.1 4TOO Townsville, Queensland 1010
 1346 93.3 4ABC RN Ombulah
 1358 100.3 4MKY Mackay, Queensland 840
 ZBS
 1403 100.1 8HOR Darwin, Northern Territory 1940
 1403 100.9 8SES Darwin, Northern Territory
 ES
 1409 95.3 4ABC RN Dysart
 1409 95.5 4TAB Emerald, Queensland 700
 1531 99.1 4ABC RN Longreach, Queensland
 1734 95.9 8TAB Alice Springs N.Territory 1260
 2211 94 Radio Pacific Invercargill, N. Zeal.
 2228 91 4SAO Dunedin
 1/23 ES
 1540 93.3 4ABC FM Brisbane
 ES
 1540 Mackay FM Queensland
 1601 91.7 4ABC RN Dysart
 1601 94.3 4ABC RN Blackwater
 1601 97.5 4TAB Blackwater
 2205 100.1 4ABC RN Maryborough
 2312 92.5 4ABC FM Maryborough
 560
 560

Over all, Sporadic-E season was good, but short lived and confined to mainly January. Several coronal hole disturbances have not helped either. Over all, some 180 FMs were received via E's at my location. Papua, New Guinea FM 100.1(100 w. arp) was received for 20 minutes in Melbourne, Victoria on 4/12-94 (2,200 miles). (Thanks, Todd for giving us a good idea what FM DXing is like in a distant world, ZES and all. DB)

Doug Smith (W9MI) 1385 Old Clarksville Pike, Pleasant View, TN 37146-8098
 Equipment: Technics ST-G50, Archer VU-160 at 15
 2/22 ES
 0811 WQPR 88.7 AL Muscle Shoals,
 "Type Ala. Report"
 131
 0358 UNID 94.3 TN Dyer? someone relaying
 WLS-105.3 & signing "094"
 Obviously, things have been VERY dead lately...never dreamed I'd land Nevada on AM before I 1 land it on FM. Despite nice, well above normal, temperatures, tropics have been nearly non-existent. There have been hints of skip though, with something trying real hard to make it over WKRN-2 tonight.

SFM editor's notes...And so it looks like the religious right FM broadcasters are after the vacant spots on the FM dial by building nation wide networks of translators, and so making things ever more difficult for FM DXers. One of them, WAFR, (American Family Radio in Tupelo, MS), arrived to my home town in time for Christmas, sponsored by a church. Around 1/3 of WAFR's airtime is spent on one-sided discussion on the pro-side of conservative political concerns. There's some but not much talk about Jesus. Maybe the words in the pretty music played is suppose to justify take care of Jesus. Probably the attitude toward giving equal time for other viewpoints on WAFR is the same as Rush Limbaugh's, which is "I don't have to give equal time; I am equal time." Meanwhile, the other rel. xlator in my hometown for KIVE 88.7 Ponca City is preparing to double power and move from 103.1 to clearer 106.7, apparently to avoid co-channel interference 24 an an Erid station being experienced on the country club side of town. cont.....

SOUTHERN FM DX
 SFM editor's comments, cont....(The transmitter's directional antenna isn't pointed toward southwest Stillwater. Now talk at primary KIVE will put a local signal into Stillwater, making it combined with a tall enough tower that will put a local signal into Stillwater, making Stillwater translator redundant. Yes, just what a DXer needs. So, folks, if things are looking as bad in your home town as they are in mine, then I'm afraid our hobby of FM DXing is not going to have much but more congestion to work with going into the 21st century. My solution to the problem for everyone--move to the utter desolation of the western Oklahoma panhandle where what few stations on the FM dial are all weak--is something I'll never do. (Let the few people who live there do the FM DXing, if only they would catch on to the hobby and do it.) If you have a more optimistic outlook toward FM DXing going into the 21st century, it would be most welcome here. DB

Pat Dyer, WASTX, 5315 Silverlip Dr, San Antonio, TX 78228-2744
 Equipt.: Realistic TM-1001 tuner(two I.F. mod. w/150-KHz filters)into Allied 426, 52-
 om step-attenuator box used to reduce local intermod/overload when needed, 6 el. Archer
 antenna at 20' with rotor, CST used - new underlined - all ES unless noted

08-10-94:
 1648 WRCX 97.7 GA 848
 1649 WNEU 94.5 NC 1178
 1650 WTRG 104.1 NC 1155
 1651 WPEG 97.9 NC 1122
 1653 WFMX 105.7 NC 1126
 1654 WESC-92.5 SC 1009
 1656 WIVK-107.7 TN 870
 1700 WDOD-96.5 TN 867
 1704 WIKG 94.9 TN 1027
 1704 WDRZ 103.1 TN 908
 1712 WINK-96.8 FL 1038
 1714 WDOS-93.5 SC 1066
 1715 WXXY 97.7 SC 1182
 1720 WKXZ 92.7 GA 851

09-27-94:
 0548 WYNN-101.5 LA 441
 09-28-94:
 0541 KAYD 97.5 TX 278
 0546 KEZF 104.3 LA 387
 0551 KPBL-107.7 LA 387
 0554 KVOL-105.9 LA 386
 0600 WBEU 107.3 LA 451
 0610 KQKT 95.3 LA 438
 0623 WEBR 95.8 MS 562
 0628 FEAD 93.3 LA 390
 0711 WYNN-101.5 LA 441
 11-16-94:
 2100 KILA 90.5 NV 1052
 2106 KJUL 104.3 NV 1077
 2123 XHMOE-90.7 BCN 1019
 2134 WFFX 90.7 CA 1186
 2140 KFOX 93.5 CA 1197

