

**Ken's TADX
Corner****LOGS / NEWS - JULY 2010**

A site mainly dedicated to Mediumwave Dxing

**Ken's TADX
Corner**All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat [Contact](#)

560	KMON	Great Falls, MT	 11/11/09 1011 (5kW) (Old File)
570	KVI	Seattle, WA	 11/11/09 1002, 1005, 1006 (5kW) (Old File)
710	KNUS	Denver, CO	 12/12/09 0900. Better id 0906. Tnx Mark in NJ for tip, and listening to old Perseus files. (5kW) (Old File)
790	CFCW	Camrose, AB	 12/12/09 0908. First ID heard, though often hrd the station. (50kW) (Old File)
1330	CJYM	Rosetown, SK	 12/12/09 0831.(10kW) (Old File)

New / Personal first's this month = 5

AND SO ENDS ANOTHER "YEARBOOK'S" WORTH OF LOGS, DXING, GENERAL CHATTER AND OPINIONS, AND GOSSIP. THE FULL YEAR AS A PDF FILE FROM AUGUST TO JULY IS NOW AVAILABLE. CLICK ON THE LOGS INDEX.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 14th JULY 2010

MW DXING IN TIME SHIFT:

The once controversial recorded Perseus files have helped me find even more new personal firsts during the hour or so I have recorded from for example 12/12/09, and 11/11/09. I was glad to find both 790 and 1330, the latter I had never heard of, far less heard. But there it was in the middle of an hour of crazy logs.

I also have another couple of logs from that day. A good recording of AM 10-60 and a possible KDAL id on 610.

091212_0859_1060_am_10_60_gd.mp3

091212_0905_610_kdal_pres_poor_sig.mp3

I wonder if some dxers still gripe about us listening to old files?? Not that I care. It is remarkably good fun sitting in mid summer listening to strong signals from across the States and Canada, knowing it has come down that long beverage wire over in the woods.. And not only that, but discovering new firsts too.

PERSEUS YAHOO GROUP:

There were some strange messages on the Perseus group over the weekend. I was sure they were some kind of "in" joke I was not a part to, between Nico and Nils. Seems not!!

Oh well, sometimes it is good to know little. That seemed to be the contemptuous way in which dxers were described anyway on the same group by "Alberto".

Mind you, like I have said many times about abnoxious characters on message boards, they wouldn't come up to you in the pub and mouth off like that!! And it may be fun if they tried.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 10th JULY 2010

MID SUMMER MW DXING:

It is still in theory mid summer here in Scotland, but the skies have turned grey and dull. But this morning I did a recording at 02, 03, and 04. Just to keep my hand in.

Oh there was absolutely nothing exciting heard, but a log list of what does come through on a traditional mid summer here is shown below. If I had stayed with it all and tried harder I may have got a few more common stations, but for what it was worth, the logs are below. These logs are not even in my log book, just here for an example of what is traditionally the quiet dx season.

590 VOXM 0200
 600 CBC 0300
 610 CHNC PRES FF 0300
 620 VOXM 0200
 640 CBC 0200
 670 REBELDE 0302
 710 VOXM 0200
 730 CKAC PRES FF TK 0300
 740 VOXM 0200
 750 CBC 0300
 800 VOWR 0330
 930 CFBC 0259
 950 CKNB mx thru 0200 ID 0257

1080 WTIC 0300
1130 WBBR 0200
1140 CBC 0200
1180 REBELDE 0302
1360 WDRC 0300
1370 WDEA 0300
1520 WWKB 0200
1620 REBELDE 0302
1650 WHKT 0300
1660 WWRU 0300

I also have an intermittent break in the beverage somewhere, prob at the feedpoint, so will have to investigate later today. UPDATE: Lucky for me the connection was at the feedpoint. I have meant to go over with the solder and blowlamp, but not got around to it.

Boy there are some amount of beasties over there in the woods after the hot and damp few days we have had here. I was lucky that the break was where it was. The feeder and a lot of the other wires are really buried in a jungle of undergrowth. Big difference from the winter month.

UPDATES TO PERSEUS / WINRADIO ARTICLE:

I have been adding to the WINRADIO article today. So apologies if you have already read what I wrote over the last few days. Today I have added a recording from the SSB file that Nigel in Dunoon has put on line. Thanks again Nigel for taking the time to let us use the software with audio. There is also a new SAM / AM recording. . I also have included the audio clips of SAM / AM on the WINRADIO as the link was dead yesterday. Forgot to upload the audio files. I also had a dead link for "newstalk 710 KNUS" at the top of the page. All fixed now. Cheers and tnx to Mark in NJ for pointing out the dead links.

INTRUSIVE ADS ON YAHOO GROUPS:

Does anyone else think that this kind of intrusive pop up ad is just a bit over the top on the Skywaves Yahoo group?? Right on top of the text!! I am not one for clicking on even exit buttons on these style of ads. You never know what crap you are downloading. I am not sure if Skywaves is the only one I have this type of ad. Not sure. Must keep watch.



[Click here for full details](#)

WINRADIO EXCALIBUR TESTS AGAINST PERSEUS:



UPDATED VERSION: The initial upload had many typos and errors. I may add to this in the coming days.

NB: I write the following observations from a MW dxers point of view, and I have no interest whatsoever in using an SDR for ham radio operating.

Nils from the Perseus group had some files up on line of Perseus at it's best and Excalibur at it's best, but the Perseus recordings are made with AGC off for some reason, and there is much cracking and banging induced. Def not Perseus at it's best. . The recordings are mainly of SW stuff though, so no MW to compare.

I have yet to see and hear any decent audio clips of MW TADX, but I had the opportunity to test a small file apparently recorded here in Scotland by a radio ham. The small file was a short recording around 810 MW. I was surprised by the poor signal of Radio

North, considering the guy was seemingly in Dunoon. Maybe he used his 20m aerial to record, as the signals were very low in general. But well done whoever you are for uploading the first excalibur file for us to test. (UPDATE - The chappie who provided the file was GM8PZR Nigel in Dunoon, and he was only using a whip antenna for the MW band..)

I look forward to trying full files from one of the MW dxers that awaits delivery. My good friend from the Skype MW Chat, Maurits in Belgium expects a knock at the door any day now!!

My first impressions are pretty much as I expected when I saw the screenshots of the software. Screen is very very busy, and software seems very clumsy to operate compared to the Perseus.

But then I have reservations about using WINRAD, as I find it very clumsy to operate, with the double frequency displays, and spinning things. And as for Linrad, I have NEVER managed to get any noise from this command driven piece of software, and I have never managed to even play back a file!!! I spent some time a couple of weeks ago trying to get LINRAD to work. I must try and get back to it.

I found the Perseus to be very user friendly and easy to get into from the first trials after I first bought the unit in late 2007. Maybe that has caused "the blinkers" effect, and everything else is going to be a poor second. I am therefore maybe not the right person to make an unbiased comparison between PERSEUS and EXCALIBUR.

But I do wonder if the WINRADIO may have something exciting to offer that the Perseus does not. And I surely can not pass judgment after listening to a very small low signal level file. It will require Maurits, or Bjarne to make an in depth review when their hardware arrives, with a full mw band file connected to a good aerial.

I may have answers, or opinions to a few questions that dxers may have with regards to the EXCALIBUR.

1. Where is the playback bar?

It is hidden behind a drop down arrow, and only visible by clicking the red arrow below and right of the freq. The playback bar is tiny, short, and although there is no "howling" like the Perseus had for a couple of years, the playback bar because of it's size, is going to be less user friendly than the long time scale bar on the Perseus. The playback start, pause etc buttons are also tiny. I may have missed it, but I don't see the recorded file time stamp anywhere. So if you playback a random file, there is no date and time displayed. Unless it is under another hidden panel I haven't found yet.

2. How do I tune the receiver?

UPDATE: As I state often here, I am only on a learning curve here. The HELP file is pretty extensive, and holding shift and then mouse over the freq display changes the freq. Also other arrow up and down keys change the frequency.

There are arrows at the right hand side, next to the steps to click up and down. There does not seem at first glance to be much use of the "mouse over" and "mouse wheel" tuning system that makes the Perseus so user friendly. (So long as you have a mouse with a wheel that is). Mouse over the right hand window steps frequency up by 1khz. I have not found a way to change that to 10 or 9khz.

The basic and primary function of any receiver is the ability to change frequency with ease, and I just love the large primary screen on the Perseus that allows mouse over and the mouse wheel to change frequency with ease. In the same way, mouse over the frequency readout changes each digit independently. Not so on the Excalibur. NB: But if you press shift and mouse over the freq display, it will change. The graphic below shows what happens when shift and mouse over is used to change frequency display.



The tuning knob simulation for me is a no go area. I see no point on that kind of pretend tuning knob on an SDR.

I also notice that when the buttons AUDIO, MEMORY, NOTCH etc are selected, they open up other related buttons, and the main tuning options are completely hidden!!

The Perseus secondary "magical" window is still streets ahead for manipulating the filter to suit (from what I have seen so far). Again the powerful "mouse over" option with mouse wheel adjustments to the bandwidth filter make Perseus stand out on it's own.

3. Can I listen to a file in DEMO mode without a receiver, so I can try the software??

Yes, no problem. Download the software from the WINRADIO EXCALIBUR site, and off you go.

<http://www.winradio.com/home/download-g31ddc.htm>

The following file has been uploaded by GM8PZR Nigel in Dunoon, which will playback

fine with the software without a receiver.

<http://rapidshare.com/files/405695521/Rec-1.5MHz.ddc.html>

This is an issue that Perseus inventor Nico seemed to view with real contempt initially with his software. Personally I would have thought that being able to try the software before buying a receiver, to see if you like it, would be a huge plus point for a company, not keeping the software secret. I know of people that held off buying a Perseus on the grounds of the strange attitude of secrecy. That was perhaps not the best sales and marketing ploy I have heard of. Imagine trying to sell a house or a car, but you only allow the customers to see it in a magazine!!!!

(This in addition to silly time out software used by Microtelecom was what some dxers had serious issues with. PRO users certainly wouldn't want software stopping suddenly, especially after paying £700 for a receiver..)



4. What about the difference between AM and SAM?

When I tried to record using the low level signal file, I was finding that the bandwidth with AM is maxed at the 10kHz mark. Any stretching of the filter in the right hand window made no difference beyond 10kHz. The Filter could be stretched beyond 10kHz for SAM.

(After I reset to factory defaults, I couldn't repeat this oddity)

The clip below is of AM then SAM, using 10kHz settings for both recordings. There is a much bigger difference between SAM and AM on the WINRADIO than on the Perseus, on which debatably there is virtually NO difference. I am not sure though if the SAM is better on the WINRADIO, or it is just the AM that is inferior??? I am not sure if I hear a good beefy AM OPTIMOD style sound on AM. I have been trying a Rapidshare file that Maurits put me on to. A larger 180 MEG file than the 64 meg file I tried first. The second file is a better example of fading on 1458kHz.

Below a Perseus file that shows fading on the same frequency, but it is a bit unfair when

it is not the same recording made at the same time using the same antenna.

excalibur_am_sam_810khz.mp3

excalibur_am_ams_test_1458khz.mp3

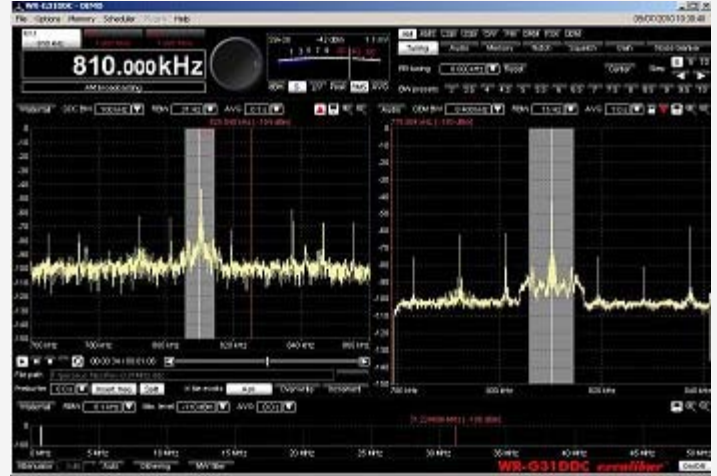
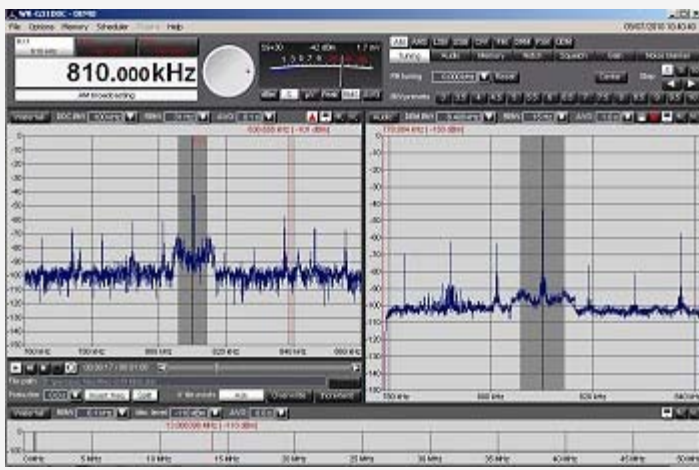
100710_0300_1458_am_then_sam_perseus.mp3

5. Can I change that horrible "ACID ROCK" blue background that WINRADIO advertise their product with?

A welcome YES. There are ten different "skins" similar to the way WINAMP has skins. I have reproduced the default, another 60's style "acid rock" background, and a couple that are more easy on the eye.



Click for full res. These two horrendous colour schemes are like something from 60's acid era!! I don't mind this kind of wild and wonderful colour schemes on a T Shirt, but not when you have to use it everyday....



These two skins in grey and black are more suited to my dxing, and easier to see the buttons mixed in with all the colours!! In each shot I may add, that I have stretched the screen a little, so that the third wide waterfall window is almost non-existent. The MILITARY skin is also quite easy on the eye as well.



6: What are the arrows either end of the PLAYBACK BAR for??

I have no idea, but I wonder if they navigate forward and back through sets of recorded files???

7. How does the WINRADIO sound in SSB

I hear a lot of rasping and rough noise on strong signal peaks from the recording supplied by the ham fella in Dunoon. I wonder what I am doing wrong?? Please find a

recording below from LSB on 40m.

UPDATE: Again Maurits to the rescue. Seems the volume control has to be sitting around 20. Much higher and the volume is too high. The volume control is hidden till VOLUME mode is selected in the right hand command area.

excalibur_ssb_test.mp3

excalibur_ssb_good.mp3

Below is a link to the source 180 meg wideband file for WINRADIO EXCALIBUR.

<http://rapidshare.com/files/405807912/Rec-7.1MHz.ddc.html>

SUMMARY:

From what I have seen so far, as a Perseus owner, would I rush out and buy a WINRADIO?

Answer - No.


But I am all ears and willing to be converted if there is a good reason that I have missed to buy a unit. I see no point in spending that kind of money to do no better than I do at the moment with the Perseus.

But the answer to the question would have been a resounding YES if the WINRADIO was released three or four years ago, prior to the Perseus. Then of course it would have been the market leader in wide band recording, which is the exclusive selling point from a MW dxers point of view.

Remember I write the above observations from a MW dxers point of view, and have no interest whatsoever in ham radio and SDR's.

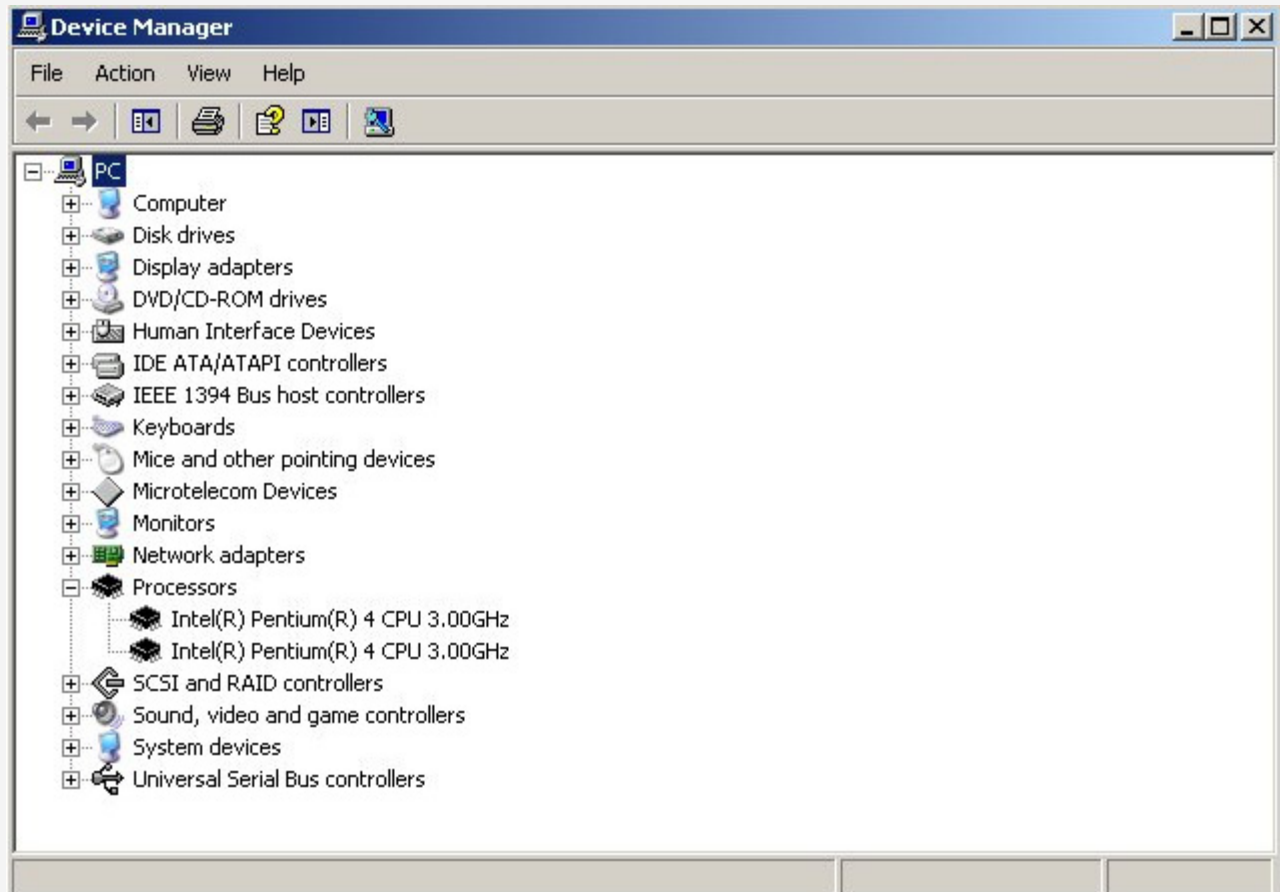
NEW MW STATIONS HEARD:

710 KNUS DENVER CO 5000 5000 DA-2 NEWS / TALK

Thanks to Mark in NJ USA for drawing my attention to a station I had missed on the Perseus file for 12/12 at 0900. KNUS Denver, CO. I also heard a better ID at 0906, see top of page. That makes three extra personal firsts in the last couple of weeks by looking through the old files. Not bad. I wonder what other gems lie undiscovered. 

PC SPEC:

I have never been sure exactly the spec of the PC I am using. I initially thought it was a dual core, as I see 2 processors in the device manager.



But somewhere I saw that it wasn't a true dual core. So what was it?? Dual processors?? I have never taken the large heat sink system off to have a look. Who knows, but one of the pieces of software I was experimenting with the other day gave me the following spec. (I don't recall which software it was)

OS: Windows XP Professional, SP2

CPU: Genuine Intel, Intel Pentium 4, MMX @ 5690 MHz

No wonder I have the Perseus running with much room to play with on this PC. The old 2.8gig single core Athlon PC ran fine, but only just, at full 1600kHz recording.

Considering the main PC I use now was rescued from the skip, I have done OK!!!! All

that was wrong was the need of a £20 power supply, which I had kicking around anyway.

SPORADIC E:

Still rumbling away here on and off, but no amazing dx catches in the last weeks. Good images from Slovakia the other day on R2.



KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 29th JUNE 2010**SPORADIC E:**

I have been filling in my TV table this last couple of weeks. So the dates in June are more up to date than May when I let it slide a bit.

Always being intrigued by foreign English speaking stations, that rarely make it to the receivers here, obviously because on ratio terms, that English station will be the exception rather than the common style of stations in a particular country. I am always led to believe there are a load of English holiday / tourist stations down in Spain, but I haven't heard any this year at all, bar the English lessons from Madrid.

Last night there was music, pretty stable on 87.6, but of course when it began to fade out at the end of the track, that was that. But there was some kind of English speaking station coming through at the fades, only a whisper. As the 87.6 music station was on it's own, I will probably never know even where the opening was coming from. Interesting all the same.

As below, I had English on 69.2 last week, and an English stn in Madrid on 10th June on 87.9, with English lessons, called Vaughan Radio. (Shouldn't it be the English ex pats that are learning Spanish??)

There was also a curious English stn on 52.9mHz area somewhere, with news, heard while looking for tv audio and Italian studio feeds. Was there some really short skip around and it was from the UK?? Who knows.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE 2010**MORE SPORADIC E TODAY:**

I have a load of audio and a few video clips and stills of UNID arabic on E3. Jordon was in there, but the station below grabbed my interest with the logo top left. Is this Syria?? I have to compare a decent image of Syria to see. Also saw the NOVA clock on R1. The band is still open as I write this at 1800, M1 and it's confusing rotating big logo top left as well as the less intrusive traditional top right M1 logo.

Also had interesting EE station with NX, on 69.2. Sadly faded out before chance to ID.

Below poss Syria. The top two have higher res images.



NEW MW STATIONS HEARD:

There has been so much sporadic e around that I forgot to mention the other day I have two new MW stations from 11th November last year. I was listening to an old Perseus file and winkled out the following.

KMON 560 with a god ID, as well as KVI Seattle with a poorer ID, and advert in Western Seattle. .

091111_1002_1005_1006_570_kvi_seattle.mp3

091111_1011_560_kmon_mt.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE 2010

RADIO NORTHSEA INTERNATIONAL - A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY:

[CLICK HERE FOR THE RNI JAMMING STORIES - radio_northsea_jamming_1970.html](#)

It is now 40 years ago since the UK government were jamming offshore radio!! Amazing!! I saw various reports in another radio blog. And tonight there is some kind of documentary on BBC Radio 2 at 2200 about the Tories coming to power in 1970.

I wonder if they will mention the Caroline broadcasts via RNI, when as payback for the Wilson / Labour government closing the pirates down, RNI / Caroline offered support to the Tories!! I doubt it, seeing as it is a BBC documentary. If they don't the programme will be shown as poorly researched.

I saw some mention on another board of this programme, and also input from various contributor's own memory. I thought a little dig through the archives would be of value, and I have found the best data in the vaults of MW CIRCLE MAGAZINE. These old 1970's mags are available on CD in PDF format from the club web site. (mwcircle.org).

It is unknown why DX clubs in general don't make use of the facilities the web offers, and make all their back issues available in the public domain. See the article below about secrecy and silly club rules I discovered while searching through the archives. (And no it wasn't MWC, but the Arctic Radio Club!!)

I may be asked to remove the following page by the club at short notice, but it is on line today, complete with appropriate credits.

[radio_northsea_jamming_1970.html](#)

What was it all about?? Have a listen to these recordings....

RNI jamming from old blue album (7.6 meg)

RNI jamming from Jumbo album (8.8 meg)

There are a load of recordings available from the download club in Holland of Caroline/ RNI from this time.

rni_last_news_1973_recorded_scotland.mp3

Above is my own recording of Radio North Sea recorded as a young lad in 1973 on 31st Dec I think it was, or maybe 30th. This was how they sounded here. I had just been given my first cassette recorder for Christmas, and started recording jingles and clips of radio stations. I am so glad I did. I even wrote for a QSL for that many years later to Robin Banks!! Of course I had to wait till I learned what a QSL was!!! lol....



AND AS USUAL A FEW OTHER RECORDINGS DISCOVERED:

As usual when browsing archives, I found a few more recordings that may or may not be of interest to dxers, recorded here in the early 70's with a very small cassette machine.

twr_monaco_dx_special_1974.mp3

radio_moscow_ann_seven_49m_channels_1974.mp3

radio_sweden_saturday_show_1974_inc_caroline_sticker.mp3

I used to try and hear that "programme about other radio stations" on a Saturday I think in the 31m band somewhere. It seemed to be a hit or a miss if I found it. That was the TWR DX SPECIAL. I did like Radio Sweden, and this was an amusing Saturday Show clip, and then finally listen to the frequencies Radio Moscow announce!! Wish I had a longer recording of that, with better id's.

AMAZING DICTATORSHIP FROM THE ARCTIC RADIO CLUB:

I know I often have been outspoken here about the lack of web presence from most of the world's dx clubs. They like to keep their information secret, and non public for some reason. That tradition seems to have been well and truly born in the 60's, and the attitude was highlighted to me when I was reading through the Radio Northsea titbits. I found a scornful article about the Arctic Radio Club. I have reproduced the paragraph here for your perusal. Again, like the RNI page, I may be asked to remove this material at short notice by the MW Circle.

The below makes amazing reading. Imagine meeting any of these clowns at radio conventions!!!

"You will not contribute to any other publication if you are a member of MY club".. Kiss my ass!!!

INTERFERENCE. We learn from Bjorn Olsson that the Arctic Radio Club has withdrawn its infamous RULE 13 which prevented members from contributing to other bulletins with loggings and QSLs etc. The basic aims remain, only the way of reaching them has been changed. The Isolation Policy remains as before and members will not, under normal circumstances, be allowed to edit other bulletins' M.W. sections. It does seem that this step is to try to silence both internal and external criticism of A.R.C. and more criticism, disliked by A.R.C., may bring more liberal changes. We do not like to see Clubs dictating to their members what they shall or shall not do - as it is an interference with personal rights. There seem at the moment to be two forms of INTERFERENCE prevailing - that of a Club attempting to dictate what it's members shall or shall not do. Then we have the case of a Club attempting to dictate to other Clubs and Organisations what they shall or shall not do. In CONTACT for May 1970 C.M. Stanbury II reported the receipt of "a note (order?) which reads: "Afford no publicity to Pirate stations or to the stations or countries who operate jamming transmitters". We like Stan's first reaction "Just how the hell do you plan to stop us?" It does seem that I.S.W.C. has a blacklist of Clubs etc that print information on stations in countries that operate jammers. The list includes A.S.W.L.C., B.B.C. World Radio Club, I.S.W.L., W.D.X.C. and W.R.T.V.H. (pathetic!) Then in the E.D.X.C. Newsletter for June 1970, we have the I.S.W.C., who do not even belong to the E.D.X.C., giving them orders and "not allowing" them to run a radio station popularity poll. It appears that Mr. Bear takes exception to Arne Skoog's suggestion that the EDXC should organise such a poll as it seems that the I.S.W.C. poll is the only "official" one - but we are NOT told by whose authority, maybe by Mr. Bear's own authority? Anyway we are told - "You cannot run such a poll. You will not be allowed to run such a poll. We shall block you in every direction from running such a poll. Understand this, you cannot run such a poll". It is pretty obvious that Mr. Bear does NOT like the E.D.X.C. nor other Clubs etc that do not conform to his thoughts on such things as pirates and clandestines. Mr. Bear is entitled to his views, the same as everybody else and is fully entitled to express these views. It is not the normal practice for clubs to attempt to dictate what other clubs shall do. Clubs may try to offer helpful advice to each other. To dictate and to offer are two very different things indeed. To make THREATS and/or DICTATE are equally crude. We feel that the method being used by the I.S.W.C. leaves them open to questions, one of which is - "What are the real motives of Mr. Bear and the I.S.W.C.?"

SPORADIC E SEASON:

As predicted regularly here, there has not been much intense dxing done this few weeks due to the nice dry summer we have here in Scotland so far. But I have been making some effort to keep up with the sporadic E. Sadly my notes and logs don't show that, as they are quite sparce. Suffice to say that there have been so many logs and signals coming through I have been overwhelmed.

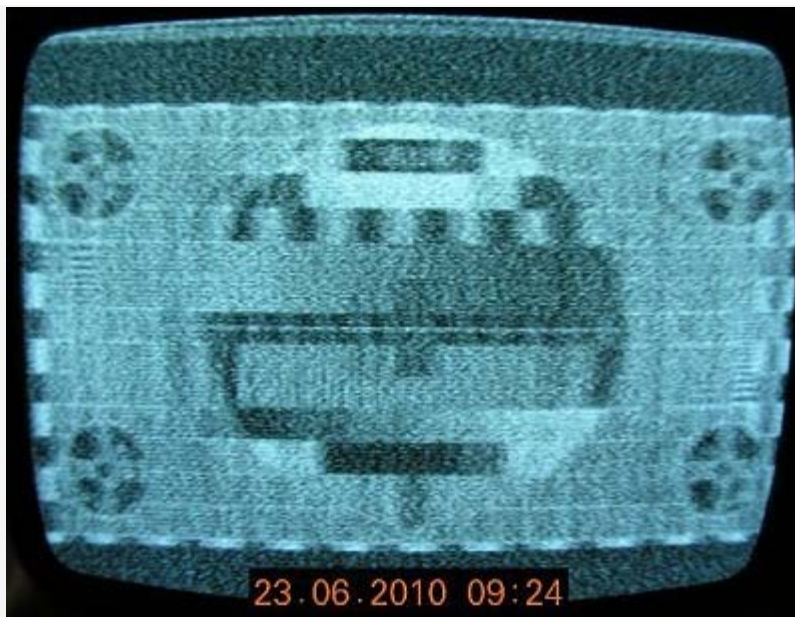
PERFECT SIGNAL OF THE RARE TEST CARD:

I switched on the TV this morning to find that RUV ICELAND had a perfect signal for a few minutes of their test card. It is a rare event these days to catch a decent test card. Alas, by the time I shuffled around trying to get the bloody digital camera to come on, the signal was all but gone. Valve gear came on faster than some of these modern digital things!!!! The setting I use all the time for TVDX involves a lot of button pressing after it eventually comes on, and defaults are not storable. That is typical.

With the old film camera I would have grabbed it and snapped. It was always ready. Then I would have to wait till the film was finished, trudge to the chemist, usually the outlet about 12 miles away, and go back in a few days etc.... And then maybe have to return if they had decided not to print that treasured test card frame!! Yes the digital wins hands down, but it's sluggish speed can be frustrating.

Reminds me of tuning to a MW signal while messing around and a rare station pops out the mush when you are not recording. Such an annoyance. Below, the first image shows the signal fading out and the flash has also went off, and the second image at the peak of another fade in. It was absolutely beautiful during the first fade in I had.





WHKT NEW FORMAT:

I had to listen twice to the following recording from 0300 22nd, as I initially thought I had heard the word FORT SMITH back on 1650.

100622_0300_whkt_portsmouth_freedom_1650.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 15th JUNE 2010

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HONEY BEE:

Well that question was raised in a TV documentary last year. But today I found some of them!! They were seemingly investigating around the shack, and were buzzing around above the door for about half an hour today. It wasn't a full swarm, but there were a lot. I thought we might have had to sit in the shack with a bee veil on shortly, but they seemed to move on!!! I wouldn't have any problems with a bees nest, but not above my door into the shack..lol..

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 11th JUNE 2010

PERSEUS SAM / AM CHALLENGE UPDATE:

I have only had two people try the quiz set out the other day. I was going to make a link to the answers page, but Guy has published data about it on his site as of yesterday, so I will let it run till Saturday probably.

Guy scored an amazing 6/10, while Phil I am not sure if he understood the objective. Phil may have been under the impression that it was one mode per clip, repeated twice, but there are two modes on each clip. The objective was to tell which was which. Whether SAM then AM, or AM then SAM. GW Dave on the Perseus group reconed he couldn't tell the difference.

My point of the exercise was to demonstrate how little difference there is between SAM and AM with the Perseus. Now had that been AM and USB for example, there would have been a much easier distinction. (I use SSB during serious MW dxing). Maybe I never used weak enough signals?? I did think the WHAM and KJR mixes would have been a reasonable demo.

What I guess didn't surprise me was that none of the guys that claim that the SAM is far better than AM even bothered to try the challenge. And I think I know why!!!!

ETV TO LEAVE BAND 1:

David Hamilton reported to me today that ETV Estonia are to leave band 1 at the end of the month. This is one of the visitors we have had this year during the openings to the east. Davie says that there is an Estonian ham operation ready to install a 50mHz beacon come the beginning of the month, so it looks like that date may be genuine. The longest closedown in history must have been Spain. They threatened to leave band one for about 10 years, and finally did during the winter months. (Certainly no logs this season anyway!! lol). Although France was reported to have left band 1, strong signals are still being seen and heard here.



It is a pity the larger caption was on a fade when these shots were taken just the other day.

CAMERA COMPLAINTS FOR TVDX:

For taking TVDX photos, I still use the old tried and tested camera method. It works not too

bad. The TV that I have the best results with is too old to have any in's and out's. It's an old black and white portable from Pye / Philips that I picked up in the 80's, marked off in channel A, B, C etc. .

Sometimes I long for a good completely manual digital camera with a few decent lens. I am harrassed by the current model, NIKON Coolpix 8800, which is semi auto, and such a pain to focus on the old TV. I still get clearer screenshots from this old TV than anything else I think, but sometimes the focus is not as sharp as it should be. It may even be less keen to focus this summer than last, I am not sure. So annoying when automatic crap doesn't do what it is meant to, and they have no manual over ride.

It also annoyingly reverts back to silly default settings every time you change from video mode to still mode. The preferred settings do not memorise. Still, it's better than the days of the old manual Zenith, which I had to trudge 12 miles to the chemist with film every week in years gone by, and then have to return many for shoddy workmanship, usually not centred, with half a screen in 1 photo and the other half in another etc. Did anyone else experience this??. The old Zenith was a dream to focus. Manual, everything about it was manual. It never had a 1/25th setting, only 1/30th so I had some shading, but not the big black lines this automatic thing gives on video. (But not all the time). I took all the old test card shots in my tvdx countries listing freehand, ie no tripod.

I guess the digital NIKON is not built for taking TVXD photos!!! The drawbacks over a traditional manual 35mm camera are as follows:

1. Manual focus virtually non existant
2. Slow to click, maybe by a second, and the picture has often faded by the time it decides to work.
3. Slow to save even on reduced quality
4. Silly default settings return when switching to video and back.
5. Flash goes off in default settings, without being asked.
6. Even running off the mains, it switches itself off when untouched for 20m or so. It is not possible to overcome this, and then it is a case of trying to get it started again when something fades in.

BUT there is a major PLUS:

I took about 800 TVDX photos last year. Correction, I kept about 800, and deleted many more. There are 781 images and movies in the 2010 tvdx folder already. Many need deleted, but imagine trying to do this with a film camera. Total cost using the digital camera? ZERO.

I think some TVDXers see me as working in the dark ages because of not using a TV card to capture. I have to add a comment here. I have been trying to make movies by using video out from the little JVC TV, to a DVD recorder. What comes out the DVD recorder certainly

isn't the quality that goes in, and is nothing like what you see on the screen. So I really just mess about as best as I can and get the best quality, using the equipment I have. It is very annoying that I can't quite record the quality you see on the screen during peaks. But I suppose I can't grumble.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 9th JUNE 2010

PERSEUS "AM" vs "SAM" CHALLENGE:

Today I have made up a quiz with 10 audio clips for those dxers that have keen ears and can tell the difference between SAM and AM with Perseus. I recon I would struggle with this quiz, and so I created 10 audio clips at random from strong stations, weaker stations on busy channels, and strong local stations to test the keen ears of anyone who fancies a go.

Contact me with the answers via e mail.

Or come to think of it, why not leave the results on this public board?? I was going to delete the links to this anyway as it wasn't being used.

http://members7.boardhost.com/mw_dxing/

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE QUIZ PAGE](#)

The answers should read for example:

2. SAM then AM
3. AM then SAM

The audio clips are of the same piece of audio, repeated again in the other mode, either SAM or AM. Maybe this wasn't clear in the first place.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 8th JUNE 2010

NEW PERSEUS RELEASE - 3.0 BETA 1:

A surprising but welcome fast addition to the Perseus software 3.0 beta from Friday was released yesterday. It included a fix for the long time wish of a repair on the howling playback bar. Loud tones no more. Well done to Nico for taking the time to make this long needed repair. For us MW dxers who use the record function on a daily basis, more so in winter, this is just what was needed.

I am not sure if I will even bother with the keyboard hotkeys script any more. It is good having a forward 10 seconds and back 10 seconds at the touch of a key though.

RAINY SEASON STARTED:

It is easy to become used to the sunshine. We have become somewhat used to it here in Scotland in the last few weeks. But It seems to have started. Yes the rain is here again. The biggest problem on the West of Scotland is that the rain forgets to go off once it has started. On the plus side, the trees and the grass are lush green again after the long winter.

SPORADIC E CONTINUES:

I checked the bands yesterday and found once again that the band 1 television was coming in from all over Europe. I did a quick tally of the stations seen, and counted 14!! I think some dxers assume there is very little to see nowadays, with many countries having switched off band 1. But 14 different stations in one day can't be too bad!! That is discounting Iceland which appeared the next morning.

See my TVDX table for 2010.

There was also an unid Arabic on E3 sound only. Jordan??

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 4th JUNE 2010

PERSEUS 3.0 BETA RELEASED:

The first note was the different sized window when you click record, which has an effect on how the hotkey files click on the save button. Look below. The mouse will miss the save button now, so the coordinates have to be changed slightly on the text / .ahk files. The keyboard AHK file seems now to open another instance of Perseus.



2.1i



3.0 BETA

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 3rd JUNE 2010

SPORADIC E:

Well what can I say about the sporadic e season this summer. It was all doom and gloom at these latitudes here last year at this time and the traditional openings in May never really happened. June never happened till towards the end of the month.

This year though....Well.. what can I say??

It feels like there has been a non stop barrage of distant FM stations and TV stations from all over Europe, including the rarer Eastern openings. Other dxers have even had Transatlantic dx, on band 2!! The last few years, what has been seen was mainly Southern stuff. Italy and Spain and Portugal. But the band has been jumping this season. A welcome change.

Imagine if it were somehow possible to record the whole of band 1, as well as band2, and listen and even view tv stations later. The hard disk space required would be excessive but hey, we can dream. A couple of years ago, recording the complete MW band was a wild dream. Now thanks to the work of a brilliant Italian scientist, we have the Perseus. One dream has become a reality.

As happens, the sheer volume of sporadic e logs has again left me in a mess. Again I have too many logs to list properly, but I will try and do the best I can. I don't have logs every time RAI or E21 has come in on the TV, or even every day that they are in. I had full intentions of adding the daily logs to the table on my tvdx table page. This however has not been done. Too many distractions in summer.

TV LITHUANIA TEST SIGNAL:

I caught a rare test caption of L7 TV , if that is the name of the station. I tend to call it L7 because of their logo. The screen shot below was caught just before sign off around 2100UTC on 1st June. Incidentally, I monitored the sound channel via a receiver, and the sound signed off first, and disappeared into hiss before the video. Sadly I wasn't making a movie at this time.



KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 27th MAY 2010**MW MONTAGE OF COMMON STATIONS 0300 AND 0200 TODAY:**

Some respectable signals for mid summer this morning. So much so I have produced another montage. It is about 2 meg, and contains some really great signals at 0300. The last 3 are 0200.

1580 CKDO, 1320 CJMR, 1650 SHALOM, 1660 WWRU, 710 WOR, 660 WFAN, 540 CBC, 800 VOWR, 950 CKNB, 970 WZAN, 1060 WBIX, 1130 WBBR, 1180 WHAM, 1520 WWKB, 1370 WDEA (0200), 1650 CINA (0200), 620 VOXM (0200)

100527_montage_of_common_stations_0300_and_0200.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2010**OIRT FM OPENING:**

Well I have never had such an opening on the old communist OITR band 66-73mHz. But tonight the band was jumping till around 1745. Maybe it will come back. Who knows. Lots from Belarus.

Some may not see this as exotic, but I have to ask, when last did you hear the following?? I had a strong Arabic sounding network also, as well as a very quiet station with flat music and poor audio up on 73mHz. It never stayed long. It was like a window on a different world tonight. And a very welcome change.

Now I have to try and ID them properly. 68.0 is the only one I'd say with confidence is good, and is Belarus Radio.

100526_69.7_radio_bresst_unid_country.mp3 - (UPDATE - Radio Brest, BR 17kw)

100526_1605_69.5_radio_bress_or_similar_id_at_end.mp3 (UPDATE - BLR Brest Radio Brest. Nearest 69.68)

100526_66.2_1730_unid_qth_canal_culture.mp3 - (UPDATE - BR2 Kanal Kultura HR 17kw)

100526_1722_69.3_radio_stalitsk_tk_on_minsk.mp3 (UPDATE - Radio Stolitza HR 17kw)

100526_1608_68.9_radio_stalitsa_unknown_qth.mp3 (UPDATE - BLR Hrodna Radio Stolitza HR 17kw)

100526_1700_68.0_belaruskie_radio_good_id.mp3

100526_1634_67.5_radio_mayak.mp3

100526_1729_66.1_radio_rossi_tent.mp3

100526_1610_67.8_slova_radio_or_studio_something.mp3

100526_1600_70.1_unid_poss_ukraine.mp3

FRENCH TV SOUND ON 54MHZ AM:

I thought I was told this was not off, but obviously not. Logged the other day, and also today, though todays signals were scrambled.

100519_wed_54030_ff_tv_snd_am_mode.mp3

TVDX SEASON WELL AND TRULY STARTED NOW:

After what seemed like a couple of sluggish seasons, and late starters etc, this year has been refreshingly interesting. Last night when I was going to turn in, I was looking through the web, and noticed some dxers in the UK had a band 2 opening to Sweden late on, around 2230?? I was watching some junk on TV at that time, but quickly checked TV band 1, and FM. I had late night Nova on R1, and something with a 5 in the top right. This "5" station seen on R1 just at turn in time, which was 0100utc. I don't think I have a decent caption of this, but I am told it is St Petersburg.

At around 0700 today, R1 showed a station with a large 1 in the left hand corner, see below. This was seen at lunchtime later in the day and turned out to be Belarus.



Also today, Jordan was seen and heard on E3, with sound, Unid AA on E2 sound only.

I have started a 2010 log table for band 1 TV. I will try and keep it up to date this summer, but I am easily distracted.

[CLICK HERE FOR TABLE](#), or click on tvdx menu

CHANNEL R1 / E2 QRM:

One of the big problems on channel R1 is both European and local hams. Sometimes they seem as though they are running such high power, and are forever calling CQ, followed by a 2 second gap, followed by another CQ call. IE they never seem to listen to the band, but rather continually call CQ. At one time I thought having a 50mhz receiver capable of SSB would be enjoyable to listen to the ham band, but really for a TVDXer, they are only QRM. The initial thrill has gone!! (This comes from someone with a call sign as well, MMOHSV!!) The interference is seen as broad QRM black lines going across the screen.

I met the worst offender from our area at the rally a few weeks ago. Davie knew the chappie concerned, and introduced. TVI at 15 miles distant didn't worry him either!!!

The bad QRM we had last summer from a baby alarm has gone. I know Davie recently dismissed it as trivial but it was so bloody annoying, that one dreaded alarm can cause such grief. And it did certainly did drag on and on throughout the summer.

I don't know when, but the clever lassie that knew her house was bugged when it was on, has left the village!! I only found this out at the weekend. A pal of mine has seemingly got the house and has NO kids, and hence no baby alarm. Yippee.

Two years ago, a friends daughter had a baby, and then one of the qrm causing baby alarms. I told her at the time that the sounds from her house could be heard by anyone. She found it amusing. So on Sunday I posed the hypothetical question to her old man and uncle who I was drinking with in the pub. (We were talking of these bugging devices/ baby alarms)

"If you were told a gaget you had allowed anyone with a basic receiver to listen in to what went on in your house, what would you do?"

1. Giggle vacantly and leave it on?
2. Immediately take it outside and tramp on it with big boots and make bloody sure it would never work again.

We all agreed on option 2. Therefore having a house bug knowingly must be a girlie thing!!!! lol

STUDIO LINKS:

I have never really properly identified any Italian studio links before, but today two were strong.

See links to audio clips.

61.040 approx VIRGIN RADIO with ads in Milano

61.250 approx RADIO PUNTO ZERO - Treiste

NEW VHF GROUP:

David Hamilton has started a new VHF group called 25mhz and up, for TVDX, ham, CB, band 2 etc!!!

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/25mhzandup/messages>

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 24th MAY 2010

NRD 545 FOR SALE:

I have finally decided to follow many of my fellow dxers and part with my former main

receiver before the arrival of the Perseus.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS AND PHOTOS](#)

It is a strange thing for me to flog anything. This must be the first time I have tried to sell anything. I have only ever traded one receiver, AOR 7030, for an Icom vhf receiver, and I was sweating that day. Usually I hoard. And hoard, and hoard.....

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 21st MAY 2010

MW DXING IN MID SUMMER IN SCOTLAND:

Well we go from much colder than normal for May, to short trousers weather in a couple of days!!!! If mid July is classed as mid summer, then so must mid May, when you think about it.

Yesterday morning at 0300 produced some quite strong signals on the band. I will give a short montage again of some common signals, and apologies if I keep giving WWKB, but sometimes the signal is quite alarming this side of the Atlantic, and such a growl from the "WWKB..BUFFALO" voice over.

Stations on this 1.4 meg file are: WBBR 1130, WWKB 1520, WWZN 1510, FF 1570, WUNR 1600, WWRU 1660, WDEA 1370, DISNEY 1560, WJCC 1700

All bar WBBR was recorded yesterday at 0300. WBBR was recorded today at 0300.

All received on a Perseus with 500m beverage.

100520_and_21st_montage_common_mw_stns.mp3

PERSEUS QUICK START GUIDE FOR WINDOWS 7:

I have created a page with a quick start guide to installing the drivers, using Windows 7. Some users seemed to be having trouble with Windows 7 install, which seemed to work slightly different from I would have expected with Windows XP. For dxers not used to being in the depths of their PC operating system, click below for an easy step

by step guide with screenshots.

perseus_installation_windows_7.html

PERSEUS RSGB ARTICLE:

Well what a surprise with that RSGB test on Perseus. The straightened up PDF I reloaded last week had over 600 downloads!!!! It just goes to show!!!!

PERSEUS WORKING AS A VHF RECEIVER NOW, BUT ONLY JUST:

I have been again messing with the ICOM ICR-7000 receiver and it's 10.7mHz IF out feeding the Perseus aerial socket. If I added 10.7mHz to the freq the receiver is tuned to, 137mhz, I receive the local air band, with accurate freq readout.

I am using the 60 day trial with this screen shot. The main PC with the Perseus software is long over the 60 day trial. But at least I have learned how to make the freq readout accurate. The screenshot shows the settings for the freq pop up. I guess it is not worth my while buying the 40 euro rights, as the rx is too narrow for wide FM. This was only an experiment.



PERSEUS YAHOO GROUP - OBNOXIOUS AMERICAN BANNED:

Some big mouth American has been causing problems on the Perseus Yahoo group lately. As of today Nico has banned him from the group. It had been a long time coming. The guy is probably a cop, or a customs officer, or someone equally as ill mannered. He is not alone. I see a lot of these know alls on various message boards on the web. I would like to see these loud mouths come into my local bar and start mouthing off like that face to face. It would be very amusing, and fun I think.

There is a Pirate radio board here in the UK that seems to have only dubious contributions from people like the American guy on the Perseus board. It began as a radio enthusiasts board, with worthwhile contributions and historical discussions, but now it has been hi jacked by ignoramuses that can't even string a proper sentence together without being abusive and down right rude.