11-20-94:
 1024 KETO 92.5 SD 976
 1127 KENE 91.5 NE 828
 1130 KFNE-91.7 NE 810
 1136 KKKX 93.9 SD 1038
 1138 KRCS 93.1 SD 1061
 1141 KKGX 104.1 SD 1037
 1156 KAAQ 105.9 NE 880
 1159 KAML 96.9 WY 1080

11-21-94:
 0654 KIKX 93.5 CA 1199
 0655 KFOX 93.5 CA 1187
 0659 KPFK 90.7 CA 1166
 1050 WJLB 97.8 MI 1238
 1051 CKLM-93.8 ON 1233
 1054 CFXG 98.9 ON 1282
 1055 WJLZ 98.7 MI 1287
 1058 WJQR 101.5 OH 1195

11-22-94:
 1322 XHMOE-90.7 BCN 1019
 1324 KYXY 96.5 CA 1124
 1326 KFME-100.7 CA 1124
 1327 KBZS 94.9 CA 1124
 1334 XHRM 92.5 BCN 1111
 1335 XETRA-91.1 BCN 1112
 1342 XHTZ 90.3 BCN 1112
 1353 KPTK 90.7 CA 1166
 1427 KCMO-92.7 CA 1076
 1430 KFOX 93.5 CA 1187
 1438 KKLX 97.9 CA 1186
 1438 KOLA 98.9 CA 1138
 1439 KXXY-98.5 CA 1069
 1445 KKEB 92.3 CA 1186

12-25-94:
 1047 X--- 93.9 BCN 1019
 1100 XHMOE-90.7 BCN 1019
 1127 KMOH-92.5 MT 1229
 12-27-94:
 1334 WPCB 94.9 GA 886
 1343 WESC-92.5 SC 1009
 1347 WLIL-93.5 TN 809
 1348 WCRQ 92.7 AL 787
 1350 WDRZ 103.1 TN 906
 1354 WDEF-92.3 TN 866
 1403 WIKG 94.8 TN 866
 1406 WXBQ 96.8 TN 1027
 1416 WYGE 92.3 KY 985

12-30-94:
 1330 WRET 103.9 IN 1013
 1431 WQHX 94.9 OH 1243
 1431 WVNO 106.1 PA 1188
 1433 WAMC 105.9 PA 1294
 1436 WCOL-92.3 OH 1139
 1443 WZKL 92.5 OH 1254
 1451 WNTM-93.9 GA 891
 1459 WCLR 95.7 OH 1095
 1459 WCRF 103.3 OH 1250
 1503 WVOH-93.5 GA 864
 1505 WJBY 92.7 ON 1342
 1515 WBYZ 94.5 GA 871

DYER CONT. NEXT MONTH...

NORTHERN FM-DX

GREG CONIGLIO
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WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221
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W.A. OR.AK Canada

For DXers in: MA, NH, VT, CT, MA, RI, NY, PA, NJ, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI, MN, IA, NE, SD, ND, MT, WY, ID, WA, OR, AK, Canada
MAY 1995

Another slow month for FM DX apparently, with another tiny column. Mike Laroque reports on some nice tropo-scatter, so at least conditions aren't COMPLETELY dead! Mike Cherry also noted some FM Aurora on the 1st of April, no fooling! Hope more people got in on that, as VHF Aurora has not been that active this off-season. By the time you read this, the summer skip season should not be far away! Remember how early it started last summer, with the big April 30th opening, so be ready! If you hear anything, we'd love to hear from you! ...

MICHAEL R. J. LAROQUE - 31 CHAUDER CRESCENT - BARRIE, ONTARIO, CANADA
Equipment: Onkyo Integra T-9090 II with Magnum Dynalab FM 205 amplifier, with Radio Shack Supreme Yagi antenna 28' for now.