I think the worst I ever saw was a really obnoxious Frenchman who posted a string of anti-American and anti "English speaking world" dribble, even voicing support for Al Qaeda. This was posted in English I hasten to add. That misguided troublemaker was still kept on as a MW Circle officer, even after this outburst. What kind of publicity is that for a supposedly reputable dx club??

When I was in Holland and Germany in 2009, I was completely overwhelmed by the manners of our European neighbours. I never met a rude or obnoxious person over the whole time I was there I don't think. I am sure they would have been there, but I just felt that even the customs and security folk at the airports were mannerly, and not the rude and ignorant types you have in this country. Even parking attendants in this country can be extremely rude and think they are in some important position. I have to stress I had no business with any Dutch or German traffic cops or even normal cops, so my illusions may have been easily shattered. But we were drinking in the streets of Dusseldorf to the early hours, not bothering anyone, and in fact people wanted to chat to us about everything from bagpipes to Scottish mountains. It was so cool.

I am glad sometimes that the local accent here in my area of Scotland is so much NOT like Oxford English, that tourists to the area find the language very difficult. Sometimes I cringe at some of my fellow countrymen, at how they treat foreign tourists. Some of them unfortunately seem to believe that it's all about "Whit Fitba' team dae ye support". No wonder people stereotype about Scot's abroad!!! The BBC have a new series filmed in Killie called "The Scheme", and following the lives of six families for a year or so. Boy does this portray us Scots in a bad light!!

WOULD YOU MOVE LOCATION FOR DXING??

I read a question posed on the Skywaves DX group the other day. Who wants to move to a more favourable QTH for dxing??

That was always my ultimate dream as a young fella. Beverages at every point of the compass. Long wires, dipoles, towers etc, all out in the country and on the top of a hill, and maybe even the whole top floor of the house a 360 degrees glass room, that you could sit in at night with the lights out and watch the stars. But what is the chance of achieving this? Nil to be honest.

If I achieved my long time dream of winning the lottery, would I move?? Certainly if I had a decent win. I always quite liked living in a quiet country village, but these days I have less and less affection for it because of the isolation.

I used to dream of living on the Western Isles somewhere. I love going on holiday to the north west of Scotland, or the Islands, so beautiful in nice weather. A drag in the rain, but so is anywhere. So could I live with the isolation of living on an old tumbledown farm for example on a north western peninsula of a remote island surrounded by beverages?? The more I go through life, the more I am not sure that I could handle this life long dream for too long. It would be great in winter for a time with the dxing, and the old turf fire burning in the fireplace, and the winds whistling around the draughty old house. But it would be a long way to go to the pub, to a gig, to an eating house. I can imagine on a Friday or a Saturday night I may start pacing up and down like a caged beast!! I like my rock bands, and there are some worthwhile acts play around the area at weekends. I would miss all of that scene.

For quite a number of years now, I have found out about being isolated by living in the sticks here with no village inn any more. It has turned into a snotty nosed eating place, and doesn't encourage casual drinkers!! (I have always been a chap that liked to get out at the weekends.) We used to have two Inns in the village. Now there are none. No more shuffling across the road whenever I choose. It is all a bit more hassle nowadays, trying to get to and home from a night out etc. It is as if the heart has gone from the village. I know more folk from the next village than I do from my own home town nowadays.

So what does this have to do with moving to a more dx friendly qth. Nothing really, just another long string of thoughts and old ideas!!

Some folks think I have it good here, as by chance there are no houses over the river from me. (Although there have been rumours in the past..). I am perfectly able to make beverages with a little imagination, ie through the dense woodlands and aerial starting about 200m away from the shack. So to move and find a more dx friendly site, I would have to live on a farm or something, to better the qth where I am. It is not the perfect qrn free location here, though I can't grumble.

There is a farm just up the road from me that was up for grabs a couple of years ago, with an extraordinary amount of moorland, including the highest point in the immediate area. See my article about a possible dxpedition, which I never ever did. It would have been possible at that QTH to have long beverages in almost every direction. That would have been something. But of course my lottery never came up.

I should have made my A/B tests with really long beverages, to see the difference between 500m and 1000m for example, with a perseus recording to back it up.

I also read on the Skywaves site, something I couldn't understand. Some reconed it may be better to move to a sprawling housing estate, than a remote country area??

Reason being that satellite etc in the large estates is pretty well established, where as out in the country you could have one noisy item waste it for all. Luckily we have survived the worst rf qrn here, but I do know in the middle of the highly populated areas, the rf noise for me is just alarming. I dont know where it comes from, but I have heard it when visiting friends, and I'm mighty glad I am a country chappie sometimes. Even if the web speed aint what it is in the towns.

But to answer the initial question?? Well I have the easy solution. If the move desired a large lottery win in the first place, then the addition of a holiday farm in that mysterious distant NW peninsula for dxing would not be out of the question, and even a remote receiver placed there would be beneficial. But here we are in fairy land again, talking the same old lottery dream that has been talked many many times before in the bars..... and not only by myself!!!!!!

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 18th MAY 2010

UNID CAPTION TOP END OF E3:

1600 TODAY at the top end of E3,(The LF end), I had this caption. Any ideas???


Update: RAI new logos





STATION IDENTIFICATION, THANKS TO AB:

I had a logging of Caracol Columbia up on line last month on 1400kHz. I thought no more of it. Sounded like a good ID to me, though I had no idea of the talk before hand that seemed to announce frequencies and telephone numbers. But thanks to the keen ears of Andrew B, I now have the correct station ID. It was not the one I imagined it was, but Em Mariana de Bogota. As always, when told, the id jumps out at you..... Again, tnx for pointing me in the right direction OM.

 Click to listen. I thought it was Radio Caracol at 50s. seems not. Una Radio Para Todos is what is being said!!

TCR 1512:

Tyrone Community Radio heard on 1512 seems to be a bit stronger these days. I heard them the other night, and recorded some off air airchecks. I have been promised by dxers closer to the transmitter than I am, some decent recordings, but so far I only have my own recordings. It is not great by day here, but now 1512 is so clear at night, it is pretty solid in the early evening here, though begins to become messy later in the night.



FEEDER CABLE:

A dx friend on the Skype Chat was asking about the feeder cables I use to reach the start of the main beverage aerial about 200m distant. Below is a photo with some samples. The thick stuff is the cable I would wish for with, but the length I had that went only across the river, and was damaged by a flood some years back. It really is the best of cable. I did find a price on it on line, and it was ridiculous. It's little brother, the thinner coax, is cable I use for maybe 100m or so towards the beverage. After the initial run, all I have is shorter lengths. At one time I did try an A/B test with the thicker wire, against normal coax. I have not found the written results sadly, as I can't recall the year I fell in with this cable (saved it from being burnt for scrap!!). All I can say is that there was a significant difference using the thick cable. Signal strength wise, measured on the NRD 515 meter against Radio North 846.

The other two lengths of samples in the picture are a length of the fibre optic cables that are laid all around here, and as far as I know never used so far. The diggers that stayed at the local Inn gave me the sample when I asked them for it, maybe 12 - 15 years ago. There is another interesting piece of wire which I think was from an old military lead I got from ex army junk stuff. I bet that cable wasn't cheap either. It has about 16 twin and earth shielded pairs as well as a main screen.

If you want a shock, first pour a large brandy. Then search Google for LDF5-50A, the thick cable. The thinner stuff is LDF12-50J. The only writing on the fibre optic is 1308M, and nothing at all written on the grey army cable.



TVDX!!!!

TVDX arrived here in Scotland last week. I wouldn't say I am in high gear yet, as far as intense dxing goes, but I have found the appropriate aerial leads that have been disconnected throughout the year, for various reasons. (Prob lightning reasons).

Logs so far have been E21 Italy E3, NOVA Czech Rep R1 R2, Slovakia R2, RTL Hungary R2, Croatia E4, Austria E4.

Photos below from 13th May show

- 1) Nova R1, lamp illuminating dial to show freq!!
- 2) Nova R2
- 3) Slovakia R2
- 4) ORF Austria E4, qrp TX seemingly
- 5) Croatia HRT E4
- 6) Croatia HRT E4





MORE UNWANTED CRAP FROM SKY!!!

I was out on Friday night and wanted to record the epic Tom Petty 4 hour documentary on BBC4 when I was out, followed by a Stevie Wonder concert. BUT.... There is always a but on these pages....

Sky have taken it upon themselves to add some crap standby mode, so that if the box sits unchanged for so many hours, it switches off to save .0005 of a penny. Great idea, give the guy that thought of that a Crackerjack Pencil, or maybe a boot in the bollocks.

OK, You can press - Services - Auto Standby (option 5) and disable. But if like me your box software has auto updated and if like me you were unaware of this nonsense, you may have missed your favourite show too.

A few months ago I had a pint bought for me in the pub because their Sky system had this intrusive message all the time as well, and they couldn't get rid of it. I was not aware my own old box had auto updated...

While I am in grumpy mode, have you ever flicked past a pay channel on a Sky box if you don't subscribe to any Sky channels? A very annoying pop up screen comes up now, and you have to press back up to get rid of it. Previously you simply flicked up and down the channels without this intrusive sales screen.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 12th MAY 2010

LATEST UPDATES:

Not a lot to report of this week radio wise. I have though, included a few recordings made recently. I have given two longish recordings, well a couple of minutes, from VOXM 710 which was one of the first of three stations I heard from across the water, way back on a wild winters night in 1978.

100511_0303_710_vocm_vg.mp3 (849k)

100511_0405_710_vocm_vg.mp3 (599k)

100512_0402_1190_wlib_inc_hd2_id.mp3

100430_0300_1540_kxel.mp3



Click to see a screenshot of VOCM 710

OLD RADIO RECORDINGS:

I have been advised of a great site with many high bitrate recordings in store, and not the usual crap rate you see around the web. At the time of typing it seems to be temporary off line, but anyhow, here is the link.

<http://www.bonniesradiocollectie.tk/>

MAGNUM RADIO RALLY:

Well that was the day of the Magnum Radio Rally here in Scotland. On Sunday David H and I went down to the only major ham rally of the year nowadays. The place was busy enough, but I was not really after anything. I may have bought a WRTH if I had seen one in front of me, but there were none for sale in the whole of the rally. There were a lot of phone chargers, and cheap tools etc, component dealers as well, but I couldn't think on anything I was really after. I bought a couple of Mics at 4 quid each, and a more recent RSGB handbook than the one I have for £2. On the way out the door, there was a little home made notch filter in a decent little box, for 3 quid. It didn't notch!!! But components and box are worth the 3 quid!!



ORBAN EQ/ NOTCH FILTER 642B:

After my little notch filter wouldn't notch from the radio rally, I got to thinking about the problem I am trying to solve. Some of my old tapes may have some hum, or a het on the recordings, so some kind of a notch filter that does not have an adverse effect on the rest of the audio frequencies would be desirable. Yes we all had the audio notch filters from the 80's from ?? (can't remember company name). These were very limited, and an AM transmission sounded like SSB through them. They did get rid of hets though.

Anyway, the audio notch filter on the NRD 545 is really really sharp, and removes hets without disturbing other audio frequencies. I hear the AOR 7030+ has a good one as well.

But when I bought the ORBAN 642B EQ/ NOTCH a couple of years ago, I bought it hoping it would clean up and add some spice to many of the old manky tapes that were recorded on crap equipment in the 80's. This it did, and although notch was mentioned, I have never notched anything out till now.

So I thought I should try harder. I found an old tape with only a test tone. The idea is that it should be easier to notch a tone if the only thing on the tape is a tone. Surprise surprise, I found that I could notch out the tone to 100% with the ORBAN. This could be good for hets on some of the old Caroline recordings, as there was on many recordings an annoying arabic off channel, Tunisia always got the blame. So if they were still on around 962, the same settings would get rid of the 1khz tone?? I have yet to try.

Below is a recording of adjustments to the Orban being done to get rid of tone. I know there are dirty controls, but that will be cleaned soon!!! The point is, I took the het to zero, changed the tape, and Bon Jovi was still OK. He didn't sound like SSB. The tone back in at the end is the result of changing tape to tone tape again obviously, and then switching out the notched controls.

UPDATE: Now as a PS to the first part of the article, I have now included a recording of Caroline with their annoying het in Sept 79. I am heard switching in and out the notch filter. Pretty damn good eh?? I am very impressed with this piece of kit dating to maybe the 1980's when this type of rack mounted studio gear was an absolute fortune. No wonder they hold their prices even now on e bay.

I can now record the airchecks with much better sound quality than previously possible.

Now to find the can of Servisol.

You can see the ORBAN units installed on the photo on the home page.



The ORBAN notch filter is the bottom unit

tone_test_orban_inc_dirty_control.mp3

790922_clip_orban_test_on_caroline_het.mp3

NB: ORBAN is the legendary company that made AM radio what it was in the States with their superb audio processing units. I am surprised when I find experienced radio people that have never heard of an Orban Optimod.

The ORBAN OPTIMOD is what gave Radio Nova 738, Caroline 963, KISS 1008 etc their beefy audio on MW here in Europe in the 1980's, although much of that was to do with the engineer that set it up in the first place.





KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 5th MAY 2010

DAWN AT THESE LATTITUDES:

Dawn - such a lovely time of the morning, whether you are up with the lark to see the sunrise, or coming home late on a Saturday night, maybe from that party that you shouldn't have went to at your age, but what the hell.

I was awakened by noisy geese yesterday morning at 0430 local, which is 0330 GMT, and it was that half light when the smaller birds were already up and about. It was nice. It is good to see for myself instead of relying on the greyline software. So maybe the times for the dawn enhancement at this time of year will be 0300 and 0400 rather than 0500. It is the time of year that always seems to catch up fast, and before you know it, mid summer is here.

TV DX APPEARS ALREADY:

I have had my first band 1 TVDX of the season yesterday. E21 from Italy was seen, with quite a good peak in the afternoon, not long after talking about sporadic e on the skype dx chat box. I was not really set up with the camera or even to record sound from ICOM VHF rx. But the band 1 aerial feed has been found and plugged in. Amazing how things get moved if not in use for many months. I haven't even got the d100 reconnected as yet.....

An old friend and fellow local dxer from years ago used to always recon that the first week in May often produced the first tvdx of the season. I wish I knew what happened to all his old photos when he died. He used to take images of the TVDX at a time when I had no camera capable of taking photos off the TV. I published a photo of my late old

pal here last summer, Ian Mason. There may be one or two dxers who still remember him, as he had contact with a few dxers on a regular basis.

TIME FOR THE HAM RALLY AGAIN:

Not that I am holding my breath, but I will be attending the Magnum Rally again this year. Last year I couldn't have even bought a WRTH at it. There were no vintage books, or old junk that took my fancy. But you just can't take the pot and say you are not going. This may be the year there is an abundance of old crap for only a few shillings!!!

OLD STORIES ABOUT OLD TAPES - YET AGAIN:

Yes, it is sometimes hard to remember the days when the tapes were the only media readily available for recording, and the reliability factor of them was questionable at times.

I have been archiving many of my old tapes of late. Many play fine after all these years. But I have been back in the 70's this past week, and copying some of the older cassettes, which are more than 30 years old now. I had forgotten how I used to be plagued by the crap tape syndrome. Using the Pyral tapes, or the Pinnacle, I remember the mechanical jam ups. It still happens with these manky old cassettes. Some hi fi guys or guys involved in radio would say, yea, buy TDK tapes. But they were more expensive, and at the time, we didn't have a bottomless pit of cash for blank tapes, never mind good quality ones. Finding them to buy was no easy task at that time out here in the sticks either.

It was years before I realised that good quality tapes meant "mechanically" good, not just "audio" good. Many tapes record OK, but the mechanisms used to jam easy, or somehow some tapes would chew up easily.

These Pyral things I am working with at the minute often stop half way through, because the tapes are well jammed. Trying to rewind with your finger shows the extent they are jammed. Often a good few bangs off of a hard surface, like the edge of the bench for example, will be enough to free the tape. In extreme cases I have to change shells. Something I always remember about those Pyral tapes too was their index cards. They had a real strong smell like some new books have of the inks used in them I suppose. Even after more than 30 years, some of them, especially those that have not been played as often, still have the same distinctive smell of "new book" from the labels after all these years.

A radio friend used to send BASF C60's, those orange ones you used to get, and they were shocking for chewing up!!! Even c60's!! Some were more guilty than others of the dreaded wow and flutter. I have had to swap shells of some old tapes just to get them

to play properly.


And then of course some tapes I have dug out sound terrible, till it is realised the tiny square of foam that is at the centre of the tape to keep the actual tape against the heads has gone. Luckily I don't tend to throw out much, and therefore have plenty "spare parts".

Sometimes I have used a c60, giving obviously only 30m per side. But sometimes there would be some bad QRN from faulty power lines over a mile away that used to cause grief around here, and the tape would have to be stopped. Quite often I may only have a 10m clip of something or other, or maybe even only a few precious airchecks. Maybe signals were very poor. But these days, some of the stations which the recordings are of, may only have a few known recordings available, so a rubbish recording is better than no recording at all.

I recently suspected a cassette player of chewing tapes, and almost ripped it out and threw in another machine. After playing side A of a MEMOREX C90 first flawlessly, side B would not play without a lot of chewing and wowing. Tape path and heads were cleaned again just to be sure. Still the same. Tried the first c120 I found lying around the shack, as they were REPUTED to be worse at chewing and wowing, although not in my experience. Played perfectly. Hmm. Tape Faulty??

I had a TDK SF cassette lying close by, so I changed the shells. The former chewer played perfectly. I guess the reason was inside the sticky shell?? That is the first time I have ever had to split one of these Memorex C90, MRX3 late 70's tapes. So confident were the manufacturers of the day that they had not even put screws in their tape housings / shells, so they have to be prised open.

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat Contact

680		Radio Continente, Venezuela	 13/4 0529
700		Radio Sucre, Ecuador	 0531 10/4
830		Radio Sensation, Venezuela	0501 9/4
1390	WZHF	Arlington/ Washington	 8/4 0500
1400		Em Mariana de Bogota, Columbia	 0530 10/4 (5Kw) (Tnks AB for correction)

Personal Firsts this month = 5 SO FAR

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 30th APRIL 2010

NEW (OLD) RADIO RECORDINGS:

I have been uploading many more old recordings of Radio Star Country from 1989 with the late Don Allen, well known on Radio Caroline and RNI in years gone by. Don as mentioned in earlier entries this month, worked on many of the Irish radio stations of the 80's, his last station being Radio Star. The recordings were mostly made in early 1989, when it was thought that Star Country's days were numbered, after they continued defiantly after the 1988 broadcast bill was in force.

Another station had come on the air by the 2nd week in January 1989. Northside Radio was broadcasting from Co Donegal, on 846kHz. This was no more than a new name for Radio North, after they closed on 31st December 1988. I have begun to upload a few long recordings of Northside Radio recorded here in Scotland on triple play reel to reel tapes. Reception is quite good, though the transmitter was really screaming it's head off. That was how it sounded like on air. This station was on the air for a matter of months, before reverting back to the name Radio North.

I am hopefully going to be comparing notes with a dxer in Co Donegal to log dates and frequencies of the stations in the county. There was also a station called North Atlantic Radio, which although using many of the same presenters was probably a different station altogether. Radio North was a separate station from NAR at one time, but they seemed to turn back into yet another incarnation of Radio North..!!!

ARD RECORDINGS:

I am also in the process of copying all the old ARD recordings I have from 1979. ARD stood for Alternative Radio Dublin, a breakaway from Radio Dublin. ARD closed on 31st December 1979. They had a good signal here in Scotland on 1161, even though they were next to semi local ILR Glasgow on 1152. I had only been able to hear ARD since the summer of 1979, due to not having a receiver that could separate Clyde and Radio Tees. It was OK with stronger continentals at night, but no use by day. (At that stage my best MW receiver was a domestic Philips radio gram. In the summer of 1979, I bought a Grundig satellit 3400. I had a Codar CR70A MK2 at the time, but on MW by day there was nothing between Clyde 1152, and BBC Radio 1 1089. The selectivity was so poor.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2010

PMSDR RECORDING VIA AUTOHOTKEYS AND WINRAD-HD:

David H was working on the script yesterday for using the HD version of WINRAD with the PM-SDR. After some brain stress, he got it running as good as the WINRAD 1.6.1 version. The problem was with HD, there were more pop up boxes and selections to be made, but this should work with anyone else's instalation we think. (Although the script is untested on larger screen sizes, eg 1280 screens)

Well done to Davie, and hat's off to you for sharing again in the public domain straight away.

We both wonder why there has never been anyone else come up with the hotkeys script for WINRAD?? Initially on looking at the original Perseus script, it looked a nightmare, but once you got into it, things became a lot easier.

I only wish I had the programming knowledge it takes to write a full GUI for playback. If I could I would produce a simple white screen with black text, and not all the colours of the rainbow. I actually quite like the light grey background of Spectravue. Compare that to WINRAD, or the screenshots of the WINRADIO EXCALABAR from the WINRADIO site!!

The new WINRAD HD script is included in the PMSDR ESSENTIALS which was mentioned here the other day.

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE PMSDR / WINRAD TOOLKIT](#)

Incidentally I thought it was very nice of Martin, the designer of the PMSDR to completely ignore this development, after it was published in the Yahoo group. You'd have thought he would have at least had the courtesy to say thank you, considering it opens up new possibilities for his receiver, and can only be good for sales.

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pmsdr/>

FM STATIONS IN 1995 HEARD IN SCOTLAND:

I have been looking for some signal tests and notes that I made in years gone by, and came across some logs of the FM band. A very different FM band that we know today. Here is some of the logs that were coming through here in Scotland at that time.

100 Radio Dublin
 100.1 UCB Unid QTH
 100.7 Sunshine (Monaghan // 954 ??)
 102.5 North West Radio Sligo Legal station
 102.9 Q102 Derry / unid QTH (Legal)
 102.9 East Coast Radio Bray (Legal)
 103.3 Mix of Clyde and Highland
 103.7 Radio North
 105.0 North West Radio - Sligo
 105.4 Unid carrier
 105.7 Power FM Dublin Pirate
 105.9 Unid Non Stop Music poss Music City Radio, Monaghan
 106.0 DLR Dunlaoire (Had // sw on at one time)
 106.1 Unid country music sign off 8pm
 106.4 Club FM Dublin pirate
 106.8 Hot 107 Dublin Pirate
 107.1 The Vibe Dublin Pirate
 107.6 Beumont Hospital Radio Dublin

Changed Days.....

UPDATE ON SPECTRTAVIEW 3.0 BETA 19:

Yesterday I asked if anyone had a copy of Beta 19 of Spectraview. This was for experimental purposes and to test the software in comparason to Perseus. But I never had it working properly either, so it is now deleted. Enough time has been spent on secondary software. Perseus was always going to be my main software in everyday use. It is so much more user friendly than anything else I have ever tried.

Thanks to the dxers that sent me the link to Willie's downloads. Forgot about that excellent resource. All appreciated.

Seeing as Perseus files are locked out, it looks like Mr Spectravue doesn't want dxers to be able to try his software properly either. Can't be good for sales.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2010

PMSDR TIMER RECORDINGS WITH WINRAD AND AUTOHOTKEYS:

Well after a few weeks asking around and no one taking up his appeal for help, Davie H had almost given up with the remote timer script for recording with Autohotkeys and the PMSDR. I altered the code script last year to take in the move of a couple of buttons on the Perseus, so I thought I would try my hand at something which certainly can not be described as my specialist subject.

After a look at both WINRAD HD, and WINRAD 1.6.1 it was decided to use the latter, as the HD version had more pop up boxes to attend to at start up. The recorded file of course plays back fine in WINRAD HD if required.

Unlike some stuffy dxers who keep things secret, we made the script public immediatly. After all, isn't the hobby about sharing logs and little tips and tricks???? Seems not everyone thinks along these lines.

Any dxers using WINRAD with other SDR's such as the QUICKSILVER receiver, could probably quite easily modify the PMSDR script for the QSR. Unfortunately the pop up boxes will be all different. I know the Perseus pop up box is taller and different from the PMSDR pop up, and as a result, I had to go and visit Davie with his PMSDR on Saturday and try and put the finishing touches to the script. It was a bit of trial and error and the two of us banging our heads together for a couple of hours, but eventually we got it running fine.