| SEPTEMBER 1994 DX | | October 6 Tr | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 Tr | WCMN 94.7 MI Gulliver | 1806 WSTD | 96.9 MI Standish |
| | CBO D 89.3 ON Meynooth | 1809 WBTT | 96.9 MI Ludington |
| | CBW 98.5 ON Whitley | 1815 WTCV | 97.7 MI Sandusky |
| | CBLY 92.3 ON Haliburton | 1835 WCMZ | 98.3 MI Sault Ste Marie |
| 10 Tr | 1853 CBGD 96.7 ON Pembroke | 1837 CQOM | 104.3 ON Sault Ste Marie |
| | 1855 CJLA 104.9 PQ Lachute | 1900 WJAA | 88.7 MI Interlochen |
| 11 Tr | 1720 CQOM 104.3 ON Sault Ste Marie | 2224 CBF15 | 88.3 PQ L'Annocheion |
| | 1825 CBCE 97.5 ON Little Current | 2228 CBF9 | 91.9 PQ Mont-Laurier |
| | 1830 WJAA 88.7 MI Interlochen | 2228 CBN | 99.1 PQ St-Gabriel de Brandon |
| | 2226 WMYX 99.1 WI Milwaukee | 16 Tr | |
| | 2255 WCLS 100.7 MI Oskoda | 0051 WNSE | 93.3 NY Jamestown |
| | 2100 WNMU 90.1 MI Marquette | 0132 WCMN | 94.7 MI Gulliver |
| 12 Tr | 0125 WKJZ 98.9 MI Petoskey | 0212 CQMV | 102.7 PQ Val d'Or |
| | 0125 WCMZ 98.3 MI Sault Ste Marie | 0215 CQMM | 99.1 PQ Rouyn |
| | 0100 WNMU 90.1 MI Marquette | 2032 WFRM | 99.3 PA Franklin |
| 14 Tr | CBO F9 88.7 PQ Chapeau | 2036 WATZ | 99.3 MI Alpena |
| | CBF15 88.3 PQ L'Annocheion | und | 94.3 MI Bad Axe |
| | 0052 CBF9 91.9 PQ Mont Laurier | 2219 WSUE | 101.3 MI Sault Ste Marie |
| | 0122 CQMV 102.7 PQ Val d'Or | 2234 CBS | 99.9 ON Sudbury |
| | 0127 CQMM 99.1 PQ Rouyn | 17 Tr | |
| | 2258 CKTF 104.1 PQ Gatineau | 0046 CBO N5101.7 ON Elliot Lake, | |
| 20 Tr | 2242 CQOM 104.3 ON Sault Ste Marie | over semi-local CKNX | |
| | 2244 WSUE 101.3 MI Sault Ste Marie | 0052 CBCR | 90.3 ON Elliot Lake |
| 27 Tr | 2248 WFRM 99.3 PA Franklin | 2000 CJLA | 104.9 PQ Lachute |
| | 2321 WKBN 98.9 OH Youngstown | 24 Tr | |
| | 2335 WFGO 94.7 PA Erie | 2344 CITE | 107.3 PQ Montreal |
| | | 2345 CKOI | 96.9 PQ Verdun |
| | | 2348 CITE1 | 102.7 PQ Sherbrooke, |
| | | quite common for its distance | |
| 5 Tr | OCTOBER 1994 DX | 25 Tr | |
| | 2200 WJAA 88.7 MI Interlochen | 0050 CFNJ | 99.1 PQ St-Gabriel de Brandon |
| | 2233 WKJZ 98.9 MI Petoskey | 2144 CITE1 | 102.7 PQ Sherbrooke |
| | 2252 CBEE 88.1 ON Chatham | 2140 CKOI | 96.9 PQ Verdun |
| | 2329 WRVO 89.9 NY O swego | NOVEMBER 1994 DX | |
| | 2330 WCMZ 98.3 MI Sault Ste Marie | 2 Tr | |
| | 2341 CBB 90.7 ON Bruce Peninsula | 1900 WKJZ | 94.9 MI Hillman |
| | | 2330 WELA | 104.3 OH E Liverpool |
| | | 2333 WSUE | 101.3 MI Sault Ste Marie |