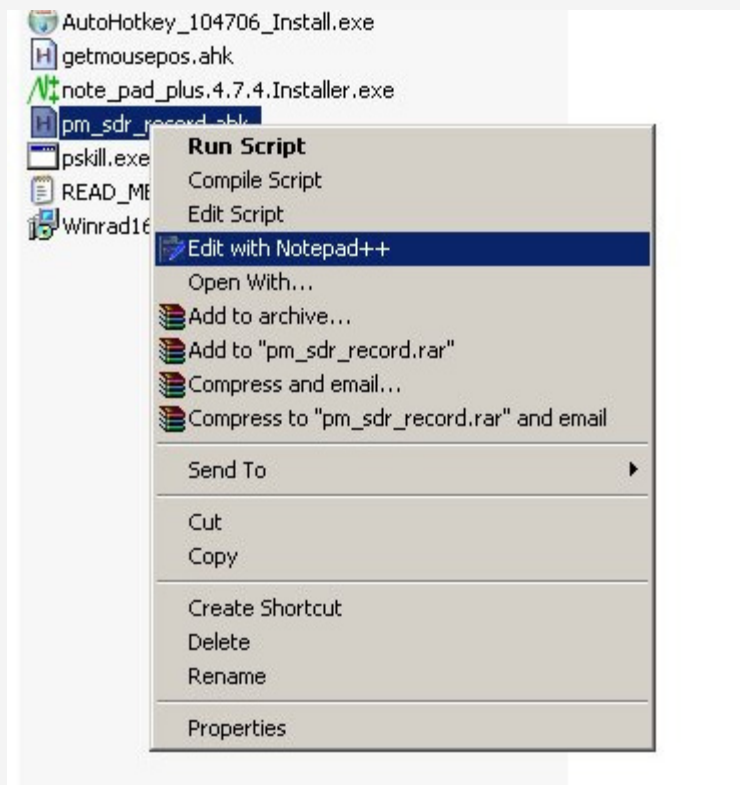


[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE PMSDR / WINRAD TOOLKIT](#)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE:

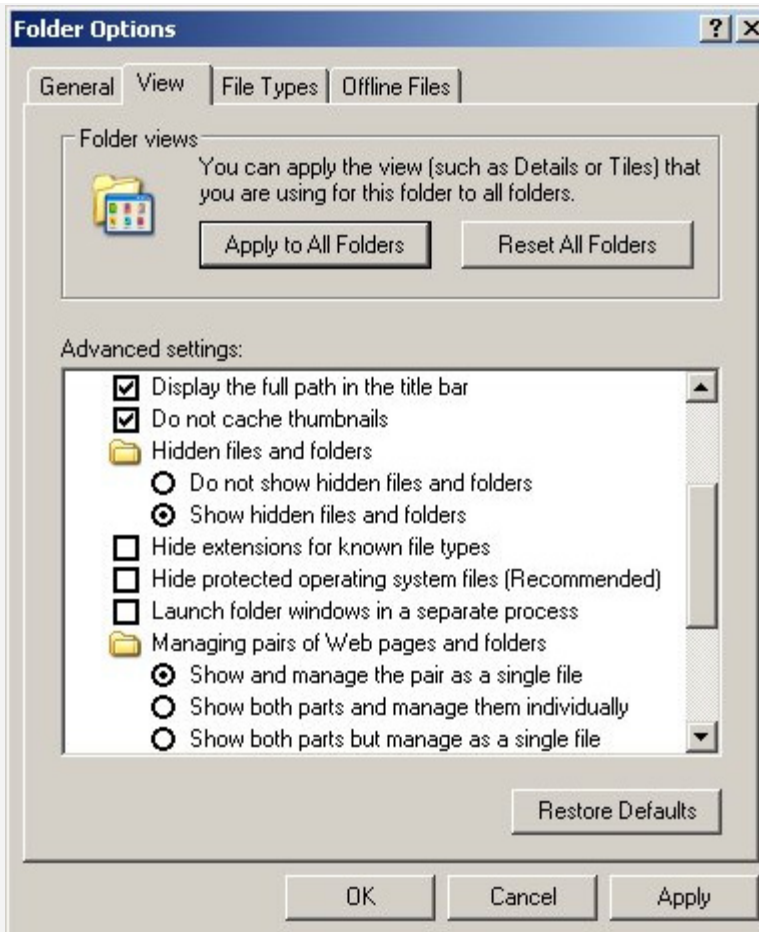
1. Download the above PMSDR toolbox zip file
2. Unzip the containing folder to your hard drive (eg drag it onto your desktop)
3. Install AUTOHOTKEYS
4. Install WINRAD 1.1.6 into it's DEFAULT folder (important)
5. Optional, but install notepad plus. Better to edit with than the simple windows notepad.
6. Copy PSKILL.EXE into Winrad folder. (C:/Program Files/Winrad)
7. Open the file pm_sdr_record_sample.ahk with notepad plus. (Right click - Edit with Notepad++)
8. Select the time you desire the recordings to start and stop, eg 0258 - 0303. (In Notepad++, line 46 approx)
9. Save file as for example pmsdr_0300.ahk

Within the zip file on this server, there are a couple of sample files. 0300, 0400, 0500.



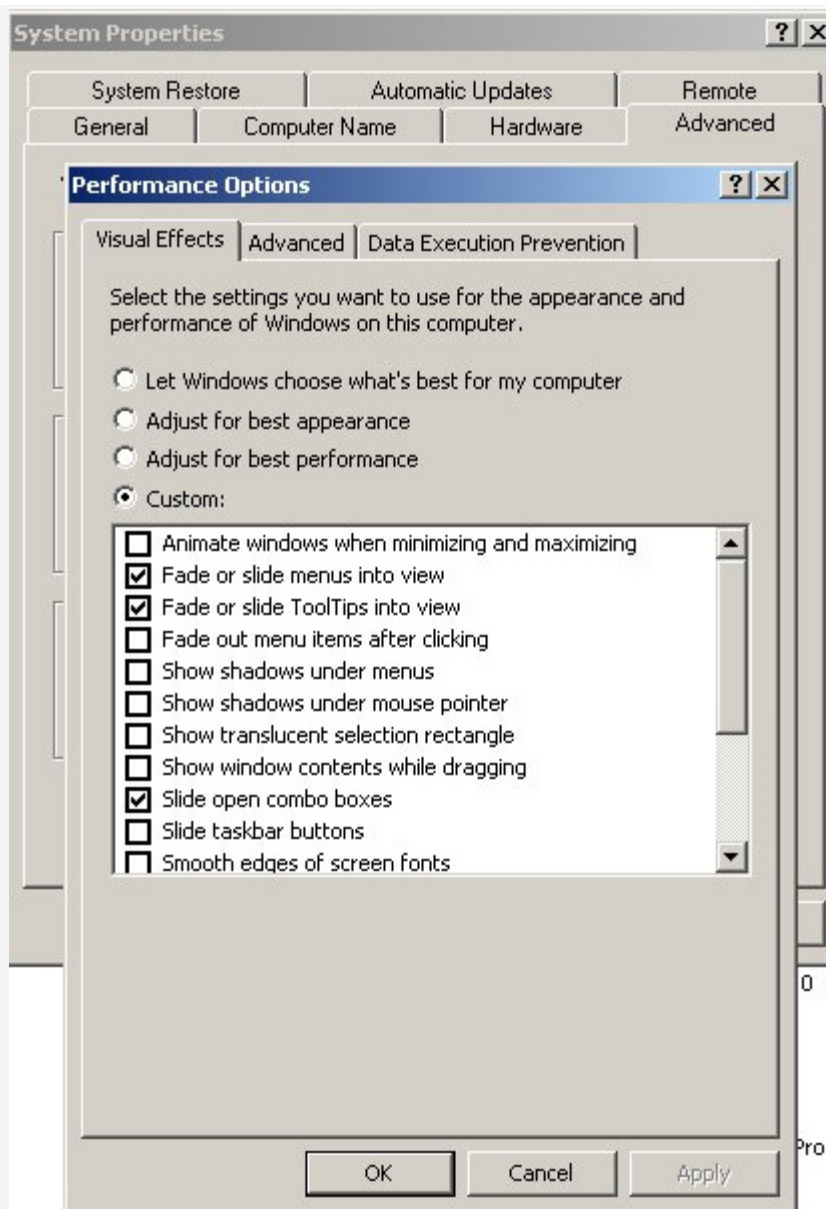
(NB - IT IS ASSUMED USERS HAVE SOME PC KNOWLEDGE AND AT LEAST HAVE THEIR FILE TYPES SHOWING. MY COMPUTER - TOOLS - FOLDER OPTIONS - VIEW - UNTICK "HIDE EXTENSIONS FOR KNOWN FILE TYPES")

This lets you see whether your file is a .txt, .doc, .mp3, .ahk etc. By default Windows hides this, but I have no idea how people can work properly with a PC without their file extensions showing.



WINRAD - FORCES CHANGES TO YOUR WINDOWS SETTTINGS..!!!!!!

How about that. I was seeing silly fading menus and things today on my PC and thought something funny was going on. Then I had a look at the advanced settings. (Right click My Computer - Properties - Advanced - Performance Settings). Many of the unwanted frills of Windows XP had been reticked, but not by me. What was running? I had only installed WINRAD since yesterday. There was nothing much unusual running in the old "RUN - MSCONFIG". So where did that leave us. After unticking and a reboot, the boxes were again reticked, and I had silly fading on menus again. How weird.



I uninstalled WINRAD. Voila. Back to my own personal settings. Why would an SDR GUI wish to hijack the windows settings. Is it so that it can operate the weird spinning compass all the time??? Who knows, but it is now gone anyway. Deleted.

This may have been version 1.3 or similar number from Alberto's site, an 11 meg download. When I went to David H's QTH to try and finalise the script on Saturday, I found he was running version 1.6.1, which did NOT hijack the windows settings, and had thankfully only 1 frequency display instead of an annoying two. There is still a weird spinning thing though.

BUT...BUT... After doing yet another trial with Spectraview using a WINRAD recorded file, using WINRAD 1.6.1 (850k or thereabouts) and Perseus, I found that on my PC, the silly fading menu options are again reticked themselves. But they weren't selected on Davie's PC. Odd. We haven't really compared versions of Windows yet to see who is using what....

At any rate, I found WINRAD to be a very poor second to the Perseus software. It will

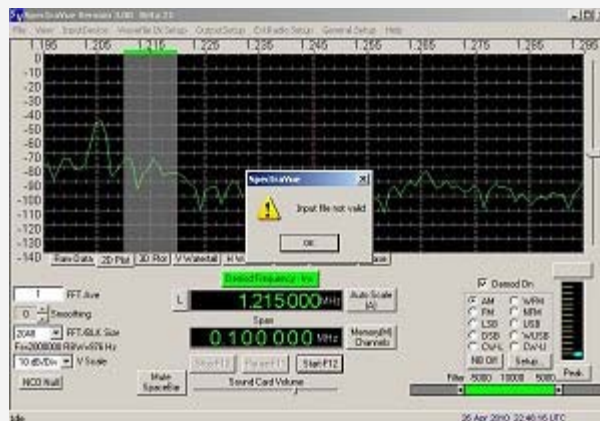
not even attempt to play a 1600kHz file. A 1mhz file is somewhat stuttery as well. This is despite the WINRAD CPU use reading being pretty low. Tuning is a nightmare compared to the Perseus GUI. Perseus files play flawlessly, and I still have plenty horsepower to play with for other applications that may be running. I have no real use for it other than to experiment and try and get the timer recordings working for PMSDR dxers, so it will soon be gone...

WANTED - SPECTRAVUE 3.0 BETA 19:

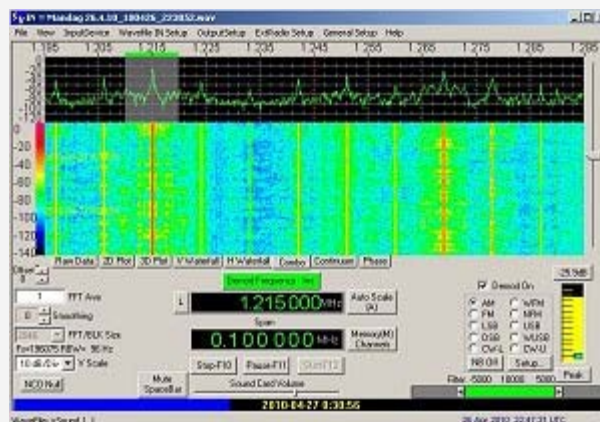
I was trying Spectraview with the Perseus recordings, but they were seen as invalid. It seems that the author of the software has locked out the Perseus capability again for some reason and only users with and SDR-IQ rx for example plugged in to the PC at least once, can use Spectravue for Perseus files.

However reading up on line, I see version 3.0 beta 19 is the required version, with no silly tricks. Anyone have that version available???? I doubt it comes close to the Perseus software for user friendly operation, but I would have liked the opportunity to try it with a Perseus file to compare for example the digging out of weak signals.

Can anyone mail me a copy of BETA 19 to try????



Trying a Perseus file



Working File

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 23rd APRIL 2010

THE WORLD FAMOUS AMPEX TAPES:

As readers of this blog will have been aware in the last month or so, I have been quite active in archiving my old manky reels of tape as well as old cassettes.

Yesterday I had an odd reel that I must have been given by someone. I can't recall who, but I only ever bought the triple play reels that could record 6.5 hours per track. Each tape had 4 mono tracks, or 2 stereo tracks. These triple play tapes are all Maxell. They are playing as though they had been recorded yesterday, and playing flawlessly.

But I have 1 AMPEX tape which although on a 7" reel, is only 1hr 37m per track at slow speed. There are a couple of minutes at the start of each side of a test tone, then a second leader tape!! Odd. But despite the name AMPEX, a name well known in radio studios of the past, the reel is falling to bits. One play yesterday clogged up the tape path and heads to the extreme. No use. So that tape will be left until last, and I will have to record it bit by bit. Shocking that some of these tapes are now almost unplayable.

Also showing the same characteristics as the duff AMPEX are those orange BASF cassettes that you used to get in the early 80's. Even C60's are no use, and have to be copied bit by bit!! Some of the orange BASF c120's are full of plastic things to aid the mechanism. But after all these years being unplayed, they are also sticky in a mechanical way, and there are some amount of squeaks and whines coming through the speakers that are not on the tape. The way to overcome this is to change the tape housing whether briefly or permanently. I was given a box of old music tapes a couple of years ago that someone was putting out, and I also fell in with a sealed box of music tapes.. some dance thing. So I have plenty shells lying around that I can use.

Many of my 1980's ID tapes are on these BASF c120's.

DON ALLEN ON RADIO STAR COUNTRY:

The late Don Allen's last radio station was Radio Star in Co Monaghan. Don worked for a range of stations including Sunshine and Nova, but his great passion was for country music, so he moved from station to station in Ireland during the 1980's.

Don was first heard in Europe I believe in the 1960's on Radio Caroline with his country and western jambouree. Later he was on Manx Radio, before joining Radio Northsea, where I first heard his shows as a youngster in 73/74. I believe Don was also on the Voice of Peace in Israel.

In Ireland, Don was heard on Sunshine, see links below. He also went on to be part of Royal County Radio 846, and joined a host of other stations. Those I think I remember

are: Sunshine, Royal County Radio, Carousel Navan, Nova, ERI, Radio West, Rosscommon Radio, Erneside Radio, Cavan Community Radio, and finally Radio Star Country.

The first three long tracks of Don on Radio Star Country are given below as well. There should be more to come on this front. These were recorded after the broadcast bill came into force on 1/1/89.

Only Radio Dublin and Star Country defied the draconian Irish law. Radio Dublin was raided in the February, and we believed at the time that Star and Northside Radio would not last much longer. As a result, I have hours and hours of both on old reels. Northside was really the return of Radio North 846 about 2 weeks later under a different name, with exactly the same presenters. I guess they fooled no one..lol

In fact as it happened Star and Northside were not touched at that time. I can't tell you their history since then, but both Radio North and Star continue today. Radio Dublin was brought into disrepute by Cooke, the owner, with regards to some other dubious matters, and as far as I am aware, Eamon Cooke is still in the nick.

820310_sunshine_531_0719_don_allan.mp3

820310_sunshine_531_0814_don_allan.mp3

890208_wed_0918_1547_981_jerry_don_at_1300_ann_co_tyrone_reel_26_kb.mp3

890214_0915_1340_981_star_country_don_allan_jerry_burn_reel_27_kb.mp3

890215_1135_1505_981_star_country_don_allen_inc_sole_survivor_1247_jerry_1300_reel_9_kb.mp3

CREATING LISTS OF FILES:

There was often shouts years ago from PC users about the creation of lists of files, something that was desired for folders loaded with MP3's for example. Windows never had a simple solution. I am not sure if they do even now.

But I noticed that Firefox, the common web browser has the ability to create folder listings. Simply browse to the folder in Windows Explorer, and copy the address from the address bar. eg "F:\perseus files"

Paste in the address bar of FIREFOX, and you have a list which is printable.

If you try and do the same with Internet Explorer, at least the version I have on the PC, all it tries to do is log on to Microsoft.

With FIREFOX the "file - open file" command in the menu doesn't seem to work, and "file - open location" doesn't do much either. So the copy and paste method as described above seems to be the best option. Once you are in a folder, you can

navigate the whole PC using FIREFOX.

For MP3 listings, I used to use (and still do) WINAMP. Again, I can't be bothered with the clutter of the newer versions of this software, and use version 2.65, which dates back to 2000. It is a quick and small and relatively unobtrusive MP3 player. I sometimes believe that the later versions also have something funny about the audio quality. It is as though it has built in "cheap" sound...

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 2010

NORTH AMERICAN LOGS TODAY:

Some strong North American signals around at 0500 etc today. Nothing too much to report, though I did hear a full WEEI 850 id, complete with their ESPN thing on 1370 at 0500. I would guess this was the Redsox game being carried on 1370 WDEA. Rebelde was gd 1620 0300, and 1390 had WFBL with ABC nx at 0500. For the first time in ages WWKB Buffalo 1520 was hammering in at 0500. Lately it has been kinda weak, and mixing with LA sounding music, although I have yet to id that station. It has been making a long extended toth ann recently, but of course on the day it is strong, it was the usual quick fire toth id.

JOHN PLIMMERS SOUTH AFRICAN PERSEUS FILES:

Well this was certainly exotic for dxers here in Europe, to be given a chance to listen to the MW band from a South African viewpoint. two dxers were off by the sea to a cottage with no power, which is seemingly used regularly by nudists. (I have never tried dxing in the scud!! lol...) They had their own power sources with them, although something in their kit was giving strong random carriers across the mw band. But that apart, what fun tuning the band as they would out on a remote beach in Western South Africa. Fantastic.

Signals that have been heard here include Nigeria on 917, BBC 1323 Cyprus, 1233 Monte Carlo Middle East also from Cyprus, and a few other surprises. Radio Nacional De Espana on 1314, form where I am not sure. RNE also on 620, but isn't this prob from the Canaries? There are quite a multitude of Australian signals on the band at 1900.

I was surprised to hear the religious propaganda from WYFR, even spouting their rubbish into the African continent, and trying to kill off African cultures. There seems to be a never ending stream of money when it comes to these religious broadcasters. Where does this money come from? I think I am in the wrong trade. They can afford to keep high power transmitters running when others trying to entertain by playing music may struggle.

MORE CAROLINE SW FILES ADDED TO THE DOWNLOAD PAGES:

I have spent some considerable time recently transferring my old reel to reel tapes to MP3. I have also been copying old cassettes too. I have added four long files many hours long, as well as four shorter files mainly of late night recordings and sign offs. I have also copied a reel which wasn't recorded here of the day of the illegal boarding of the Ross Revenge in International Waters by drunken gun slinging criminals from Holland back in 1989. This starts at 0530 and bar a couple of gaps, takes you right up to the dramatic boarding around 1300 and the closedown.

See download page....

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 14th APRIL 2010

PM SDR YAHOO GROUP:

David Hamilton has started up a Yahoo group for PM SDR owners. I am not sure how many units have been sold so far, but I do know that a great many of the Perseus owners joined up to the Perseus group very quickly.

Mr PM SDR, Martin himself is already a member.

So best wishes to the group. Although I don't have a PM SDR, I will look in from time to time to see how the group is going.

Glad to see this group is public, ie readable to the public, and not kept secret, like many of them!!!

<http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/pmsdr/>

TODAY'S LOGS:

Well it looks like a Northwards swing again. North Americans along the MW band inc ESPN SS 1450 today between 0450 and 0540. I have managed to ID one of the other Latins which was listed as an unid. Radio Sensation, Venezuela 830. Maybe common, but Latins here are much more difficult than the Northern stations.

Remember in my personal firsts listings at the top, I may have logged some of the Latins before, but records are poor from the 1980's and 90's.

RANDOM PAGES IN THE OLD ID TAPES:

I had to sit and wait for someone recently, and decided to take some reading material to pass the time. I took an ID tape listing folder, and noticed that I have heard a lot of Latins throughout the years, although listings in my all time lists here are non existant. Let's have a look, in freq order at a fraction of the old id tapes, and see what I have heard in the past.. It is not all Latins by the way, some listed for my own interests later.... Some common stuff on 1470 and 1500 for example is not listed. There are a lot that have to be listened to again....

550 unid ss jin 0651 + 0655 20/10/95
 567 rte with atlantic 252 in background 10/9/90 0000
 570 Radio Rumbos Venez. 14/2/95 exc ids
 650 Antenna Dos Columbia, Exc 20/10/95 0701
 670 Radio Rumbos, Caracas, Venezuela 17/2/87 0304
 700 unid ss like Radio Cormentiuno. acc to notes 9/9/87 0523
 710 Capital Radio Caracas Venezuela 15/6/86 0348
 720 clip jamming 6/6/85 czechs jamming RFE??
 725 Surinam 26/3/83 Dutch talk, but no id 0303
 740 Unid SS 20/10/95 lots tk costa rica 0714
 747 Upper volta 16/10/81 2358, 26/8/83 2353
 750 Radio Caracas, Venez 0236 9/12/84. exc seemingly 29/10/85 0135
 800 TWR bonaire 11/3/97 0230
 820 Radio Guadalupana, Venez. 0147 10/2/93
 820 Caracol, Columbia 0636 19/2/95
 830 unid ss 0335 8/7/80
 840 Radio Carribean Dominica?? 25/1/95 0026, 10/10/95
 850 Radio Recuperdos, Columbia 8/9/95 0523
 860 Radio CBN Brazil 15/2/94 0138
 860 Radio Mundial Brazil 5/11/85 0030
 880 venez seen in log book poss early 95
 920 r nac Paraguay 20/9/83 0015
 930 Radio Monte Carlo, Uruguay 16/2/84 0014
 940 Radio Punto Fijo, Venezuela, 19/1/95 0003
 940 Radio Continental venez 12/10/95 0620
 950 Radio Vision, Venezuela 25/12/83 0151
 960 Sutatenza, Columbia 29/10/85 0203
 960 Caracol, Columbia 0256 2/2/95
 970 Unid YL Poss Columbian, poss id 28/2/97 0620
 980 Radio Nac Brazil 21/10/84 0259
 1088 Radio Nac Angola 30/12/94 // sw, no id, ann 0006
 1090 unid ss "La Douze" maybe 29/1/95 0723

1090 Unid SS on top of WBAL 12/2/87 like Radio Pluto??
 1098 unid. notes suggest tape once sent to boputheswana. Hate to think signal.
 13/7/84 0357
 1100 Radio Reloj, 2 possibilities 18/12/83 0153 Columbia, 4/10/81 0648
 1100 22/6/84 unid ss la stn 0401, poss id acc to notes
 1110 Radio Calutso or something...Poss Carupano, Venezuela. = unid ss 19/1/95 0138
 0732 21/1/95
 1120 unid poss African? Or Euro?? 29/1/95 2340
 1120 unid ss 30/3/83 2335
 1130 Radio Nacional... prob brazil? 0305 8/7/80
 1140 unid ss 0520 24/8/95
 1200 Unid. Listed in notes as Radio Globo Natheto, and R Nonee Gacheto. 0521 3/4/86
 1210 Radio Anzoategui, Venezuela 0203 10/3/85
 1210 Unid SS "La Radio" 25/10/92 0610
 1210 Unid ss 7/12/84 id acc to notes. too fast for me. 0058
 1210 Unid SS 24/10/85 inc ads 0026.
 1210 Radio Reloj, Columbia 3/4/86 0529
 1210 Radio Coro 5/12/86 Venezuela 0230, 5/12/86 good
 1210 Radio Popular..?? 25/6/82 2300
 1220 Q40 "on the network, it's q-40" 13/9/83 0534 prob CKCW
 1220 Radio Globo, Brazil. Excited Goaaaal 4/2/85 0040
 1251 17/2/85 First request for Mrs Fitzpatrick, on Erneside
 1290 Radio Puerto Cabello Venez 0015 11/2/95
 1290 radio Timbira do Maranhao, Brazil 0300 19/3/88
 1296 Unid Int Signal 0256 11/2/95
 1350 Radio Las Vegas, PR 0100 14/1/97
 1380 Radio Candip de America, Columbia 22/1/95 0331
 1380 Ondas Del Mar Venezuela 0202 21/3/95
 1380 Cadena Radio Nac Columbia 23/11/95 0140
 1380 Radio Cola Cola, Chile. 16/12/94 0710 often wondered if only Caracol??
 1386 KBC Nairobi 1/11/94 sign on 0157
 1390 Radio Fey De Alegria Venezuela 0301 22/1/95
 1390 LV de Alamanyana or something. unid ss 10/3/95 0255
 1390 Unid SS mention nacional and capital maybe 17/3/95 0300 + 15/3/95 0150
 1390 Radio Vision, Lara, Venezuela 20/9/87 0520, + 23/9/87
 1395 Lome, Togo // 5047. No id 29/12/94 2359
 1404 Concray, Guinea sign off 11/4/87 2345, 21/8/90 2350
 1404 Radio Amanda London 19/11/83 0105
 1410 Radio Zodiac, Dublin 1357 6/1/85
 1420 Radio Marabina Venezuela 10/2/95 2316
 1430 10/3/95 unid ss 0430
 1466 iraq bubble jammer 11/3/85 1803
 1470 unid ss 0155 11/12/84 ids and ads acc to notes
 1490 Unid, like Favouritas El Sol Maybe Ven? 20/9/87 0615
 1510 Unid 6/3/95 Unid SS L.Voz ?? 0114 +0135
 1510 Unid 20/10/95 Poss Carabobo Venezuela. (Full id acc to notes) 0450
 1510 unid ss 0551 6/3/97
 1510 Unid SS 0500 24/8/95
 1512 ussr familiar int sig 25/9/87 0129
 1550 Radio Metropolitana Venezuela, 13/9/95 0530
 1560 Radio Caroline Cork 4/1/85 0111

1566 example of Iraq bubble jamming 26/11/85 1845
 1570 Radio Cadena Noticias, Honduras, 21/1/95 0719
 1570 Radio Amancer, Dominican Rep 10/3/95 0210
 1580 Unid SS 0702 12/2/95 Poss ID in this acc to notes.
 1580 unid call letters. ee or ss?? notes dont say 4/1/85 0103
 1590 unid ss 0730 10/11/95
 1602 RADIO KFC Local RSL, ann 1602 metres MW 13/5/95 1500!!!!!!
 1720 Radio Clarin, Dominican Rep 9/2/94 0013 2nd Harmonic

3915 odd usb traffic. like a volmet yet threat warnings 7/12/94 1320 (23/3/94 scottish ssb traffic too)

6210 23/2/88 c120 335 Caroline cryptic anns 6210.

100.2 cber po box 2, Kilwinning, Ayrshire coming thru local filth frequencies. Guy must have been sitting at a high spot where the filth have their masts. 28/6/82 1715

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 13th APRIL 2010

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY:

To quote an old Laurel and Hardy movie, I have nothing to say. I have not been adding much on here for the last weeks, mainly due to not having anything worthy to report. But I thought it was time to write a little more of the life and times of a Scottish DXer.

LATIN DX AGAIN:

I have been surprised by the amount of SS on the MW in the last week, around dawn, 0500 - 0530 time UTC. It has been fun to have a go at the Latin dx again. Sometimes they are notoriously difficult to ID, sometimes they have clear echo voice overs.

I have mentioned here in the past that I seem to remember I used to have Latins much better than I do these days. Maybe after all it was simply down to band conditions. During the last few years DX neighbour Paul C was hearing Latins when I heard either strong North Americans, or just mush. I have had a multitude of wires up to try and recreate the antennas I had in the 80's, but I have come to the conclusion the main factor is the propagation. Since the high ks and auroras etc, I have even had SS on 1520, 1580, and other common strong North American channels.

The Latins can be much more dx friendly than the American stations. Many are still music orientated, and will play echo jingles and voice overs regularly, unlike some of the dross that comes from North America, with 1 id per hour on some of these

networked talk and sports stations.

I have started to include these as personal firsts, but I may have old logs from the 80's somewhere with many of them.

Below are some recent logs. You can see many of the LA / CA stuff heard as unid ss. It has always been one of my problems, extracting the SS IDs. It is fine when it is a shouting voice over like Radio Coro, but some are difficult. But if someone tells me, here's what you have heard, then often it IS clear!!!

560 unid ss 0530 13/4

600 / 610 Rebelde 0535 13/4 and other times, // 670 etc


580 WKAQ PR Hrd a few times recently. inc 0400, 0500 13/4


590 unid ss 0530 mix with VOXM 13/4

610 Unid EE, sounds like Radio something or other 0500 3/4. 0501 Fox news hrd

630 Echoy IDs ss 0500 13/4. Not worked out stn yet

660 unid ss 9/4 0500

680 Radio Continente, Venezuela 0529 13/4 (Maybe my 1st id of this) 

700 Radio Sucre, Ecuador 0531 10/4 No trace of usual WLW (Maybe my 1st id of this) 

700 Unid relay of BBC 0530 13/4 A couple of poss I think here??

710 Rebelde 0500 9/4 good

730 SS. Prob Lider, Columbia 0600 8/4 Melodea FM IDs 0531 13/4

740 unid ss. jingle though no obvious id 0502 9/4 ...Gd prob ids 0500 13/4

780 Radio Coro Venezuel 0505 9/4


830 Sensation, Venezuela. ss just past toth 0501 9/4 (Maybe my 1st id of this)

1080 WHIM Miami/ Fort Lauderdale 2/4 0600 (New call for Coral Gables stn)

1190 unid ss. like R Revolution or something 0506 8/4 best lsb with notch

1320 Apolo IDs Venezua 0456 13/4

1390 0500 8/4 ee like WZHF Arlington / Washinton. Not a common call. ss / ee 

1400 Em Mariana de Bogota, Columbia 0530 10/4 (1st for me on this freq.) 

1450 Unid snds like Radio Marseean or something. needs further listening 0500 13/4

1520 Unid ss . Strong ss mix with WWKB. no id dug out yet. 0502 13/4

1530 WCKY fairly good. Main stn, Sunshine 1530 gone, ex Wyvern tx 0500 8/4

1580 Unid ss. 2 mixing, one had an anthem type mx 0500, 1 long boring talk thru hr. 13/4

1600 WUNR with a "Radio International" ID 0501 10/4

1620 Rebelde. VG at times recently, eg 9/4 0500

1660 The Avenue, FL 0500 2/4

HOME MADE TRANSMITTERS FROM THE IRISH PIRATE DAYS:

I had seen an entry on the Perseus group the other day trying to call the Perseus software rough and unprofessional, in retaliation for comments posted about a South African PC dealer that was scratching his head, unable to install the Perseus drivers.

I decided to post some classic photos of real old rough installations from about 20 years ago over in Ireland.

This is the entry on the Perseus group after one guy responded favourably to the old photos.

.....I saw many of these home made style of transmitters on my travels in years gone by. They were always more exciting to see somehow than the cabinet / pro rigs. Every one was it's own "masterpiece". They may have been basic but worked well, built on an old door... lol.... And tune for maximum smoke...

These were running 24 hours a day...

the signals we used to hear on mw in Scotland were usually very respectable, and I know they were heard in many other places in Europe too by dxers.

They were lethal though. I remember the engineer at Boyneside Radio in Drogheda telling me he went to check the tx one day and somebody's pussy cat had wandered in through a hole in the tx shed, and become welded to the ht!!!!!!!

The tx on the photos as you said is a 2 by 2 813. 2 in the PA and 2 modulating and a mod transformer singing loudly as you enter the shed (or wherever the rig was kept)

Some of them were 4 by 4 and the transformer would sing even louder!!! The PA was EL84 or 5763 - 807 - 813s....

The tuning cap is classic!!!!

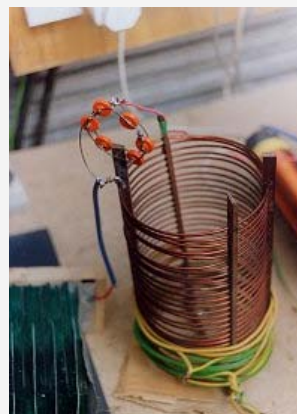
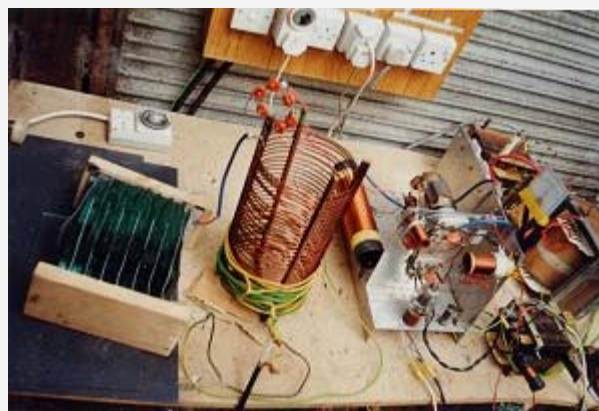
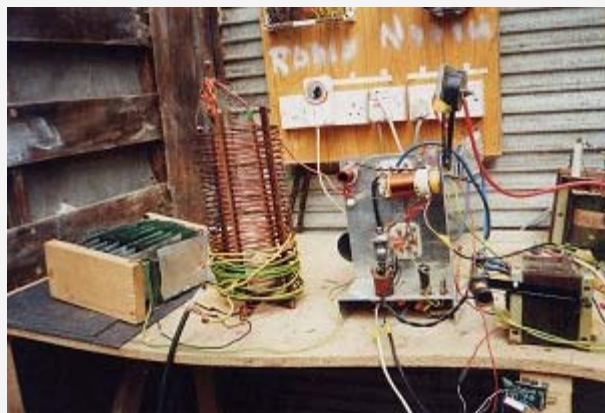
Maybe I can publish more images on line as I have quite a few shots of that particular rig, and others...!!!

The Radio North transmitter previous to the one in the photos had the output coil wound around an old log, like a log for the fire!! Sadly the photos we took that year did not have the log, as it lay on the floor. Careless photography. That would have been a classic picture... But we can't go back in time and take the photos again..

Well I thought the old photos might bring a few laughs, and remind us what rough really is.....

Here are a few snaps, but I have left the big images quite big, about 500k each, just to show the detail. I was always intrigued by these home made pieces of kit. They consisted of a PA stage, which was an EL84 or a 5763 oscillator, into an 807 driving

either 2, or sometimes 4 813's. If the PA had 2 of the 813's, then the AM modulator would have 2 also. If 4, then 4... The two by two rigs were noisy and great to see. The four by fours were even more awesome.



I must look back my old notes, but the above may well have been North Atlantic Radio at that time in the very early 1990's. Below was definitely a Radio North transmitter from about a year before. I still have to put my head together with a dx friend in Co

Donegal to work out dates and station names, as the scene was forever changing back then.



WHAT OR WHO WAS THE VOICE OF LOVE??

I am still archiving my old reel to reel recordings, and during the week I came across clips of a station I had long forgotten about. It was called the Voice of Love. They used to pop up on MW at the top of the band, for example around the traditional Dutch area, around 1615v, but sometimes heard on for example 1570kHz. They also used to show up on 48m sometimes. I also heard their second harmonic of the MW on 3230.

The station was always a mystery. Why was this so? Well for starters, they never announced any contact details. Was it on the strength of their unsociable lack of

address that we used to think of them as a mystery? Perhaps. But they also had some odd habits. They always seemed to be testing, and always seemed to go off abruptly. They never seemed to have the "sound" of a traditional Dutch pirate, that plays a mixture of pop and Dutch music. They seemed as though they had the "offshore" sound, rather than the "Dutch" sound. Were they simply only another Dutch pirate that had no contact details? Or were they from some other country?? What is the accent of the announcer? Maybe they came from the city and not the country areas of Holland where the programmes would have maybe been different styles??

They were noted certainly around 1980, although not heard here at that time. I was hearing them around 1984, as well as 1988 when the recording below is from.

1988_may_june_various_clips_voice_of_love_reel_8_etc_kb.mp3

QSOs ON MW:

Talking of mystery stations. I had always known exactly what stations like Radio Jackie and Telstar South were all about down in London.

But what about those QSO stations that once were heard from the South East of England? Does anyone know this voice on Radio Buckineer?? Is it any of the well known voices from the radio in later days?? The time for this was 0142. I wonder if this was GMT, in which case local time was 20 to 3 in the morning?? The freq was on the old 227m band.

I also heard another station there one time in about 1979 called Radio Landora, which I thought was Irish. Was that about the last of them by 1980?? Had all the ILR activity killed it? As well as gradually losing 227m to 24 hour services.

Has anyone got any old recordings of the late night QSO's on MW other than one I have a link to, click below.

I have to stress that the Buckineer recording was made here in Scotland, but the main QSO link was made in the SE. Who made the original tape I can't remember...

mw_qso_stations_london_1975.mp3

Radio Buckineer calling CQ on 27th April 1980 (as heard in Scotland)

ECHOS DEL TORBES 4980..!!!!

I also found today a 30m recording of Echos Del Torbes from Venezuela closing down

at 0400 on 19th March 1988. Freq for this well heard tropical band station was 4980. Is this now sadly a memory? Initially I had this clip listed as Radio Juventud, another station which was well heard, on 4900 from memory. Careless!!!!

[Click here](#) for the closedown and a 7 minute clip, about 5 meg.

920

WGHO

Kingston, NY



0700 01/03 (5Kw / 78w)

**Personal Firsts this month = 1 SO FAR
(inc old logs)**

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 31st MARCH 2010

LAST ENTRY OF THE MONTH:

I have dug out an old gadget I got years ago from Tim B, but I don't think I have ever tried it. It looks very similar in style to the TVDX machine, the D100. So what is it?? Anyone recognise it?? For reasons best known to themselves, the manufacturers have failed to put a model on it. Serial number is 04036, written by hand. The usual bloody annoying audio jack is used for power, and as usual no polarity is given on the unit. You have to open the box and have a look, and an educated guess!!!!





WILD AND WINTERY SCOTLAND:

I haven't been a walk down the beverage to fix it yet. I guess I have a tree or something through the cable due to the storm last night. Radio North in Co Donegal has been off air since around 10am yesterday due to power cuts because of the storm. I guess it was as wild and windy as it has been all winter last night, and yesterday. It is more like the last day of January than the last day of March.

CLEAN UP TIME FOR HARD DRIVE:

Well it has been many weeks in coming, but today I deleted about 800 gig worth of Perseus files from the last 3 months.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 25th MARCH 2010

GOOD SIGNALS AT 0600 TODAY:

Click below for a montage of stations at 0600 today, when there were some really nice signals around. Also a signal from AM then LSB of KOKC OK City, mixing with WWKB.

[100325_0600_common_ids.mp3 \(1,360k\)](#)

[100324_0700_1520_kokc_am_then_lsb.mp3](#)

[100319_0700_1190_unid_ss.mp3](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 23rd MARCH 2010**PERSEUS INSTALL OR STANDALONE??**

I read the Perseus yahoo group regularly, and every now and again, I read of people talking about "installing" the software to run Perseus. It is not hard to see when operating the Perseus, that the operating software is not installed as such. You don't install an MP3 track, or a word document, do you. No. You click on it and it opens. The same goes for the Perseus software. (Not that I am comparing Perseus operating software to a word document..lol.) There are many other software applications around that operate in the same way, and are stand alone or free standing software. It is nothing unusual.

But time and time again, I read of dxers asking about installing, and even talking about having installed or uninstalled the software. Some dxers were even complaining because the software did not install!!! I for one prefer standalone software. It is easier to delete and keep track of.

To take the Perseus SDR back to "out of the box" settings, you can do the following.

FACTORY DEFAULT SETTINGS / DELETING REGISTRY KEY:

To reset the software to its factory default, you need to delete a "key" in the Windows registry as follows:

- 1) Close the Perseus software.
- 2) Type "regedit" in the Windows Start/Run menu and browse the registry tree for the key:
HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Microtelecom s.r.l./perseus
- 3) Delete the full microtelecom folder
- 4) Restart the Perseus software.
5. Success can be judged if the rx starts up on default 20m, ie 14mHz.

These simple to follow instructions have been on this web site for at least a couple of years.

PERSEUS IS NOT A WINDOWS PCM STYLE .WAV FILE:

There is still some misunderstanding in the dx world of the Perseus .wav file, even amongst Perseus owners. I see many comments about compressing, backing up, etc. Some people think that normal software will compress these .wav files to MP3's!! This is not so. The Perseus .wav is a different format of file altogether.

Again I have written about compression on this site some time back, and compared WINZIP, WINRAR, and Monkey's Audio. Monkey's Audio was by far the best piece of software for compressing the Perseus files for downloading and sharing. But it is not handy for having files on a drive compressed. There is no instant access, and anyway, in these days of cheap 1tb or even 1.5tb drives, space is not such a big deal.

Not everyone is experienced either it seems on simple single channel recording from their Perseus either. Any sound recorder will do the job. There are endless numbers of them around, many freeware, many bundled with soundcards, even Nero has a bundled sound recorder. Some of the free ware stuff however has no audio level adjustments or editing facilities, to make a decent job of start and finish etc.

Some even confuse backing up of a Perseus file, ie making a copy to a dvd, or a hard drive. I have heard that confused with creating a simple mp3 from a wideband recording, of 1 freq.

I have started a long article about MP3 recording and the DXer, but as often happens, it is not finished. This has been started because of the lack of a basic understanding of bitrates and mp3 and wav files etc.

Furthermore, how can anyone work with these big babyish icons you see in WIN7 and VISTA, and have no file extensions showing? How do you know if you have a .wav or a .mp3 or a .wma. I am not surprised people get confused, when the file extensions are all hidden by default in these operating systems. I think even Windows M.E. had file extensions hidden by default.

I see too often on line, the bitrates of recordings are so poor and watery as to be not worthy of mention. With a little knowledge, you can easily produce top end MP3 files, which will not lose any of the sound quality of the original recording.

I tested this theory with a hi fi buff who believed he could easily tell the difference between a CD audio, and the same file in MP3 format. Well, said I, that can only be done if you play the audio CD through the same sound source, which was a PC. And guess what. Impossible to tell the difference between a .cda and a high end MP3.

So anyway, play the file you need to record, at whatever frequency, and start your sound recorder. Popular recorders are Adobe Audition, Cool Edit, Sound Forge, Nero Recorder, Soundblaster Recorder, Audacity, Goldwave, etc etc etc. Use Google. That's what it's for.

OLD RECORDINGS OF CAROLINE 6215:

I thought I was looking for shorter recordings now of Radio Caroline from 6215khz lurking in my old reels, but I have found at least another 4 long recordings of 6

hours+ continuous, which are in addition to what I already have on line. Quite an archive really from that time, which would have been March and April 1988. They should appear on line shortly.

I guess we all knew at the time the transmitter was on the air to pay it's way, and not just operate for sw enthusiasts farther away from the ship than the 558 service could reach. The powerful sounding signal that was relaying the Caroline 558 service would soon change to religion. That would have been the reason I recorded so much, while the going was good.

The signal of Caroline on 558 was pretty poor here in Scotland, and the SW was the first time I had listenable reception for a number of years. There had been a night time service on 963 at one time as well, but that was some mix of obscure rock music and reggie, which I did not understand, nor had any desire to try. Jamming 963 it was called at one time, as well as Caroline Overdrive.

The time taken to record all these old 1980's triple play reels is quite alarming, so I am trying to time it so I can keep the tapes running when I am out the shack. Some nights I have been running the tapes overnight as well, due to the length of the tracks. For the record, I only have about 40 of the triple play reels, but that equates to 160 tracks, as there are 4 tracks on each tape, all at 6.5 hours at slow speed, which most of them are recorded at, over 1000 hours!!!

I have plenty of reasonable tape decks still working, but not reel to reels decks. I have one decent working machine, and wish to finish the job while it still runs smoothly.

OLD TAPES FALLING TO BITS:

Many people are complaining that their old tapes are falling to pieces when they are played back. I am one of them. Those old orange BASF cassettes haven't stood the test of time, and require continual head cleaning when trying to archive their contents. I am surprised by the Maxell triple play tapes. Very thin tape, yet still playing like it was recorded last week, and not 20 odd years ago, and tapes kept in less than ideal conditions since. But anyway, while the enthusiasm is there for archiving old manky tapes, I would be better to keep at it. I am very easily distracted.

GOOGLE STREET VIEWS:

Or whatever it's officially called. Whatever name it should be, it is a very addictive piece of work. What am I talking about?? Google have added much of the UK to their google earth system, down to street level. It is now possible to visit many addresses in the UK and have a look at the street. I have already had a look at old haunts, dxers addresses, my own local pubs, etc etc. I should stick up a few links on here, that may take you to various points of interest. There is no need to install any software or anything. Google will take you straight to the links, without any additional add ons. Well done to all concerned. Great work. The question of privacy comes up from time to

time, but it is not really too intrusive. I also notice that car reg plates are blanked out. I guess there may be many cars parked outside doors they shouldn't be when "she" would be home alone...lol..

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 19th MARCH 2010

OLD RECORDINGS:

I have become bogged down in my old manky tapes this last few weeks, and have not done too much mw dxing. I have heard a lot of signals, but I have not been recording every day like I was in mid winter. But I have enjoyed sniffing around through the old recordings that have been gathering dust for many many years. I am sharing so much already, if you follow the download links, and there is much more to come, hopefully.

Of course, it is not every one that is interested in old recordings, but a few encouraging e mails have come in already. Thank you everyone for the support.

I have found a few airchecks that I thought might be of interest to some dxers out there.

=====

1. RADIO BUCHAREST: Powerful radio from 1989. Listen to this English ann from Radio Bucharest on 23rd December 1989 recorded from 11940, during the revolution (5.6M).

2. RADIO BUCHAREST: You can download the full unedited multi lingual version of the above, but it is some 23 meg. I am not sure all the languages broadcast, but French and Italian are amongst them I think. Haven't listened closely to the other languages. (23M)

3. NORTHSIDE RADIO: Radio North 846 closed after the Irish government closed the stations in 1988. But a few weeks later, there was another station with the same DJs called NORTHSIDE RADIO on 846. Listen to a classic aircheck from 17/1/89 which includes classic adverts and even mention of being on 846 METRES MW!!! (6.6M)

4. NORTHSIDE RADIO aircheck, 20/1/89 includes an appeal for a missing pet white goat. Nice aircheck, again includes the well used 846 metres jingle. (2.9M)

5. NORTHSIDE RADIO aircheck 17/2/89 including John Watt, the singing farmer talking about the antenna blowing down on top of them!! Amusing aircheck. Worth a spin. (3.5M)

6. WABC Greencastle, Co Donegal. A station I saw in about 1989 or 1990?? But this aircheck was after WABC had closed down. They came back on the air briefly, hoping for a last minute reprieve. It never happened. WABC did however return for a time after a couple of months. They even started another station. WABC GOLD and WABC HOT HITS. The beam was from Co Donegal into Portrush / Portstewart area, so my part of Scotland is almost directly in line. Listen to this 12m recording of Paul which is relatively big, at (9.6M)

The above link was made on a local high spot, which is still great for FM, but back in 1988 it was spectacular. I can read from my logs that at the end of 1988 I spent quite a bit of time up the hill with the receivers, recording clips of the last gasps of the Irish pirates. It was a very different FM band (and mw) on 1st January 1989, when all the stations had gone, bar Radio Dublin and Radio Star Country.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS -TUESDAY 9th MARCH 2010

CAROLINE FILES ADDED:

I have added some Radio Caroline recordings from mainly around 1983, when the Ross Revenge arrived in the North Sea. There are quite a number of hours of Dixie Peach, who was never one of the guys I enjoyed, but the signals were always better at the timeslot he was given up in Scotland, many hundreds of miles from the ship. There are also other files to have a look at.