NORTHERN FM DX

NOVEMBER 1994 DX cont.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5 Tr | 2210 WCMZ 98.3 MI Sault Ste Marie | 14 MS | 0035 WVOD 99.1 NC Mantco |
| 2209 WCNL 91.7 MI Alpena | 2219 CQOM 104.3 ON Sault Ste Marie | 2056 WXDV 88.7 NC Durham | 20 Tr |
| 9 Au | 2245 WFAE 90.7 NC Charlotte | 1138 WFMK 99.1 MI E Lansing | 21 Tr |
| 11 Tr | 2225 WJAA 88.7 MI Interlochen | 0000 WFMK 99.1 MI E Lansing | 23 Tr |
| 12 Tr | 2153 WO UR 96.9 NY Utica | 0007 WKAR 90.5 MI E Lansing, c | 23 Tr |
| | 2155 WRCK 107.3 NY Utica | 0057 CBF9 91.9 PQ Mont-Laurier | 2040 CQMV 102.7 PQ Val d'Or |
| | 2202 CBW 98.5 ON Whitley | 2042 CQMM 99.1 PQ Rouyn | 25 Tr |
| | 2204 CBGD 96.7 ON Pembroke | 2300 WMHT 89.1 NY Schenectady, c | 2325 WRVN 91.9 NY Utica, talk |
| | 2203 CBO D 89.3 ON Meynooth | 2330 WRVO 89.9 NY O swego, talk | 27 Tr |
| 15 Tr | 0015 CITE1 102.7 PQ Sherbrooke | 0000 WSLJ 88.9 NY Watertown | 0001 WSLU 89.5 NY Canton, c |
| | 0123 CITE 107.3 PQ Montreal | 0002 WXXI 91.5 NY Rochester, c | 0035 WJAA 88.7 MI Interlochen, c |
| | 0126 CKMF 94.3 PQ Montreal | 2103 WGLE 90.7 MI Lima, c | 2134 WHCM 99.1 WV Parkersburg, k |
| | 0126 CKOI 96.9 PQ Verdun | 2156 WSHH 99.7 PA Pittsburgh | 2215 WQED 89.3 PA Pittsburgh |
| | 0206 CBF9 91.9 PQ Mont-Laurier | 2219 WPRO 99.1 OH Fremont | 2330 WBZK 99.7 OH Columbus |
| | 2126 WTLT 104.7 OH Dayton | 2344 WQIO 93.7 OH Mt. Vernon | 2345 WCLV 95.5 OH Cleveland |
| | 2127 WLOT 104.7 OH Toledo | 2352 WGAR 99.5 OH Cleveland, k | 2355 WCRF 103.3 OH Cleveland |
| | 2156 WHKO 99.1 OH Dayton | 2359 WSNY 94.7 OH Columbus | 28 Tr |
| | 2210 WRZK 99.7 OH Columbus | 0011 WJZM 92.3 OH Cleveland Hts, d | 0019 CBE 89.9 ON Windsor |
| | 2215 WNCI 97.9 OH Columbus | 0025 WKSU 89.7 OH Kent, c | 29 Tr |
| | 2314 WCO L 92.3 OH Columbus | 0001 WTNV 90.9 NY Watertown, sign off | 0001 WCNV 91.3 NY Syracuse, c, sign off |
| 16 Tr | 0007 WJAA 88.7 MI Interlochen | 0002 CITE 102.7 & 107.3, CKOI 96.9 | |
| | 0031 WJET 102.3 PA Erie | | |
| | 1055 WEGE 99.9 MI Rogers City | | |
| | 1105 WMLQ 96.7 MI Rogers City, Silver 97 | | |
| DECEMBER 1994 DX | | | |
| 5 Tr | 0055 CQMV 102.7 PQ Val d'Or | | |
| | 0058 CITE1 102.7 PQ Sherbrooke | | |
| | 0094 Montreal area: 107.3, 96.9, 91.9, 88.3 | | |
| | 0105 CHUO 89.1 ON Ottawa | | |
| | 0110 WSLU 89.5 NY Canton, c | | |
| 12 MS | 2325 KFUO 99.1 MO Clayton | | |
| 13 Tr | 2300 CBO N 98.1 ON Sudbury | | |
| | 2308 CIBC 99.5 ON Kingston | | |
| | 2348 CKOI 96.9 PQ Verdun | | |
| | MIKE CHERRY (VE/SK): BOX 631 - GANGES P.O. - SALT SPRING ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA V0S1E0 | | |
| | Home equipment: Toshiba SA-500 receiver, with 180 IF (1973 vintage), Sansui SX-1070 receiver. | | |
| | Magnum Sleuth 150 bandpass/pre-amp, Mobile: Toyota AM/FM Stereo w/180 IF. Antenna: Lindsay FM-1010 element yagi @ 35'. Alliance U-110 rotor. | | |



NEW JERSEY DX

CTG!

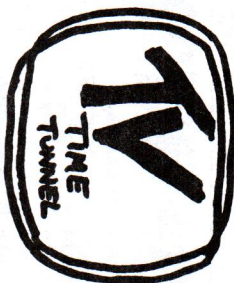
JULY 15, 1995



I had a last night (Saturday) which was a poor-to-average opening, with one exception. I had 2 contacts on 6 meters - one to the BC interior and one to Calgary, Alta. What was rare was a contact by another ham here on Salt Spring - Rudy VE7FEI had a weak au contact with a station in Anchorage, AK!!! Nothing on TV but one FM relog.

DX Get-together to be held Saturday, July 15th, 1995, from 1pm to the usual 7777. Location is at Joe Fela's OTH: 150 Robert Place - South Plainfield, NJ 07080. Interested? Phone Joe at (908) 755-3852 for more info and/or directions!





A LOOK AT TV'S STRANGEST THECAST

(Condensed from an unidentified newspaper article by Paul Holtbrook)

It was September 1953 when television station KPRC in Houston received a most curious letter and photograph from Charles W. Batley of London, England. The photo showed a tv screen with the distorted white letters "KLEBE TV" against a black background (reproduced in the adjacent column).

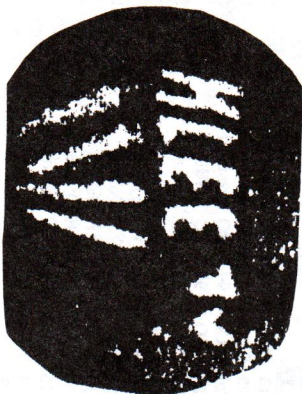
Batley wrote: "I am enclosing herewith a photograph taken by an ordinary box camera of what I believe is your test signal as received in Great Britain at 3:30 PM (8:30 AM Houston time) on September 14. It would be of great interest and help if you could be so kind as to confirm or deny by return mail that this is so; and at the same time, as this matter is of such importance, it would be of great help if you would endorse the back of the photograph and return it."

Paul Huhndorff, KPRC's Chief Engineer, was surprised and more than a little perplexed. In his reply to Batley, Huhndorff suggested that what Batley had received was a slide used in commercials right there in England, and the word was actually a fragmented spelling of Kleenex. He explained that KPRC's signal had been received as far away as Halifax, Nova Scotia, some 2,000 miles from Houston; but that KPRC had not been known as KLEBE-TV for at least three years (the call was used only between May 1949 and July 1950)!

For a viewer in London to have received a signal that had been transmitted more than three years earlier seemed too strange to be possible; or was it?