[downloads_offshore_radio.html](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 5th MARCH 2010

RADIO NOVA RECORDINGS ADDED:

After a few weeks work, copying old manky tapes, I have now redone the Nova download page. There must be about 56 hours of new material there now, as well as some long recordings from GH from 1983. Check the page below. There will be a similar update to the offshore radio collections over the weekend, which is mainly the

1980's Caroline.

downloads_radio_nova.html

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 4th MARCH 2010

WAPI 1070 - BIRMINGHAM ALABAMA:

This station heard again today at 0400.

OLD RADIO RECORDINGS AGAIN:

Isn't it great that these days we are all aware that an mp3 copy is exactly the same file as the 100th generation copy.

Isn't it great that if I wanted to record from the radio today, I set my record software on the PC and press go. In 6 hours time, I stop and save. Voila - 6 hours of station xxxx.

Most people will listen on FM these days to what little radio they listen to. Few use AM. There is little left worth recording, but sometimes there are the surprises. But anyway, if I want a few hours recorded from AM radio, I set up the receiver as best as possible, and press record.

I have in the past apologised for the quality of some of the old MW recordings I have shared on line. I did not have the best recording gear in those days. I did not always use the best quality radio available for recording. I did not always have a clue what I was doing, and often changed antennas and tuned up and down in the middle of a recording.

Too often that good recording which I thought I had on an old tape turns out to be of poor quality, but of course it is a sample of what we used to listen to all those years ago. Not only that, we were happy with the signal levels and noise from televisions, and fluorescent lamps etc.

Remember how the night time reception of Radio Luxembourg left it's mark on the transistor radio generation. Radio Luxembourg was a megawatt giant as far as signal strength went, but at night the reception on the humble transistor was prone to fades and distortion. This of course is still true to this day, for although the hits are long gone, the relays of China Radio at night, and Radio Korea, come from the old 208 transmitter. The same story of distortion went for Caroline or Nova etc. Long distance night time AM does fade and phase and distort.

So when I tried to apologise for a night time AM recording of Caroline to a Dutch chap I think from the Offshore Download Club, I was told that it was just the way that night time AM signals were, and I was still to copy the recording. It may be a unique recording, and the only one from that day.

We just can't take our modern PC and best communications receiver with the best audio to the Essex Coast, or the Dutch Coast and re record hours on end of our favourite offshore station of the 1970's. We can't take a hard disk and PERSEUS SDR to record the whole MW band from 1974 unfortunately. We have to archive the material that is left and still available if we want to preserve radio history.

I was recently sent a box of old tapes from a friend in Norway. This was a shoe box size, of many old recordings. As I began to play them back, I noticed one or two things. Svenn has had EXACTLY the same problems as I had with various equipment back through the years. I heard CW coming through one of his recordings, and some are plagued by QRN, and night time reception. The recordings, although unique in their own right, are very similar to my own!!

Also in the box, are copies of tapes that came from possibly Anoraks Ireland. In the early days, Tony at Anoraks Ireland also had many recordings which were of questionable quality. Many FM recordings sounded like very flat AM. So even people who were selling tapes, did not have pro equipment to work with in those days. Domestic equipment was expensive. Having one decent cassette deck was a big deal in those days, far less two, that could be connected up to copy tapes direct.

How times have changed, with the market flooded with gadgets that can play FM quality music etc. What would the web and ipod generation think of a weak AM signal from many miles away now???

HISTORIC AUSTRIAN TOWERS BLOWN UP:

The 15m documentary about the blowing up of the radio towers of the ORF MW services on 1476 and 585 was shown on TW1 TV on satellite. Again, I must try and find the video conversion software I had on the last PC, and try and create an AVI file. The programme is well worth the watching, even though it is in German. Watch this space. See below for another recording of Blue Danube Radio.

NOSTALGIC RECORDINGS ON LINE AGAIN:

1. In the archives here, I have come across another recording of Blue Danube Radio, this time closing down, on the week before their first birthday programme, on 23rd August 1980. The old 600kW transmitter in Austria was putting a superb signal here in Scotland at the time.

2. I found a rather basic offshore radio history feature on AWR via Sines. Remember this was never missed on a Sunday morning, where possible, with the dx programme at 0930 GMT.

3. This strange station used to be heard on 6666khz, in SS broadcasting I am led to believe from the States, into Cuba. So it is really an American pirate I suppose, with

the Claundestine banner. Remember the others. LV CID (6305), Radio Caiman (75?? maybe), Radio Impacto (5035). I should have recordings of them all, and I believe I have a reel with quite a long recording of Radio Impacto from Costa Rica was it.

4. Two separate articles from Media Network, Dutch station Radio Nederland's long gone dx programme. First clip about Radio Nova, and the second clip about Sky Movies being launched free to air!!!! Changed days!!! Incidentally Davie H on the Skype chat gave me a link to the Media Network new archive. Great work, whoever is doing this. And the 30m shows are archived at a decent bit rate, 256k!! I can't grumble about that!!!! That makes the programmes about 56 meg each.

Check the archive out at:

<http://jonathanmarks.libsyn.com>

6. A surprisingly strong LASER 558 sign off at 0100 from 1984, also recorded here, and a couple of airchecks of Charlie Wolf. I am many hundreds of miles from where the ship was, and Laser was not particularly reliable for most of it's life, up here in Scotland.

800816_2247gmt_1476_blue_danube_radio_paul_hollingdale_tk_on_1st_ann_inc_s_off_c30_04_kb.mp3 (9,795k)

850609_0915_9670_awr_offshore_history_only_c90_1160_kb.mp3 (4,920k)

870709_0215_6666_lv_alpha_66_good_c90_1236_kb.mp3 (1,401k)

880610_media_network_article_on_sat_radio_inc_nova.mp3 (2,992k)

880610_media_network_article_on_sky_movies_launch_free.mp3 (1,807k)

840717_0050_0100_558_laser_charlie_wolf_s_off_airchecks_c90_908_kb.mp3 (1,333k)

I will have to remember to include links to these nostalgic recordings in the audio section of this web site.

NEW NOVA AND CAROLINE RECORDINGS ON LINE VERY SOON:

I should have some new recordings on line over the weekend of Nova and Caroline. Watch this space.

IS GOOGLE PICKING UP A LOAD OF CRAP THESE DAYS??

I have recently recorded my reception of the test broadcast from EXIDY 738 from 1984. This was a one time only transmission with 50kW, and Nova boss Chris Carey was going to split the channels, and keep Nova on 10kW, and have EXIDY on 50kW!! If memory serves, there was too much breakthrough at the site. Studios were at the transmitter site. In the end it was a one station only AM service, NOVA, with the 50kW.

But my point is, I thought I may search for EXIDY 738 on google. Top of the list came some crap phone ringtone company, which lists EXIDY on the web as a recording. Who wants a 45 minute AM ringtone for their phone? Does every mp3 on the web get tracked by these ringtone companies? There was a box with links to other Tony Allan shows listed on the web, as telephone ring tones!!!

Imagine someone downloading a weak signal from one of my mw dx files as a ring tone... lol

What's the point!!! Is it google who are tracking this stuff, for their ads?? Maybe. I recently watched the show, The Price of Free Internet. It was basically all about Google and their advertising policies. Very interesting.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 3rd MARCH 2010

PERSEUS HOWLING NO MORE:

I have become impressed again at the work some guys have put into an autohotkeys script. Thank you fellows. Last night, I noticed "Ferdinand" had put up a script, that included a very very useful work around for the failings of the Perseus playback bar. This keyboard use, not only prevents the howling in the playback bar, but also prevents the sticking that also happens frequently, if only a few milliseconds are selected by mistake.

For about 18 months there seems to have been some reluctance to try and repair a bug in the playback bar of the Perseus. Imagine buying a top of the range car, but the garage refuse for 18 months to put a bolt in the back bumper which is trailing noisily along the road!! And the problem is it is a special fitting bolt that only the manufacturer can supply.

Considering that the reason for buying a Perseus for a MW or tropical band dxer is exclusively for the unique record/ playback function, it is unfortunate that the bugs in that playback facility have never been addressed. I would expect many users bought their perseus for the same reasons, the record facility. I can not speak for hams, as although I have a call, MMOHSV, I see no benefit at all in using Perseus in conjunction with a transceiver. BUT..I only use the ham set for chatting to some old friends on top band, nothing more complicated than that!!

Anyway, the script, called "PerseusKeyboard_2_10_alpha.ahk" allows users to simply

use the keyboard for a number of simple functions. The more I use this, the more I like it. But the main task of playback is taken care of, by simply using the tab button for forward, and shift/tab to reverse, whatever number of seconds is specified. I found 20 seconds, the default, a little too long, and reduced forward and backward steps to about 10 seconds to try. 5 seconds turned out to be too short.

The NUMPAD "+" and "-" switch from USB / LSB, and "A" back to AM. Again, very fast and useful.

z = next wav file in the series.

(What a shame it can not sniff out previous file names in a series of files)

AUTOHOTKEYS users who have the software installed for their overnight recordings need do nothing other than download and copy into the Persuus folder, the script file. Then simply start the script, as you would your timer .ahk files. The .ahk file is no more than a small text file, editable in notepad or better still, notepad plus, etc etc.

NB: You still have the freedom of your mouse and original operations of the Perseus, even when the script is running!!

I have copied the "help" text below, to show exactly what a powerful little script this really is.

Small AutoHotkey script to use the arrow keys, letters and numbers in the Perseus receiver software (by Nico Palermo)

Modified version with special commands to perform ShuttleProV2 USB Human interface (by WoodBoxRadio)

Help:

Right arrow = Equ. to the mouseWheel down

Left arrow = Equ. to the mouseWheel up

Shift + Right arrow = Equ. to 10 notches of the mouseWheel down

Shift + Left arrow = Equ. to 10 notches of the mouseWheel up

Down arrow = Decrease span (wider traces on the waterfall)

Up arrow = Increase span (narrower traces on the waterfall)

PageDown = Decrease "wheel step"

PageUp = Increase "wheel step"

< = Decrease "CF STEP"

> = Increase "CF STEP"

/ = Decrease "Ref Lev (dBm)"

* = Increase "Ref Lev (dBm)"

Enter = Opens the "Frequency (KHz) dialog for input, then close the keypad (with another Enter)

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 0 => Open the freq dialog, send this number, add the others and close (with Enter)

a, s, c, r, l, u, f, d, e => Activate Modes: AM, SAM, CW, RTTY, LSB, USB, FM, DRM, usEr

+, - (from Numpad) => Activate "USB" and "LSB" (as "u" and "l", but more quickly)

- = Tuning up fm value of CF Step

_ = Tuning up fm value of CF Step

w = switch to waterfall

t = switch to spectrum

x = Center frequency in spectrum or waterfall

o = Toggle Zoom the frequency in waterfall

b = Toggle Noise Blanker ON/OFF

n = Toggle Noise Reducer ON/OFF

j = Toggle "SpkRej" on off

h = Activate Notch (to deactivate use "y" PBT)

y = Activate PBT (to deactivate use "h" Notch and so on)

g = Activate Autonotch

m = 1. Mute or Activate Volume

m = 2. after a frequencies input it means "MHz" and close the frequency input window

k = 1. CWPeak

k = 2. after a frequencies input it means "kHz" and close the frequency input window

z = Wave Files change

Shift q, ALT-F4 = Close Perseus and also the script

Tab = Jump forwards in the PLAYBACK bar by the specified number of seconds

Shift+Tab = Jump backwards in the PLAYBACK bar by the specified number of seconds

Ctrl+Tab = A dialog will appear where the PLAYBACK jump step and the WAV file length can be changed

Remarks to the PLAYBACK supporting features:

1. The jumps are always relative to the last jump position and not to the current playback position.
2. The jumps begin relative to the start of the playback bar. The position will be set back by a z-keystroke.
3. Close to the end of the playback bar a Tab-keystroke will lead to jump to the start of the playback bar.
4. When jumping backwards the limit will be the start of the playback bar.

(C) Laurent Haas - F6FVY - Nov 2008 (f6fvy_at_free.fr)

modified by Aldo Moroni (IW2DZX) and Salvo Micciche' (SWL IT9-4639)

modified by WoodBoxRadio (IK3VIG)

Thanks to Wolfgang OE1MWW and Ferdinand "perseus_only" for some important tips

WGHQ KINGSTON, NY - 920:

A personal first on the 1st of the month here. WGHQ Kingston, of course running only 78watts (yea right), Hudson Valley's Talk stn. 0700 on 920. It is nice to have these stations that pres have "faults" with the automated switch over to night time QRP, as it gives a chance for other DX to come through.

I don't really like to see the self righteous dxers elsewhere on the web, making a public spectacle of themselves by bemoaning these little errors in the automated power down set up (or whatever we like to call it..lol). Some even write to complain. As I said, it gives distant dxers the chance to hear something new, even if it is only for a few days here and there, or even one day. I am convinced the log of 580 Traverse City was of full 50kW at the time I heard it, just last week. It was absolutely hammering in over CFRA, common Canadian East Coaster. Long may engineers have to soak test transmitters in the middle of the night!!!!

ROLF HARRIS AGAIN:


The Cuban warbler, that sounds like Rolf Harris on his wobble board, has been noted again here in Europe. 930 as well as 730 have been heard in recent days. I don't really keep an accurate listing of these logs, as there are never any IDs as such, only the noise!! I don't recall if 730 was one of the frequencies we heard before or not.

(I don't know if Rolf is known outside of the UK and Australia, but he has been an entertainer and artist for years and years, and comes up with some of the strangest of things to make a tune from!!)

A FEW OTHER NOTES:

I haven't listed logs for a while, as I have not really had the list logs in my log book to begin with. I am hearing TADX every night with ease, but recently every day seemed to be the same. Same stations on the same frequencies regular as clockwork. Maybe as stated here before, I have had a long hard dx season, and need a break? Maybe not. But there are sometimes surprises, maybe only on one frequency, while the rest are common signals. Today's surprises were

790 WTNV, Watertown, NY 0700 with a fair peak 

920 WGHQ, Kingston, NY 0700 1/3, also 0700 3/3 

1070 WAPI Birmingham, AL 0400

SATELLITE NOTES:

Remember anyone with FTA satellite receivers, there is some kind of documentary on Austrian TV channel TW1, in German obviously. This was the channel that covered the demolition of ORF 1476 and 585 towers last week. The trailer for the programme showed guys with explosives up tall towers, and I have to assume that it is a show about the destruction of the towers. Times will be 1 hour less for GMT time. The live coverage camera work was pretty bad, in fact it was like a security camera.

Maybe the documentary will have some nice footage of the old Blue Danube Radio tower. 19 deg E, Astra, 12663H, 22.000, and I think it is 5/6. I see the programme BISAMBERG in the EPG from 1844 - 1900 Austrian time today, which is 1744GMT.

**SKY CLOSE DOWN CHANNEL 5 ON FTA SATELLITE CARDS:**

Sky or Channel 5 or whoever in the UK have shut off their customers who paid a one off payment of £20 for a free to air card. Stations at the time that were soft encrypted were BBC, ITV, CH 4 and CH5. The terrestrial main channels. One by one, the broadcasters came out of their encryption deal, and broadcast totally free to air. BBC first, then ITV, followed by CH4. Only CH5 has remained encrypted, and requiring a free to air card.

But the so called one off payment has been changed. Goal posts moved again by Sky no doubt. Now they are demanding another one off payment it seems!!!! For what? Channel 5, Five US, and Fiver, as well as Sky 3, and seemingly a couple of regional areas of ITV and Channel 4 may be effected.

What is the point of all the carry on, and software changes, for FTA terrestrial channels?
?

As it happens, viewers can find channel 5 free to air on satellite at the following freq. Just add channels.

10.773 H 22.0 5/6 - No card required!!!!

FOR THE ITV REGIONAL CHANNELS:

10758 V 22000 5/6

10832 H 22000 5/6

10891 H 22000 5/6

10905 V 22.000 5/6 (Channel Is, Grampian, STV, UTV)

Sadly, there is no sign of RTE becoming free to air on satellite for viewers in the UK. Sad really they should be so selfish, when even the BBC is in the clear for viewers in Ireland!!

This web site is worth a look:

http://www.satandpcguy.com/Site/extra_secret_frequencies_channels_sky.php

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat Contact

800	CHAB	Moose Jaw, SK	 0828, 0904 12/12/09 (Old File)(10kW)
820	KUTR	Taylorville, UT	 0900 12/12/09 (Old File) (50 / 2.5 kW)
920	WOKY	Milwaukee, WI	 0804 14/2 (5 / 1 kW)
980	WITY	Danville, IL	 0700 4/2 (1kW)
1060	WILB	Canton, OH	 2300 6/2 (5kW Daytimer)
1210		Radio Anzoategui, Venezuela	 0203 10/3/85 !! Old Tape !! (10kW)
1230	WJOB	Hammond, IN	 0800 9/2 (1kW)
1570	WBGX	Harvey/ Chicago	 0800 9/2 (Tip Paul C) (1100 / 500 watts)

**Personal Firsts this month = 8 SO FAR
(inc old logs)**

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT
* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2010

WTCM 580, TRAVERSE CITY - HAMMERS INTO EUROPE:

MW DX. Yes that's what this site is all about in theory. This morning I had a smile at the weather report on WLW and thought of the babies that whine and moan about a heavy frost here in the UK. Signals were rather good, see recording below.

But I was caught out almost by a strong signal on 580, almost assuming CFRA, seeing as many other East Coast Canadians were good, eg 600, 610, 590 etc. But when I heard ABC news, I checked more closely. Considering I only heard Traverse City for the first time this season, this was a surprise. Signals were roaring in. The station is listed as 50k / 1.1k. I suspect at this time it was somehow on 50kw, maybe under test in the middle of their night by the engineers?? But there was no sign at either 08 or 06, when CFRA was in. Was it just luck?? Who knows. I have given a longish audio clip, and an ID only.

Other DX this morning, AM 980 London was dominant on 980, and ESPN NY dominant 1050, both 0700.

OLD FILES UNCOVER GOOD DX:

My old friend across the water in Norway was on the dx chat last night, and talk got on to the 12th December, and what a great dx day it had been. I decided to give it another shot, and so far have found two personal firsts which had went unseen during the original checking of the file!! I also had a good signal from 570 CKSW, and 600 CKWW. There was a confusing advert, that I am sure could lead to wrong logs, heard on WCCO 830. See recordings at the foot of today's entry. There is also an interesting sounding station on 800 from Mexico, see clip below, though I don't hear any form of ID sadly.

CHAB 800, MOOSE JAW, SK:

Heard this for the first time on 12/12/09, 0904!! Playing twisting the night away, followed by a station ID. Also noted at 0828. Today's recordings are all at the bottom of this entry for today.

KUTA 820, TAYLORSVILLE, UT:

This one popped up on 820 at 0900 12/12/09. So it is after all worth keeping those old Perseus files. Today's recordings are all at the bottom of this entry for today.

RADIO ANZOATEGUI, VENEZUALA - 1210:

And talking of old files, I found an old cassette the other day from 1985, 25 years since, and all it says is UNID LA, good ID, but too fast, or words to that effect. I found it earlier in the week, but only played it last night. The ID is quite clear in fact. Initially I thought Radio San something or other, but when you see the name of the station in the WRTH lists, it is clear as a bell. Why then was I not able to ID this 25 years ago!!! Below is a recording!!!

091212_0828_570_cksw_gd.mp3

100226_0700_580_wtcm_traverse_city_vg.mp3 (1,208k)

100226_0700_580_wtcm_traverse_city_id_only.mp3

091212_0905_600_cjww.mp3

100226_0700_700_wlw_snow_re.mp3

091212_0828_800_chab_moose_jaw_sk_ssb_then_am.mp3

091212_0904_800_chab_moose_jaw_sk_ssb_then_am.mp3

091212_0830_800_unid_ss_norte_mexicana.mp3

091212_0900_820_kutr_ut_mix_cham.mp3

091212_0900_830_wcrn_wcco_confusing_ad.mp3

850310_0203_1210_radio_anzoategui_venezuela_c90_1135_kb.mp3

THE SINKING OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR:

I saw on True Movies today that the film with the above title was to be shown. I had the dvd recorder ready to rock, but guess what. I forgot. Oh well, it may be on again. Back in 1979, Tony Allan on board the Mi Amigo interviewed members of Greenpeace, when the Rainbow Warrior sailed alongside the Caroline ship, to thank them for their support. The interview was of poor quality, due to rf getting into the tape recorder used for the interview. (Radio Caroline playing in the background) They often played songs by the Dutch band Teach Inn about the Rainbow Warrior, as well as Richard Quin - "The Last Leviathan" and "If Only Is Too Late". I will try and dig up the interview.

I first saw this movie way back about 20 years ago on VHS, about the French Government sinking a peaceful protest vessel. So the Britts and the Dutch are not the only governments to operate illegally when it comes to ships. (aka the illegal raid on the Ross Revenge on the high seas)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2010

ROBIN BANKS ON DRAGON'S DEN LAST NIGHT:

I noticed ex Atlantic 252 and Virgin presenter, a guy called Robin Banks, was on Dragon's Den looking for investment. So much for his so called 6 figure sums that he earned on Virgin!! I gather this was a repeat on channel Davie, of a prog screened a couple of years back. Seems he was just out of a rehab place!! Pressures of the rock industry.. lol.

I never took to the fellow on Atlantic, mainly for using the name of a well respected offshore presenter and transmitter engineer of the 70's in vain. That would be like going the whole hogg and using the name Tony Blackburn!! Atlantic at this stage had gone very dance orientated, and had a musical format I neither knew, understood or cared for.

PETER LENTON DEED:

I have had word reaching me that another name from the world of offshore radio has passed on. Peter Lenton, a chap who used to trade in memorabilia from Kettering is sadly

no longer with us. I never did correspond or write to Peter, although I have many friends who did. His name was always on a list of people to write to. Therefore, I have not much of an idea about his personal memorabilia, but I certainly gather that it was a massive collection.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2010

HISTORICAL AUSTRIAN RADIO TOWERS FELLED:

I only mentioned Blue Danube Radio last week in my ramblings. But by chance I noticed on Ydun's web page that the historic MW towers from ORF Austria 1476 and 585 were being demolished today. At about 1130UTC the first tower was felled, and the second tower (585) was brought down at 1400gmt today. There was live coverage on TW1 TV.

I have spent last night and this morning trying to get TW1, an Austrian TV station on satellite. My head was spinning with irritation. I do have a 1.8 steerable dish, but it hasn't turned a wheel in years, and though still technically set up, everything from remote controls with battery leakage to misbehaving digital receivers gave me trouble. I couldn't even find an older digital FTA rx, although I did find the broken plastic flap from the front panel!!

I even tried a Sky box as an "add other channels" type of thing, but sadly the awful software designers at SKY have closed the add channels command somehow, and demand PIN numbers and queer things. The annoying thing was that I had TW1 stable and clear on my Sky box, but everything was a little snowy. I knew this was only needing something in the dvd recorder to kick in, so I switched it all off and started again. But when I rebooted, the PIN number crap was there. It was at one time meant to be the last 4 digits on the viewing card. But nothing worked. I am not sure if this was a silly trick to stop viewers using a sky box for fta channels from other satellites. If it is, what a pain in the butt, and a stinking trick. It's like having silly passwords on pdf files, or web sites just because you can.

At about 5m to the official kick off time, I managed to get the free to air digital rx running again, with TW1. I left it well alone and didn't even start messing with the channels!! I was bemused by the fact that I had either missed the show, or it was delayed. All there was to be seen on the screen was a loop tape of a wildlife/ landscape nature.

A text scroll appeared in German, something about live coverage of Bisamberg. Then about 30m later, there it was. Before the final countdown of both towers, we were treated to some superb old historical footage of the transmitter site. They seemed to be under the impression it closed in 1995, not Dec 2008!! I am unsure exactly the date of the 585 closure, and even if I have it in the log books. I can't seem to find a QSL for 585. All I have there is Spain. I would have thought I would have tried to record at least an id, if I had heard it was going off air. Maybe I never heard about that one.

The live camera shot on both reports were very poor, and like that of a security fixed

camera, and not of a professional camera team.



1476 on the way down

I well remember this being the transmitter that carried English from Vienna from Blue Danube Radio on a Saturday night. Click below to hear how it was in Scotland way back in October 1980!!

[801018_2305_1476__blue_danube_r_inc_orf_c90_122_kb.mp3 \(3.6 meg\)](#)

Isn't it funny to think that the IBA and their dubious frequency management of the early 80's allocated County Sound to 1476. I wonder if it was this that stopped the Saturday Night Special?? When ORF went off air for years, County Sound had the channel to themselves almost. Then ORF came back on, and County Sound moved to 1566!!!

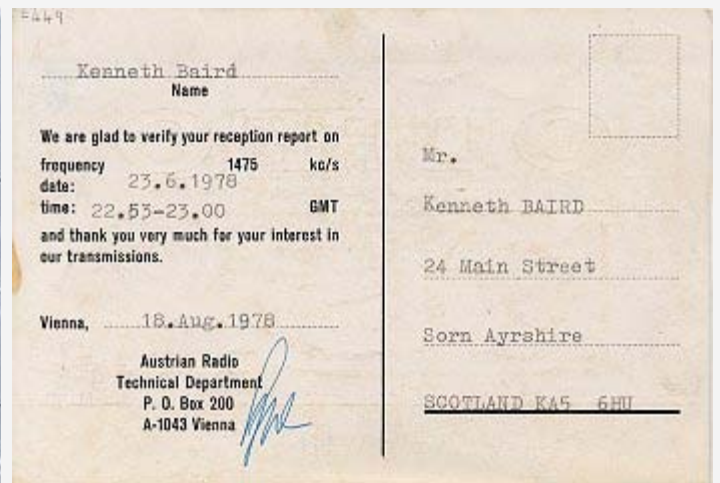


585 on the way down



585 on the way down

The movies will be available in poor bitrate on YOUTUBE I guess after today. I will see how big the AVI files are, and see if I can include a decent bit rate AVI movie of the complete coverage.



My old QSL from 1475

There is to be some kind of a documentary on TW1 in early March. Not knowing German too well, in fact that would be an understatement, I gather there is a programme about high mast workers. Because of the various screen formats, the recording I have seems cut off. But I suppose the times below are simple to work out. 3rd, 4th, 5th March. The promo showed guys with explosives on a tall tower, so maybe we'll have some decent quality shots of the historic AM towers. Times will be GMT +1, ie 1800, 1500, and 2200. I can't see if it is at the hour or on the half hour!!.



It seems incredible that these towers are to be used only as scrap!!!!

NORTHERN STAR WEB SITE:

A project that I assisted with many years back, was something called the AMazing AM. This was a list of AM stations heard in Norway, created by Norwegian dxers. Svenn Martinsen was in touch about the Irish pirates heard across the North Sea. He had many questions, and between myself and some other fellow enthusiasts of the Irish radio scene, managed to come up with many of the answers. Transmitter sites, which station was which etc etc. Anyway, I have again been in touch with Svenn, and although his AMazing AM pages seem to be not one line just now, he has such a lot on material on line I have never seen until recently. Eg. I have never seen his Radio Luimini photos. That is a station mentioned on the harmonic article below, and a regular here in the late 80's especially.

AFN UK/ PRESTWICK:

Svenn also has an article on AFRTS/ AFN, and I never realised there was a network of AFN stations in the UK during the war. Less did I realise there was one near me in Prestwick. I am unsure if the Americans take to do with the base at HMS Gannet these days, but it once had American connections, I'm sure. I still can't find any reference anywhere on the web to the freq used. It would have obviously been MW in those days, and not FM. I wonder where the feed was taken from or if they had local programmes. I have never ever heard anyone saying. I am unsure if I could find any radio person locally who would be knowledgeable about this type of thing. I fear I am running out of living people to ask.

Anyway, here are three extra links to Svenn's site, in addition to the one I already have on my links page, which is the page with the following quote..

"I've never forgotten any of those people, or any of the voices we would hear on the radio. Though the truth is, with the passing of each New Year's Eve, those voices do seem to grow dimmer and dimmer."

A quote like that has the strength and the power to stop me in my tracks. Visit the page that contains this as an opening phrase.

<http://www.northernstar.no/norwegianradiodays.htm>

The extra three pages are as follows:

<http://www.northernstar.no/heritage.html>

<http://www.northernstar.no/afrs.htm>

<http://www.northernstar.no/luimni.html>

STILL COPYING OLD TAPES:

Nothing to report at all over the weekend, on the radio front. Because the band has been average at best, or else I am all dxed out and need a break, my listening not been to the AM band, but to old recordings that have been lying around for many many years. I have been archiving / recording these old tapes to mp3 format, ready to share on line. I must admit to becoming a bit fed up with the 80's music on these old Nova tapes, and the BBC splatter on some of the recordings when Nova was on 819 was pretty tiresome. My own preference was for the Caroline format of the late 70's, but it is still good to hear what we used to listen to at a certain time in our lives, even when the reception was less than perfect.

I never did listen to the local ILR or BBC stuff, and was unaware of the presenters names they had. If I heard someone talking about them in the pub, I'd say "Who??". (I still do. A friend was raving about some unknown chic the other night, who turned out to be a modern day so called superstar on BBC Radio 2!!) But back in the mid 1980's I knew who was on when on Nova, and Sunshine and Caroline, and many others.

To be honest about things though, in those days I was listening to someone elses local station, and reception came over too great a distance to expect an average Joe in the street to be able listen on their "stereo". Often reception, even for a dxer with reasonable receivers, was pretty poor. But sometimes I became surprised by folks living nearer the coast. First of all, I saw a NOVA sticker on a bus in Largs. Irvine shopping centre was reported to have the station playing at one point, and some guys I knew from the pub amazed me when they could sing the "bikes and prams and value too" advert!! The also wondered "What did Bob Galico say to John Clark" Yes NOVA was at it's peak then, and had a signal that even was able to include remoter areas in the west of Scotland!!

OH yes, I am almost ready to upload a load of new files to the download pages...

PERSEUS FREQUENCY CONVERTER:

In connection with all the archive work I am doing at present, I was thinking about a larger radio hard drive. A couple I have here are far too small for my requirements nowadays, and I need to upgrade, as there are files scattered around two or three separate drives, which is not handy.

But..But.. I have been shown a link to a German company who have produced two or three separate vhf converters for the Perseus. I am unsure at the time of writing if the frequency on the Perseus receiver changes. Surely it doesn't have to be calculated with every station?? Anyway, these items are quite pricey. 179 Euros each. I am not too sure if the Euro collapsed recently, but I know the conversion rate was pretty poor for a time. Around 1:1.

I also saw the price of the tuning knob for the perseus. That alone is over 200 Euro!! A little expensive for an add on. The tuning is exceptionally easy with the mouse wheel, and I really have no desire for a tuning knob. But a freq converter to cover 40 - 80, and also one that covers 80 - 120. Imagine being able to monitor wideband on band 1 during the TVDX season for example. Imagine being able to record 2mhz approx of band 2 during the sporadic E season. 87.5 - 89.1 for example. Superb!! So how do these items play back?? Do you need the Perseus software only, or converter on too for playback... ??? I need to find out all this.

Looks like it's time to stay out the pub for a couple of weeks??

VINTAGE RECORDINGS - HARMONICS:

During the course of my sudden upsurge of interest in my collection of old manky tapes, I have discovered a few memories. How about this signal taken from 2592kHz in 1984. This was one of the strongest second harmonics ever heard. The station even made it on the the dx show, Media Network, on Radio Nederlands, easily heard in Holland. The station did broadcast from Liverpool area, and tried to be heard on 1296, which they were actually, even here. But what a powerful harmonic.

840108_1804_2592_storeton_community_radio_liverpool_2nd_harmonic_c90_787_kb.mp3

I have heard a number of harmonics in my years of dxing. The subject is worthy of yet another full article to be honest. Don Moore wrote an excellent article from an American dxers point of view.

<http://www.pateplumaradio.com/genbroad/harmonics.htm>

I used to regularly hear so many harmonics. I haven't checked for many years I have to say. But in the 1980s, many of the Irish MW pirates had badly tuned final stages, and these gave out second harmonics and sometimes third. These signals could be traced back to the same circuit design of the Irish homebrew transmitters. Stations which come to mind in that category as being very strong include :

Breffni Radio - 2340 twice 1170

BIG M Radio - 2718 twice 1359

Radio Luimini - 2250 twice 1125

Luimini used to be heard signing off at night with the old folk song Limerick You're My Lady.

The above three were amongst the strongest. Others that were not so strong included brief errors by engineers at the tx site, including even stations with commercial gear like Radio Nova, Southside Radio, Radio Clarin all the way from the Dominican Republic, Voice of Peace all the way from Israel, BBC Radio Foyle.

There were many others which I would have to look back my logs to remember, most only heard weakly and irregularly. One I heard on their last day on air in December 1988, from memory on 2070, from Co Roscommon. The fundamental was next to impossible, due to my local ILR station being on 1035.

Boyneside Radio transmitters in their earlier days used to have harmonics around 6.6mHz, and Radio Donegal in 1980 was heard on 1600, 4800 and 6400 all at the one time!! Radio Arklow had a strong harmonic for a time,

Quite why these stations were not at least asked to tidy up their harmonics, I have no idea. Some went on for years. I guess if the spot freq their harmonic was on was not too important, no one noticed or bothered. But I do recall the signals from 981 Radio Star at one moment in time, I think around 1989 time, was coming through loud and clear on 1962, top band!! That caused some trouble.

As a post script to the above, I am convinced by talking to some dxers that there are many that have no understanding whatsoever of harmonics and can not differentiate between crap from crap receivers/ preamps, and real transmitted harmonics!!

LOCAL CHURCH ROOF IN DOUBT:

The rafters on the church in the next village are being checked this week. For the first time ever on a Sunday morning, this old heathen was in one of the local Churches. I'm sure I heard the timbers creaking...lol.. The reason was that I ended up staying with friends in the next village on Saturday night, and in fact it was quite a late night, what with the red wine and the guitars. I lay down for a couple of hours about half past six!! I am not even up at that time dxing these days!! Anyway, their kids were performing at a special awareness day to do with the brownies and the guides, and the wee one's group called the rainbows. So two of us were taken to the Church, in "last nights" clothes, after a late night party to watch the weins do their stuff!! My host had put on his "Sunday best" but we were in the AC/DC shirts!! The wife of the hoose that I was staying in was shaking her head as there was a strong smell of a brewery off of the three of us guys!!!! Into the

bargain, I knew a lot of the punters that were there through my local history project, and of course they all wanted to come up and say "Hello Kenny". Phew!!... (If you pardon the pun)

No wonder I heard the timbers creaking!!!

Anyone familiar with the Scottish poet, Rabbin Burns, may well be interested to know that on that very spot, the man himself had been brought up before the Kirk session for various sins. Sadly it is not the same old Kirk, as Burn's Kirk was taken down in the 1820's, and the current building put up in it's place. Still at least it is the site of an important piece of Scottish history, and Burns would certainly recognise many of the of the buildings around the immediate area as they are today, and that includes his own auld hoose, now the museum.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2010

BROKEN BEVERAGE, FIXED BEVERAGE:

I noticed on Tuesday morning at 0800 the band had virtually died off. I thought nothing of it as I had a good ID of WKOX 1200 at 0700 (Tip Dave H). So when I tried some live dxing on Tuesday night, there was nothing there. Hmm. Tried the short westerly beverage, and there were signals there. Checked all I could in my own garden, connections cables etc, and all seemed fine. So no recordings on Tuesday night.

I walked over the river, and walked the 200m or so to where the coax meets the actual antenna, and a small(ish) branch had landed on the aerial wire, and broke the thin wire used on the balun!! A simple fix.

Last night I came in from a night out and set the recordings. But I forgot to switch to the repaired 500m beverage. I was using a short 150 - 180m westerly aerial instead. But I managed to check the repaired beverage before fade out this morning, and all is well.

Tnx to another tip from DH, I did hear what is pres the Venezualan on 900 at 0700 though.

RECORDINGS:

A few recordings are given from the last days. They are only common stations, but they are at good signal levels.

100212_0500_1700_kvns_vvg.mp3

100214_0300_1580_ckdo_vg.mp3

100214_0400_1580_ckdo_vg.mp3

100218_0700_1200_wkox_newton.mp3

VINTAGE RECORDINGS:

Here are four recordings taken from 1980, found when mucking about with old tapes.

First of all, I have a classic recording of how CJYQ sounded with the beacon on 930. Sadly there is no id on the recording, but it is a great example of the beacon that came in along with CJYQ.

Then I have a recording of CIYQ 610, which was part of the Q network. The signal was booming in till RTE2 came on the air with their carrier on 612. It's a shame I never recorded the RTE sign on as well. Neither station is on the air nowadays.

A familiar voice in the early 1980's was that of Hugh Hardy on Radio Carousel, from Dundalk. Hugh was famous for his Country Call programme. The Carousel office was decorated with pictures of Hugh on the wall, many with well known country singers. Rumours were rife at the time that some of the photos had been cleverly doctored, and were not quite what they seemed to be!!!! Frequency would either have been 1134 or 1125, not sure which. They did change from time to time. He always used to say mooovin' on as well. Hugh died a couple of years ago.

And the fourth recording fits in nicely with the London stations featured last week. It is a call on 227m one night, from Radio Buckineer. I wonder who that was, and if they are still around??? I never ever did find out.

800427_0107_930_cjyq_inc_old_beacon_no_id_sadly_c90_73_kb.mp3

800427_0435_610_q93_st_johns_inc_rte_carrier_c90_73.mp3 (1.4 meg)

800430_radio_carousel_265m_hugh_hardy_mooovin_on_c90_73.mp3

800427_0142_1320_radio_buckineer_london_227m_c90_73_kb.mp3

RADIO BILBAO, SPAIN - IN ENGLISH:

Does anyone remember English from Radio Bilbao?? I have found an old recording from 1981 with an ID and address in English. Freq was 1260. Can any dxers shed any light on how long this service was on the air for?? I think I only heard it once. Radio Bilbao was supposed to be listed as 990kHz??

811227_0048_1260_radio_bilbao_spain_ee_px.mp3

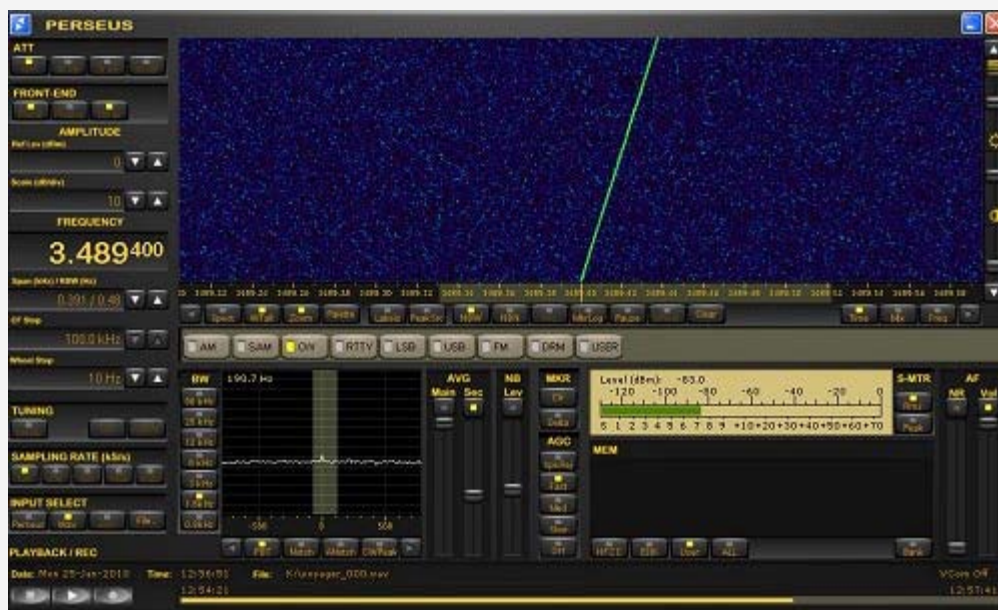
I always liked to hear English from some obscure station or other. A programme I used to like on a Saturday night was the Saturday Show from Radio Sweden. The MW service continued till the wee sma' hours on a saturday night on 1178, pre 1978, and 1179 post 1978. Their humour often included a lot of fun jokes at Soviet expense!!

But there were other English programmes available. The Saturday Night Special from Paul Hollingdale on Blue Danube Radio on 1476. Exactly how long ago Blue Danube Radio began English, I don't know, but I think it closed about 1981???

There is no sign of Bilbao or BDR in the 1977 or 1978 WRTH. My early 80's WRTH's are in a box in a very inconvenient place to find them and look them up!! If only I had the PDF versions to hand!!

WEAK SIGNALS FROM THE VOYAGER SPACECRAFT ON A PERSEUS!!

The Perseus receiver has been used to see the weak flea power signals from Voyager 1 spacecraft, many millions of miles from earth, at the very far outreaches of the solar system!! Check the Perseus Yahoo group for all the details, and for a link for both a Perseus file from the Voyager craft, and one from the Venus Express spacecraft. Check the screen capture below, and notice the doppler effect, hence the frequency appears to wander. The screen capture below is my own capture, made while playing back the recording. Fancy having access to the equipment and the 40m dish!!! Some dxers can't get a 40m long wire up!!! For more details, go to the Perseus Yahoo group messgaes.



Venus Express and Voyager I experiment
Technical details are listed below, as per the pdf file

Ground Station:

Antenna: Yebes 40 m dish, Nasmyth focus

Aperture efficiency @ 8.4 GHz: 60%

Beamwidth @ 8.4 GHz: 210 arc sec.

Cryogenic Preamplifier Noise Temperature: 4 K

Total Receiver Noise Temperature: 9 K (with polarizer + horn)

Total System Noise Temperature: 45 K (in the sky)

Frequency Reference: Hydrogen maser

Backend: VLBI BBC (8 MHz BW) + Perseus SN 01690 communications receiver

Voyager I (12:55 UTC 25 Jan 2010)

Polarization: LCP

Power: 18W

S/C Antenna: 3.74 m

Distance (JPL ephemeris): 1.688·10¹⁰ Km (3.5 x distance to Pluto!)

Radial velocity (JPL ephemeris): -1.804 Km/sec = -6495 Km/hr

Doppler shift (calculated): -50.678 KHz

Signal to Noise (measured in 2 Hz BW): 10 dB

Frequency (measured): 8420.479431 (add 8416.99 MHz to displayed value)

Frequency rate (measured): -17 Hz/min

The small instalation that received these transmissions can be seen here!!!!

VOA GO AWAY:

There are many people in the world who I bet wish that the VOA would go away. But below is a rare sticker given to me by an ornithologist (a bird watcher) who had it on his car at the time. (1990's) I asked about it, and discovered it was the same VOA I knew, and not a fancy bird club. The reason for the sticker was that the VOA in their infinite wisdom wanted to string curtain antenna arrays at a new relay station across a valley that was the flight path of migrating birds. I think the qth was a valley in Israel somewhere, and as far as I am aware, the bird folks won the day!! Well done to them. I thought this sticker would rarely have been seen in radio circles.



NEW RADIO NOVA MATERIAL COMING SOON:

I have been having a trip down memory lane this last week. Because I was in the dusty archives last week looking for dx clips of Radio Jackie, I began to look through a lot of my other old tapes. I have found a lot of unique Radio Nova Dublin recordings, and a whole lot more Caroline from 1983 from the Ross Revenge, after the triumphant return to the air. So it seems I have now restarted my archiving. The files will be on line very soon.

Instead of putting one or two on line now and again, I will one day soon have a list of new recordings, with maybe 20 or 30 new files. I will again be using the servers of my good friends at DXARCHIVE, where the current Nova material is located.

I see this as a valuable historical project, archiving and making available my old recordings. A photo is given below of part of my collection, some of which date back to the 70's. There is another pile of boxes behind the camera, and a box of reels too.

There must be other folks out there who really should be doing the same with their tape collections. It may seem like a long haul, which it is I suppose, but when I consider the times that the PC is sat ticking over, when I am busy doing other stuff. What is the harm in sticking on a 45m tape at dinner time for example, or while I am in the bath tub?? I need to get some of the 6 1/2 hour reels out as well and record them.



Part of my tape collection, which I am working my way through

A COUPLE OF TIPS FOR ARCHIVING OLD TAPES:

If you do decide to start to archive your old tapes, remember to keep any mobile phones away from the recording equipment. There is nothing worse than the buzzing noise of mobile phones coming through a perfectly good recording. I had to restart a few recordings recently because of silly phones!!!

Also remember to create the MP3's at a reasonable bit rate. Many dxers ruin recordings whether it be through lack of knowledge about bit rates, or a misguided attempt to save "something". Many recordings available on line are made at a poultry 64k, which is certainly not enough for good quality AM. I have even had a former webmaster rip my decent quality recordings to bits and resave them at some inferior bit rate, for no reason other than save a few meg on a 30 meg file.

If you were to listen on a decent amplifier with half decent speakers the problem would be obvious. If you listen on a £5 pile of crap that came free with your PC amid claims of being 400 watt speakers, then you probably won't notice any difference.

I am half way through writing a detailed article about MP3 and radio archives, complete with a software guide etc. I need to try and get yet another unfinished job done!!

SILLY SILLY YOUNG DXER:

I was such a silly young whipper snapper of a dxer back in 1983 which is the year the tapes I have been archiving are from. Some things stick out a mile in these 27+ year old recordings.

The most irritating thing that appears in some of the tapes, is something that may be compared to an active dxer. By this I mean a dxer who constantly twiddles with the controls, as though hoping to squeeze out a slightly better signal. Some dxers will sit on a channel and monitor, while others constantly mess around with tuning, bandwidth, atu, and anything that is adjustable. That is fine for live dxing, but sadly I had a silly habit of messing around with not only the tuner, but even changing over aerials during recordings.

It was not difficult to tune a radio in to a good AM signal from Radio Nova for example and then switch the recorder on, and leave it. Many of my tapes are fine, but if I was in the shack at the time, I couldn't resist the temptation to try for a better signal, even if the signal was fine in the first place!!! The result is that on some recordings, the messing around can be such an irritation.

But as I have said elsewhere, it is impossible to turn the clock back to a time 27 years ago, and re record these long gone radio stations. We must be content with the old tapes which are still around.

Many recordings and full collections will have been lost by now, perhaps because of death, moving house and losing tapes, irate ex wives throwing stuff out, etc etc. I remember speaking to a chappie at a radio meeting in London some years ago, who had been involved in the London pirates in the 70's. I asked if he had any old recordings of the

stations of the time. "Yes", he said, "I once had quite a lot, but I put on my jacket and walked out one day and left the lot with the ex wife!!" (lol)

STINKING AUDIO FROM SOME RADIO SETS:

Something else that is such a shame, is the audio of some of the recordings. While I did not have the 15 inch woofers of the band/ disco speakers in the shack in those days which I have now, it is not difficult to tell what is good audio and what is bad.

I had by 1979, a Grundig Satellit 3400 (still have it) which is very good for recording from, and has really great audio reproduction.