PREPARED FOR THE WFTDA AND VHF/UHF DIGEST BY TOM BRYANT, 649 TODD PREIS DR., NASHVILLE, TN, 37221 - PH/FX 615-646-2000

Anyone who has spent much time in the DX arena is aware of this month's feature story. I'd heard bits and pieces of the tale, but had never seen so much detail. Here's hoping you find it as fascinating as I did. Thanks to David Shapiro for the contribution.



Many theories offered explanations but none was completely rational. One idea that struck a quirky note was that the mysterious signal and UFOs might be connected. Had aliens in space received our signals and returned them as a way of letting us know they had seen them?

Apparently interested in attaining instant celebrity status, a large number of U.S. and U.K. tv buffs flooded the Houston station with similar reports. Most were dismissed as frivolous.

Even "TV GUIDE" got in on the act with a full-page story in the April 30, 1954 issue called "TV's Biggest Mystery". The magazine played up the UFO theory and published one of the photos Batley had sent to Huhndorff.

Enter two English inventors, Henry Taylor and George Baron, who claimed that they had developed a form of 'light wave' technology capable of such long distance reception and that they alone, and not Mr. Batley had observed the Texas station several times and at several different locations in England.

Taylor and Baron further asserted that in a 15 minute period

on September 24, 1953 at 2:45 PM English time, they had received WNCN, KTL (sic.), KTTV, WPTZ and WMBR. They added that they had noted many other such receptions since that time "...when it suited them to try."

Meanwhile, they had contacted Mr. Huhndorff in Houston to attempt to interest him in their system. After questions about the specifics of their technology were repeatedly avoided, Huhndorff lost interest and stopped corresponding.

Six years later, Dr. Frank Drake, associate astronomer at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory at Green Bank, WV, began his own research on the mystery. He had learned that numerous American TV stations were receiving letters worded exactly the same way, attached to photographs of their own call letters on a television screen. All were asked for confirmation notification.

Drake concluded that the story of the wide geographic reception of such signals was a myth; and that only screens in Baron's workshop had ever displayed the call letters.

It seems that prospective customers for the Taylor/Baron system were shown the different letters displayed, encouraged to photograph them, and supplied with a form letter for submission to the U. S. station(s).

Drake is of the opinion that the original call letter displays were probably made up in England, based on a commercial directory of broadcast stations. The letter images were then piped in from the next room by an accomplice, to 'prove' that the 'light wave' system was indeed capable of receiving trans-Atlantic signals.

Although Mr. Drake was unable to locate either Taylor or Baron, he did determine that they were "quite notorious for coming up with phony inventions." He characterized the pair as "a dotty old man who really believed his 'inventions' amounted to something, and a charismatic young man who tried to get investors to invest in the old man's inventions." Another British researcher uncovered a scheme by the duo to sell the British government a 'death ray'.

In attempting to solve the mystery, people should have looked not to unknown forces around them, but at their own fear and gullibility.

That only the call letter slides were received, and never programming, should have made everyone wonder.

The mere fact that the KLEBE call letters were three years out of date should have immediately indicated a hoax. Even more incredible was the lack of question as to why call letters on an alleged Russian signal were in English and not the Soviet Union's Cyrillic alphabet.

People were so worried about the A-Bomb, UFOs and the Russians, that in 1954 such a phantom image seemed further evidence that things above the earth were no longer as they had been.

Scientists have long since concluded that television signals lose so much power at interstellar distances that only receivers thousands of times more sensitive than anything we have could possibly detect them. The signals also 'stretch' in such an ever-widening circle so that for any alien to pick up enough to make even a few seconds of picture would require pulling down millions of miles of them; and then have the ability to sort the thousands of signals coming his way to make coherent reception of a single one of them.

The hurdles just mentioned fail to take into account the possible existence of unknown forces that could downgrade the signals or destroy them completely on their way through the stars.

What happened in this story really has little to do with the hoaxers in Britain. We should be alarmed that news of the freak tv reception had such an impact on the nation's emotions. There were elements of the hysteria surrounding Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast in this apparent encounter with the unknown. It proved that the bigger problem was, and always is, just ourselves.

[Ed. note: Whether you agree or disagree with the author's conclusions, or perhaps have ideas of your own, the subject matter does pose an interesting question...where DO TV signals go? Maybe even more important...where does the fire go when it goes out? Or...how high is up?]

E-SKIP: MYTHS VERSUS FACTS

By Bill Thompson

It's May! Once again, a great time of the year has arrived--especially if you are a TV or FM DX enthusiast. The E-skip season is about to begin, and even with fairly simple equipment, you may shortly be logging stations from up to around 1200 miles away (and sometimes farther!) on an almost daily basis, for up to several hours per event, depending upon how good a season it turns out to be.

E-skip is the signal propagation that introduces most newcomers to the hobby of DXing low-band TV and FM broadcast band signals. It's fairly plentiful during some spring/summer periods, not surprisingly even considered a nuisance to many cable-TV engineers and certain two-way radio services. It's been observed for well over 50 years by amateurs and professionals. And...it is woefully misunderstood even by many of us DX enthusiast types!

The question of "what causes E-skip?" has resulted in a number of interesting theories...and spawned endless debates. Key to the whole study is the unfortunate fact that the fabled ionospheric layer just happens to be at an altitude (greater than 60 miles above sea level) that cannot be easily reached for intensive study. It's too high for aircraft, and too low for orbiting spacecraft.

Nevertheless, in the 1950's and 60's, organizations such as the U.S. Navy, the United Nations, N.A.S.A., the I.E.E., and even companies such as R.C.A. spent millions of research dollars and devoted considerable time to studying E-skip, often with the purpose of developing a practical use for the phenomenon, as they have been able to do with Meteor Scatter. The bad news is that it's still considered pretty much nothing more than a nuisance to all but amateur radio operators, and TV and FM DXers. The good news is that we have managed to learn a lot about it--but not everything we'd like to know yet. It would be very nice to be able to predict things such as the time, direction, maximum usable frequency, and duration the next E-skip opening, wouldn't it? Well, so far we can't do that yet. But consider this - we are able to predict terrestrial weather events with increasing accuracy; so maybe, just maybe someday...

We'd like to try to dispel some of the more outlandish theories about the subject by outlining what really is known about the formation of the small disturbances, or ionospheric patches--sometimes known as "clouds" by researchers.

1) IT'S A MAN-MADE PHENOMENON!

Incredibly, there are DXers out there who actually believe the formation of sporadic-E clouds is related to something that's caused by people on the ground "doing something." There are folks who actually seem to think that E-skip is being caused by some kind of large scale "secret" electronic experimentation. Back in the 70's, when I was editing the EASTERN TV-DX column, I had one regular reporter who used to tell me he was convinced that the Soviets had constructed a massive "tesla coil" under a mountain range in Russia, and were using it to conduct worldwide weather modification experiments. He seemed convinced it was somehow causing our strongest E-skip openings. Presumably, James Bond must have got there just in time and destroyed it. Seriously, certain technical projects undertaken by governments have bordered on the incredible but do exist. Tesla coils are real (but not on the kind of scale our friend fantasizes about), and do have extremely practical applications in the study of transmission of alternating current. Several excellent books have been written about Tesla and his research, but his legacy has produced a strange cult of disciples who seem to be convinced that his developments may have had more applications than generally recognized.

It is easy to see why this kind of myth gains attention. Readers who are longtime SWLs will recall the infamous Russian "Woodpecker," a massive frequency-agile over-the-horizon HF radar that really WAS built and managed to cause aggravating interference to shortwave and amateur radio transmitter using hundreds of thousands of kilowatts of power to produce a very large pulsed continuous wave signal. The antenna array employed had to be equally incredible. The Soviets wanted to be able to look over the horizon without the use of space-based or remote radars, which presumably could be disabled during a military conflict. They were not alone--other world military powers, including the U.S., experimented with OTH HF Radars. It became nothing more than a huge "QRM" machine to listeners...but paranoid types saw something even more sinister in all this, and there was even speculation that it was somehow related to some kind of "weather-modification experiment." A few people actually even wondered if it was some kind of "mind control" experiment. As of the-wall as all this sounds, there were actually folks worried about the possibilities. As more and more complaints were filed with amateur radio groups and the International Telecommunications Union, it became clear as to what the Russian Woodpecker really was for. As far as anyone knows, it didn't cause any E-skip--but it really "warmed up" the F2 layer while it operated.

No-one has yet been able to produce conclusive proof that E-skip openings co-incide with

E-SKIP: MYTHS VERSUS FACTS

something that mankind is doing with technology. You'll even find some enthusiasts willing to believe the opposite effect--saying that, somehow, human activity is actually degrading ionospheric conditions. I recently heard from a DXer who revealed his theory that National Weather Service doppler radars, currently coming online all across the U.S., are somehow causing HF propagation conditions (which are primarily via the F-layer) to decline. We'd guess the fact that we're currently in a declining phase of the sunspot cycle hasn't occurred to the fellow yet! This notion of man-made influence on the ionosphere is not entirely farfetched. Debate still rages among atmospheric physicists as to the effect of our manufactured chlorinated fluorocarbons (CFCs) on Earth's ozone layer in the polar regions. It turns out that the ozone layer itself may vary naturally enough so that it merely appears to be disappearing at times--thereby invalidating much of the argument about our influence on it. No matter what the alarmists say, we just don't know for sure yet, and the research must continue.

So it's important to remember that E-skip is not a man-made phenomenon; only the signals that bounce off the E-clouds are. Sporadic-E skip is a naturally occurring ionospheric event, as natural as dawn--but unfortunately, not quite so predictable. What complicates things further is the unfortunate fact that not all E-skip seasons are equal. In fact, no two of them are really exactly alike, with the number of Es openings--and their geographic positions--widely varying from year to year. Some spring/summer Es seasons can seem practically non-existent to the TV/FM DXer. These are the years that become infamous as "duds"--but not always for everyone. You might call it the "Forrest Gump" view of sporadic-E patterns - "you never know what you're gonna get."

What is E-skip, really? It is VHF signal propagation, over the Earth's horizon, that is supported by very small patches of ionization. Small, that is, in proportion to the regular ionospheric layers, which essentially form an electrically reflective "ceiling" above the earth. The E-layer is normally not of significance to VHF enthusiasts most of the time. On occasion though, it becomes electrically charged, through a natural process that is not yet totally understood. A condition we know as "sporadic-E" (or "Es") is said to exist when these small disturbances, those "patches" or "clouds" we have been talking about, form within the layer and tend to and grow, supporting signal "skip" at higher and higher frequencies as time goes by. These clouds actually do travel, generally moving from southeast to northwest. Frequencies from HF (shortwave) to mid-VHF (TV channels 2 through 6), and the 88-108 Mhz broadcast band are usually affected. Rarely do these clouds support the "skipping" of signals much higher than the top of the FM band--however, certain "super" openings have reached all the way to the 2-meter (144-148 MHz) amateur radio band, to 162 MHz, and on very special days even to the 222 MHz amateur band, very briefly. Most TV DXers will not experience Es at TV channel 7 or more than a few minutes per year, on average...and that takes an extraordinary opening. It has been observed that E-skip along a particular path tends to be open longer periods of time at the lower frequencies. You may, for instance, only have about ten minutes of skip at 107.9 MHz during an event that brought you a couple of hours of channel 2 skip from the same area. Or, it may seem that channel 2 signal has been coming in all day, with the skip never going much higher than that. The unpredictable nature of the propagation really distinguishes it from other DX signal modes. We call E-skip "sporadic" because, well, it is!

2) E-SKIP CAN BURN ITSELF OUT EARLY IN THE SEASON!

Boy, is that one wrong! DX enthusiasts sometimes have the ability to jump to incredible conclusions, such as the myth that "if the E-skip season starts early, it will burn itself out." The problem with this is that some Es seasons do tend to start earlier than others (unpredictably!), with not much activity in the middle, and then suddenly make an outstanding return, often with an active finish. I've noticed seasons that seemed like they were slow in starting, and then blossomed into an E-skip "feast," with activity at least on TV channels 2 and 3 practically daily from the last week of May straight through to mid-July. But, for every one of them, it seems as if we also have the kind of year where most everyone asks "where's the E-skip?" and "is this antenna connected, or what?!"

There does seem to be something that often "shuts down" a blossoming E-skip season: sunspot activity. While not a direct cause of the E-skip season itself (great seasons have taken place in all phases of the sunspot cycle), the influence on "shutting down" E-skip is undeniable. Auroral conditions seem to be able to both induce E-skip (auroral-E, a different kind of propagation "animal" from the "mid-latitude" form that is most commonplace) and inhibit it. Speculation has centered around the idea that certain auroral events can severely "perforate" the E-layer, inhibiting mid-latitude E cloud formation while actually simultaneously spawning auroral-E propagation over more northerly regions.

Some DXers have noticed that the variation between the quality and quantity of E-skip openings seems to be connected with differences in meteorological jet stream patterns from summer to summer. This may help explain why some E-skip seasons appear to be so poor. Es clouds can be positioned in such a way one summer so that they are not crossing the more productive paths, those that bring the clouds between the DXer and the DX stations. It's fascinating to watch the comments come in from DX reporters across the continent in a given season. Some will rave about the great Es season they're having--others will complain about poor or non-existent skip conditions. Paying attention to these comments and where they're coming from tells you a lot about the nature of a given season. Some

ESKIP: MYTHS VERSUS FACTS

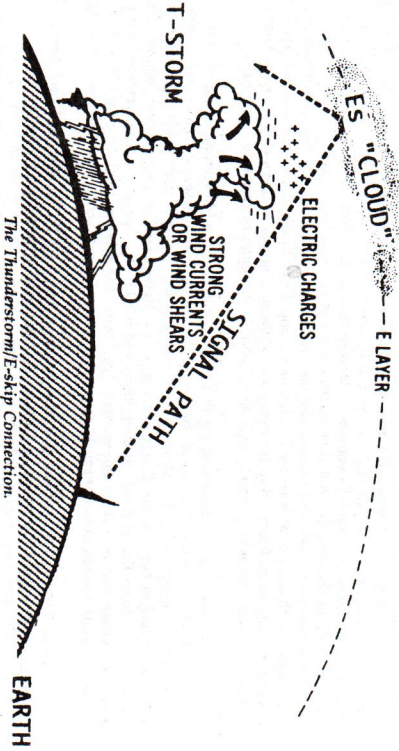
years, the Northeast has a poor season while the South seems to get all the great skip. Other years, Northeasters talk about what a great season they're having, while nothing much appears to be happening in the West...and some years, only the Southerners seem to do well with Es. You just never know! Someone will have a decent Es season this year, somewhere. Hopefully, most of us will. But there will be areas where E-skip seems to avoid, unfortunately. In that respect, it's sort of a giant game of "atmospheric roulette!"

The "amount" of E-skip, in the form of total number of openings usable to the TV or FM DXer does also vary considerably from year to year. There have been E-skip seasons when almost everyone complained about "too few" Es events, and not surprisingly, those kind of seasons are often also remembered as having more short-lived openings than others.

3) "THUNDERSTORMS CAUSE E-SKIP"

Believe it or not, this was once a very controversial theory—but now, the evidence is overwhelming. Still hotly debated in some DX circles, this is one of the most logical explanations as to functioning of the "mechanism" that results in sporadic-E clouds. Many veteran TV DXers are convinced that a greater understanding of this process could lead to more accurate prediction of Es openings—perhaps allowing us to eventually predict Es as reliably as we can predict a tropo opening. The thunderstorm hypothesis has it that the Es clouds form in relation to some kinds of violent storms in the lower atmosphere, especially in Spring and early Summer. Some violent weather systems (but not all of them) seem to have a relationship with E-skip paths in and out of the area where the bad weather is taking place. Exactly why this happens, and what it is about a particular storm system that causes it to generate sporadic-E layer clouds is still something of a mystery and has given rise to much debate among enthusiasts. One of the most incredible explanations has it that a mysterious electrical discharge somehow takes place from the top of particular thunderstorm systems (usually the more complex ones with deeply embedded multiple storm cells, hail, tornado activity, and so forth) all the way up to the E-region. That's a difference of approximately 50 to 55 miles in height—quite a gap across a particularly cold and thin stretch of the atmosphere! As ridiculous as this first may sound, amateur radio VHF enthusiasts have been debating this in recent months, and much of the "stir" came from an atmospheric researcher who claims to have actually been able to photograph the process from an aircraft!

However, severe thunderstorm activity clusters do contain high-altitude wind shears. Simply put, a wind shear is a sudden change in direction in wind at a specific altitude—an invisible condition that can pose an extreme hazard to any aircraft unlucky enough to be caught in one. Wind shears also do take place at the higher levels of the atmosphere, and indeed it is also a wind shear condition at very high altitudes that is thought to be the basis of the formation of Es clouds. At the 60-mile-or-so height of the E-layer, the kind of "winds" involved have equivalent velocities typically at 200 miles per hour and higher. However, the actual atmosphere itself at that level is extremely thin, so of course what's being discussed here would be nothing like the force of wind on a mountaintop.



The Thunderstorm/E-skip Connection.

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Sporadic-E signal paths more often than not seem to cross low pressure weather regions that feature severe thunderstorm activity. In fact, you can prove this for yourself by checking weather forecast maps on the network morning news shows, also on the Weather Channel, CNN, and so forth. A severe weather "watch box" was displayed as below on the NBC "Today" show just a few minutes after 8 a.m. EDT on one particularly super late spring day several years ago. To the sharp-eyed DXer, it was the clue that E-skip activity was "brewing." Less than three hours later, severe thunderstorms, hail, and even tornadoes, raged throughout wide areas of the sector. At about the same time, E-skip paths (as indicated by the straight lines) opened up from TV channels 2 thru 6 and quickly continued to the top of the FM band. It appeared as if many of the sporadic-E clouds in North America on that day were spawned from this one area, and they drifted towards the northwest at their 60+ mile height at a speed between 150 and 200 miles per hour across much of the continent. Hours later, they caused some paths to open up from Nebraska and the Montanas to the Pacific Northwest.



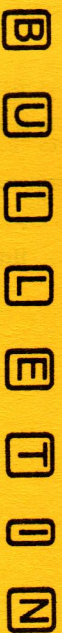
So as we approach the spring-summer E-skip activity peak, it is these kinds of morning weather-watch advisories that are your best early warning system for this form of TV/FM DX. But, will we ever really predict Es openings with greater accuracy? Maybe it would actually take some of the fun out of DXing via this highly dramatic long-distance signal propagation. It's now time to start checking TV and FM for those DX signals. Even the most seasoned of the TV/FM DXers tend to get a thrill out of those first few openings of May. The "really big ones," if they happen, will tend to start during the last week of the month. Remember to check channel 2 first if it happens to be vacant in your area. Having a weak semi-local on that channel is even better, as it can give you a reference signal to compare the E-skip signals with. You may be surprised to see how quickly the Es paths open up the higher frequencies as it climbs into the FM band. Be prepared to add many new FM stations to the log if it turns out to be a good season; even when channels 2 through 6 are jammed with interference, 88 to 108 MHz can seem like an inexhaustible source of DX targets in a decent session. Here's something to keep in mind if you feel you have logged all there is to see on the lowband TV channels—the FM band is waiting for you with literally hundreds of DX "targets" in single-hop range of your tuner.

There are plenty of other E-skip myths and misinformation. Years ago, a prominent DXer liked to advise newcomers that double-hop skip was impossible at the FM band frequencies. This was pure bunk. It seemed as if he rejected the possibility of such long-haul skip due mainly to the fact that he had not yet experienced it himself! In fact, multiple-hop E-skip has been worked even at 144 MHz by amateur operators. Double-hop E-skip merely appears to be much more rare than it really is. It takes a number of things to happen almost perfectly for double-hop loggings to be made; this is much of the reason it happens infrequently. The bands are far more crowded now, too. In the 1950's, double-hop skip was observed by many TV DX enthusiasts, often several times per season!

And there are many more E-skip myths—there may be as many of them as there are DXers! It may be best to ignore them and learn by experience, because just when you think you've seen and heard everything E-skip propagation has to offer, a season such as last year's comes along and turns all those legends upside down! Here's hoping you have a great E-skip season!

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NEWS.....



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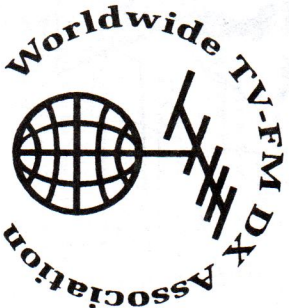
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