So why o why did I believe that an old wooden philips radio gram from the 1950's offered better audio??? The old wooden philips wireless was of the type that sounded quite good, but every now and again on some channels, CW would break through from an unknown source. One day I may find a decent recording with CW present, and try and decypher the morse to try and find the original source. Possibly from 500kHz.

Why o why did I think the sound of an old TRIO 9R59 with the wrong audio output capacitor sounded good?? The 9r59 was very tinny, and although changing the output cap would have given the set realistic sounding beefy audio, it was never done. It also was very unstable, and even AM stations had to be retuned after a time. SSB was a constant battle!! But was it good for MW dxing?? Wow, aye was it. Better than anything I had at the time. And I still have the set to this day.

There are some recordings made in mid 1984 that I think may have been taped from a Grundig portable Concert Boy, sat next to a frame aerial / long wire combi. This was I think the best audio, heard on some of the Dave Christian Nova tapes and many around that date. Or maybe I had discovered that the old 3400 was indeed of good quality for making recordings. I really don't remember.

I came into a TRIO 9R59DS as well in the mid 80's and the audio from that was rather good too. This is a completely different set to the 9R59. They are both on the photo on the home page of this site.

I also had a Chapman hi fi tuner which was quite good for recording, but again, it may have also had CW etc sometimes, and lacked selectivity, as one would expect from domestic junk. I am convinced it is the recordings from this set that I can't do much with, even through the ORBAN 642B!! For some reason, EQ in makes the sound go like I used to say in the early 1990's, like an Amstrad. Yes, I used to compare audio quality, and sometimes it had that cheap Amstrad sound!! Don't get me wrong, I am being picky, and the tapes sound fine. But whatever the radio I recorded the mid 1984 Dave Christian shows from, I should have stuck with it!!

In mid 1985, I added a fine Racal RA17 to my collection of radios. It had stable audio output, and is still a superb sounding radio today. I have a very good sounding example. I have also a second Racal RX, who's audio is nowhere near the quality of the first one, and I have heard other racal sets from the same era that are also a bit rough. I guess it was just luck that I found myself a good one. The Racal is still mounted into the bench, see

photo of the shack on the front page.

The dreaded AGC on many cheaper made radios will sometimes give the wrong impression of levels on the transmission. Some radios will give out reduced audio if the signal weakens, giving the impression that the transmission audio was all over the place. In the case of NOVA and Caroline etc, it certainly wasn't, and they had better audio than ILR stuff in the UK, due to their superior optimod settings.

So as a result of having a multitude of radio sets, the audio quality changes from recording to recording.

LOCAL HAM:

There never were any hams living near me that were liable to break through in CW mode. However I overheard a couple of hams talking on 80m a couple of years back, just before I applied for my own callsign. They spoke about giant hogweed, which made me sit up and take note, as that grows locally here. I nearly fell off the chair when one of the guys said that he had lived in this area in the late 70's I think it was, and he mentioned my village by name. I e mailed him, and the fellow said he had lived at a remote farmhouse a few files out of town. I asked for the name of the place, only through curiosity, but never received a reply. The first response did however say the place was haunted!!

3 HOURS ON A C90:

I used to often record 3 hours onto a C90. How did I achieve this??

Simple. I used two receivers tuned to different stations, one recording in the right hand channel and one recording onto the left hand channel. A cheap and easy way to record different radio stations, and I am glad I did. Often I would record an obscure weaker station, and stick NOVA or Sunshine on the other channel.

However, (And I bet you were waiting for the negative "however"..lol), Well I have to say on playback, the desk I use does NOT work the way I think a decent desk should. OK I fell in with it for nothing anyway. It had been an old band mixing desk, and had been in a house fire. The channels all unscrew and unplug individually, so it was easy but time consuming to clean all the controls and the metalwork from the very bad smoke damage.

But when playing back in the three stereo channels (rest are mono) there is no decent balance control or pan as they say in the trade. Yes it does pan left or right, but not 100%. I have seen many examples these days in equipment, that doesn't give a proper 100% separation. In fact many of the sound effects on hi fi gear I believe to be made up by mixing left and right somehow. If you try a prerecorded separate left / right tape in this kind of gear, the end result is a mess. But that is OK, I have simply made a Y split, and feed one channel at a time into the two channels on the desk from the cassette machine. It is the best results. If I try and save time and record both channels at once into the PC,

there is more breakthrough from the other channel.

I think some American dxers used to use this format and record WWV on one channel and the dx on the other, so as to have a time on dx tapes. I was always envious of the excellent service WWV offered to US dxers, both as a time reference in voice, as well as the regular solar indices. We had nothing like this in Europe, and WWV reception was not reliable.

AZ ANORAK (A SAD ANORAK):

AZ ANORAK is simply the most amazing archive I know of on the web. Most of the recordings available sadly are only made at 64k, but there are such a lot of classics on this site. The archive also includes many old Saturday shows from Radio Sweden.

Check out the site by clicking [here](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2010

AM 9-20 THE WOLF (WOKY MILWALKEE):

I liked this name for a radio station the first time I noticed the web page. I have however never heard it. I noticed it last winter when I had a lot more luck with 920 than this winter. I was trying to ID something I had picked up and noticed the cool name. Today I heard country music play past the hour, and luckily I had recorded long enough to have 0804 included. Click below to hear the Belamy Brothers end and a "Wolf" jingle/ voice over.

100214_0804_920_woky_milwalkee_the_wolf.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2010

RADIO JACKIE - LONDON:

Davie up the road and I were chatting the other day about Radio Jackie.

"I've a DVD", I said, of a superb documentary produced by Pat Eddison who is on Caroline nowadays, but formerly of Radio Kaleidoscope in London. There are brilliant interviews and clips of many of the old London MW pirates.

"Did you ever hear it?", I was asked.

I dug out a few audio clips of old logs, and I recall that I used to hear them opening up on a Sunday at 8am which at that time would have been from a truck battery in the woods. Signal in the Spring of 1980 was quite reasonable, from a dxers point of view. Audio quality would wipe the floor with mickey mouse signals like CKNB 950 for example. And thats from a cassette recorder in the woods!!! I first heard them probably in the holiday period of 1978, when they used to run right through the festive season. (Christmas). I wonder if they were house based over Christmas??? ie mains and a bit more power..



Radio Jackie was similar to the signals from WNKR today from a remote QTH I suppose.

In the latter years, 1983/ 85 they were house based and ran 24/7. Power was still lowish, but it certainly carried. They were on 1332, till ILR Peterbrough came on, and they shifted to 1323, but moved back to 1332 during their 24/7 years. Listen below to a few clips, first from the fields, and then a weaker signal below ILR crap on 1332.

Details on the superb documentary...

www.radiokaleidoscope.co.uk



Another worthwhile/ must read is "A VERY ENGLISH STRUGGLE" by Colin King. This is the story of Radio Jackie, and is such a fantastic read to anyone remotely interested in radio.

www.jackiebooks.com

Other London pirates heard up here in Haggisland, include Radio SOVEREIGN 1494, Horizon 1611, Radio Amanda 1404, Radio Christmas 1368, People's Choice 1611, Skyline Radio 1413, and I am sure a few more that I can't remember from the RAM. I must search the hard drive and see if there are any more..lol

[Click here to listen to Radio Jackie in the Spring of 1980](#)

800323_0805_gmt_1332_jackie_london.mp3 (1419k)

840429_2300utc_1332_jackie_and_hereward.mp3 (1664k)



RADIO JACKIE 227

WEST MOLESEY, SURREY

Telephone: (Sundays Only) 01-788 4917

Q S L

We thank you for your recent reception report for Radio Jackie

Date 26.12.79.....

Frequency 1332 kHz.....

Time From 23.40 GMT.....

On this date we were using a transmitter output power of .50... watts and our transmitter was located in Reddington.....

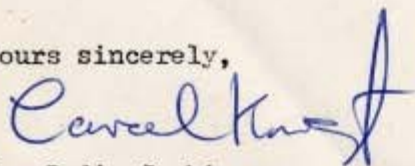
Radio Jackie first began broadcasting to South West London on March 19th 1969. the

aim of our station being to campaign for the introduction of low powered community radio stations throughout the United Kingdom.

We normally broadcast on Sundays on 227 metres (1332 kHz) from South West London with an output power of 50 watts.

We are pleased to verify that your reception report for Radio Jackie is correct.

Yours sincerely,



for Radio Jackie

BROADCASTING TO SOUTH WEST LONDON EVERY SUNDAY ON 227 METRES (1332 kHz) MEDIUM WAVE

SUNSHINE 539 - AND CRIMINALS FROM RTE JAMMING THEM:

I was searching through some recordings from the 80's etc looking for Radio Jackie recordings, and came across the following recording. It is a classic recording made here in Scotland of Sunshine Radio 531kHz being jammed by RTE on MW. Imagine RTE used to use taxpayer's money to jam the pirates!!! Instead of producing entertaining shows to compete with the pirates, they used to behave like the proverbial spoilt school kids, and jam the stations. Not only on FM, which was relatively easy, but they went to the trouble of installing aerials etc and Sunshine used to have a terrible noise on top of their 531 freq.



As usual, these government workers who think they own a natural resource were above the law, and answered to no one. There never was any jail sentences issued to any RTE engineers (term used loosely). Shooting might have been a better option in this case. I wonder how these parasites slept at night, or what they discussed at the dinner table?

"Yes I had a great day at work today love, I spoiled the listening pleasure of many thousands of Dubliners, what a good boy am I".

I suppose these were the kind of vermin that would get some kind of sick pleasure out of pulling the wings off of a "jenny long legs". Or to put it another way. Folk you would never tire of booting in the bollocks!!!

840430_1800_news_531_sunshine_inc_rte_jamming_mw.mp3 (4326k)

539M Sunshine Radio

1st. on your Dial

Great Music



Daily Prizes

LISTEN HERE
you will find a friend

Star D.J.s

- Tony Allan
- Declan Meehan
- Robbie Dale
- Peter Madison
- Manon Christie
- Chris Carey

...the station with the WINNING WAY

CHNC 610 STAYS ON AIR:

Seems the dreaded French pest on 610 (and // 1150) has been given an extended time to simulcast their new FM service on their historical AM frequencies. This time their off air date is not until 1st November 2010!!! So much for looking forward to new dx opportunities last year!! (Selfish dxer side of me creeping in again..lol)

This is reported on the IRCA message board, and on the Canadian Radio Authority web pages.

WFNN 1330:

Sometimes the ID of WFNN Erie has caught me out. The 1st N sometimes sounds different to the 2nd N, making it sometimes like W F IN EN, and can be confusing under weak condx. Yesterday, I heard a reasonably good id at 0900. A clip is given here.

100210_0900_1330_wfnn.mp3

KGA 1510 IN OLD LOG:

Noticed that I have heard KGA 1510 this winter after all, on a Perseus file at 1000 on 7/11. Just goes to show, there is probably more lurking in the old files.

PERSEUS SAM / AM QUIZ:

Some folks use SAM on their Perseus all the time. I have always struggled to notice any difference at least in my MW dxing that I do so intensively. If truth be told, the little whines etc when SAM is trying to lock on to a weak signal for me makes SAM more of a chore than a useful tool.

Try this audio clip as an example. One is from AM and one is from SAM. Can you tell which is which??? Same settings other than the SAM / AM settings. Play it first and then find the answer at the bottom of this page.

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO CBC 990 WINNIPEG IN NOVEMBER 2009](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2010

THIS MORNING'S LOGS AND OBSERVATIONS:

Nothing of value to report this morning after yesterdays personal firsts and all. Band was very much depressed on yesterday morning, One observation was 1060 and some form of country music. This was not I might add AM 1060, Classic Country from mid west Canada. No. It was Radio Education from Mexico, heard with a country track and ID at 0200. There

may be country music experts that will say it was a different style of country music than what AM 10-60 plays. But it sounded very country to me...lol

LOGS FOR FEBRUARY AND LATE JANUARY:

Remember most of the common stations don't even make it to my log book, never mind being listed here. Rarer logs in bold. I am not sure if I have missed anything important out, but will endeavour to try and keep up for the rest of the month.

540 CBGA FF CBC 7/2 0800

540 WFLA FL 0200 4/2

550 WKRC Cincinnati, OH 0800 7/2 Only 2nd log, and first fair id

550 WSAU 0800

570 WNAX Yankton 9/2 0800

570 5-70 News 0800 7/2

600 Rebelde vg 9/2 0800

630 CFCO 0759 6/2

890 WLS VG 9/2 0800

920 WHJJ 2200 6/2 REG these days

920 XELE 2/2 0159 (Think thats the right call anyway)

950 KJR 31/1 0800

950 CFAM 0100 30/1

980 AM 980 Ont 8/2 0900

980 WITY, Danville IL 0700 4/2

980 WOFX 0300 4/2

980 WCAP LOWEL, MA 0300 3/2

1060 WILB, Canton, 2300 8/2, 2300 6/2, best USB and big notch

1070 WKOK Sudbury, PA 2230 9/2 Good IDs

1090 WBAL Baltimore. Rare now with UK locals on 1089, but silence perfect 0400 5/2

Tip from DH who noticed this one!! 

1140 WRVA Richmond VA. Your 50 thousand watt..... 1st log in years 0900 9/2



1200 WOAI VG 9/2 0800

1200 WRTO Chicago 31/1 0900

1230 WTKG Grand Rapids 0800 6/2

1230 WJOB, Hammond, IN 9/2 0800 Inc credit card debt ad and IRN USA Radio news

1230 Unid This is ???Radio, like WIOO , ABC News 0900 9/2

1240 Unid ABC NX 0700 9/2

1250 WEAE Gd 0700 9/2

1290 CFRW 9/2 0800

1300 WXRL 0800 6/2 Mix WOOD (Paul C had Mason City at this time)

1310 KNOX Grand Forks 9/2 0800

1310 WIBA Mix WLOB 30/1 0800

1320 CJMR Good Voice of the City EE id 0200 8/2

1380 WABH Bath NY 0800 31/1

1470 WLAM CNN Nx 0000 5/2

1510 KCKK Denver CO 0800 9/2

1520 KOKC OK 0700 9/2

1570 WBGX Harvey, Chicago 9/2 0800 (Tip Paul C)**1590 KVGB Great Bend 0800 6/2 1st log since QRM came back on**

1600 unid like partial id right here on ? ? KG 0300 9/2 Really in the mud

1620 WDHP VI 0700 3/2 and other times

1620 WDND South Bend ESPN Mix ESPN Omaha 9/2 0800

1630 WRDW / Mix KCJJ 0400 9/2

1660 WQLR 0000 9/2, 0700 6/2

1660 The Avenue FL 0300 9/2

1680 WPRR 9/2 0800

1690 WVON Chicago 9/2 0800

1700 AM 1310 The Ticket, TX Well on top of KVNS 0000 8/2

1700 KVNS Extreme signals but id was fadey sadly..0800 6/2

PLEASE HELP THE OLDER DXERS - YOU MAY NEED THE SAME HELP ONE DAY:

I would like to hope that assuming I make it through to old age, that I will be still able to get around a bit, and even climb trees and trail through the woods to install aeriels etc. Of course we can not predict what will happen in the future. If I become disabled or unfit, who is there to string a beverage up for me?? Well, no one, but surely I would be able to find someone??? I sure hope so. Although of course, I hope I can still do it all myself!!! Would some local bum make a reasonable job for twenty quid and a bottle of beer?? Surely.

I have been chatting to a dx friend many hundreds of miles distant, who is in need of some serious assistance and can not seem to get it. He needs help in throwing up some new antennas for MW dxing, but is not as fit as he once was. I asked him about either relatives or neighbours. Maybe my friend is a proud man, and does not like to ask for help. Or maybe his friends and neighbours and relatives are too ignorant to offer their "valuable" time to assist him. I have seen this selfish behaviour all too often.

I do not know the full story. But whatever the case, I still find it is sad that an elderly dxe who is not as young as he used to be can find no one to help with antennas. It is not rocket science, and I am sure a few beers and maybe twenty quid aimed at the right man, may have the desired effects. There's always someone needs a few extra quid for beer money.

What I do know is that if I was within a reasonable distance, I would go and do the job for him. Davie up the road and I have both joked in the past about the plane tickets etc, but in these days of cheap flights, it is not completely out the question.

But this reminds me of a sad story about 12 or 13 years ago, when I used to be regular in another town some miles away, attracted there by the fairer sex. (Or to put it another way, an ex chic..lol).

A radio ham, now a silent key whom I only knew of for many years, was seemingly off the air due to his antenna coming down. I eventually met him, through meeting his son in the

pub over there. This aerial had been down for many weeks, and he was supposedly waiting for assistance from members of his ham radio club. This assistance never came, which I thought very ignorant and selfish, and not very "gentlemanly" of the ham radio operators. So one thing led to another, and I went to see the old fella, and offered my assistance. It was only a wire aerial that was down at one end.

I just hope that the guys that snubbed the poor old fella need help one day and can't get it.

I used to also swing from tall trees for another silent key in the village here, as he would shout HIGHER, HIGHER...lol... That person was completely incapable of climbing the trees at the age he was then. Sadly he died after a fall at the festive season, although illness had prevented him doing anything with his beloved radio equipment for quite a number of years.

OFF COLOUR:

I was a little off colour for a week or so at the end of January, but OK now, more or less thankfully. I wasn't recording for a time either, because of the band, but after dx neighbour Paul C began to hear some weird and wonderful calls I have never even heard of, I began recording again. Paul has had a lot of great rarities this last weeks even though during the first impressions, the band seems very average. Maybe I am all dxed out after a long hard dx season. The remarkable opening at the end of January we had last winter certainly never happened again. Daytimers have been non existant here in early February too, a time when last winter there were many rarities heard.

The band in January here was so poor, that I don't think there are any real logs worth listing as such. I will just scribble down a few notes, seeing as it is a few weeks since the last update to these pages.

FT-840 HAM SET DUFF:

I was sitting the other night in the shack with the FT-840 on top band, but turned down for a time. I looked around and saw only the signal meter was lit up. There was no sound or functions working, and no display. I was convinced I had switched in some ext mode with the junk lying beside it, but nothing was pressed that shouldn't have been. There isn't really anything anyway. I had a look inside, and did notice a point where there had been some heat at a resistor, and it had 12v or so on one side and nothing virtually on the other. Meanwhile I had joined a Yahoo group for 840 owners, and find a few folk had that problem before. R2213 on the board underside was an 8.2 ohm, 2watt. I replaced it and the unit burst into life. Thankfully.

MONTREAL - AM 940 GONE:

One surprising piece of news came in late January, when the owners of AM 940 Montreal pulled the plug on the station, and one of the other stations they own, Info 690, a French station. AM 940 was formerly a CBC transmitter. The sound of the station has often been

commented on here on these pages as having a real AM OPTIMOD sound, especially on AM RADIO style songs such as certain Eagles tracks etc. Ironically this quality optimod sound was right next door to one of the worst sounding Canadian stations. CKNB 950 have been running about 10% audio for a long time. How they turn a \$\$ I have no idea, with audio like that. Most of the 70's pirates had better audio.

AM 940 should send their closedown instructions over to some of the big euro pests. 675, 1008, 1377, 1395, and the Euro jammers on 1593.

Disney, a common station here on 1650 is also gone. (WHKT Portsmouth, VA)

RECYCLING OLD PCS:

Whenever I can, I am always on the "scrounge" for anyone that is throwing out PC bits and pieces. I do PC repairs, and people will throw out perfectly good systems when they upgrade. (Rather than keeping an old banger for web only for example!!).

My main PC until last week was a 2.8 gig Athlon single core, which I also fell in with a few years ago in exchange for setting up someone's new upgrade PC to the web for them. It is an Asrock board, with dual graphics card, 1g ram, and plenty hard drive space. This ran the Perseus at full bandwidth perfectly OK, but there was not much horse power to spare. I struggled sometimes if I had an HTML file of for example the TADX lists etc open at the same time.

Last year I fell in with a duff dual core tower with what looked like the usual simple and cheap power supply fault. It turned out it wasn't the power supply, and I lost the gamble on this occasion.

But the other week I was given a broken system, which had been in some form of local authority qth, and was going to the bin!! When I tried this DELL DIMENSION 5100, it was dead. I hung in a power supply, and on this occasion, I won the bet!! The PC burst into life. (Do these guys not like saving public money by trying a simple repair??) Sadly the SATA hard drive had been removed, but that didn't matter. It was a worker. Spec of this PC includes a beefy dual graphics card, Intel P4 3.0g chip, 1g RAM, extremely quiet running cooling, DVD writer etc. I don't think it is a true dual core chip, though the processor does come up twice in the device manager???? (Unsure about what that means)

What a difference with the Perseus. The unit doesn't even reach 40% CPU load at full bandwidth recording, and runs about 10% load during playback!! A real big difference.

It even runs fine in the extreme cold in the shack here, where the older PC used to reboot etc after the shack dropped below a certain temperature in the mid winter. I was too scared to go out and leave the gas fire burning if I am not in to keep an eye on it.

The only "downside" if you pardon the pun, is that Dell have made the PC inside out!!! Yes, back to front. I have to turn the tower up side down to sit in the same space my other PCs have sat in the past, if I want to sit it with the side panel open and facing me!!!! lol.. I always require access to the PC for various reasons, eg testing drives etc, so see no point in having an enclosed side panel. It doesn't give me any noticable rf grief on

the MW band.

REFORMAT A VISTA LAPTOP:

I had a laptop in for repair the other day. It wasn't really a repair as such. There was no hardware problem. The trouble I find with probably 80% of the PC's I have in for attention is that they require a reinstall of the operating system. They become messed up by crap from the web filling up the drive, and youngsters clicking on any old pop up that shows up on the screen.

The emachine I had in last night was only new for a youngster at Xmas, but was filled up with worms and spyware etc, and generally in a mess.

I must however make a point about this particular PC. I can not understand anyone who deliberately chooses VISTA as an operating system. The speed of the install and the speed of boot up, and in fact everything connected with the wonderful VISTA reminds me of trying to run my first 386 PC in the early 1990's. Everything is in slow motion.

Into the bargain, the crap that comes with these preloaded machines is such a pain. All the trial versions of software etc. No wonder their machines don't last with all this junk cluttering them up. I feel that the microsoft software design team for Vista would not go wrong with a swift kick in the nuts, if truth be told. I know not why anyone can say anything complimentary about this biggest load of clutter and rubbish I have ever worked with. Until such times that a new super dx piece of hardware comes out that will work only on the silly VISTA, I shall avoid like the plague.

I have never even seen. far less care about the much heralded Windows 7, so can offer no comments.

SANDISK CRUZER PEN DRIVE AUTORUN:

Another unwanted feature of many external hard drives and pen drives are .exe and autorun files that run when the drives are inserted. Seagate external USB drives are bad for this, but are easily formatted first time they are run. After all, who needs that kind of clutter and crap amongst your precious Perseus files.

Not so easy to get rid of was the annoying and unwanted pop up from a "Sandisk Cruzer" 4gig pen drive. So much so that someone gave me one, as they didn't like the intrusive autorun rubbish that pops up every time it is inserted. No worries, I think to myself, this will be easily formatted. How wrong I was.

There is some kind of a hidden partition that is seen as a CD, ...clever, and the partition can not easily be wiped by normal means. Partition Magic doesnt like removable drives, at least the old reliable version I have.

After making a web search, it seems I was no the only one that didn't like this intrusive behaviour from a simple pen drive. There is a file that is required called **U3Uninstall.exe**,

which after running, deletes the autorun stuff. This may be on the original pen deep in the autorun software, although I found it on the web.

Now the SANDISK pen is just like any other memory stick.

PERSEUS STAND ALONE SOFTWARE OR INSTALLER:

I have been reading the Yahoo Perseus Users group, and saw recently some users complain that there is no windows installer for Perseus. For me, that's a strange request. I have always found stand alone software to be much more advantageous and desirable, as nothing is being installed into any unknown locations etc. Although the recent Perseus software seems to be doing some mighty strange things, at least there are no large installs necessary to operate the SDR.

Often dxers leave messages on the yahoo group talking of "having installed" or "uninstalled" the latest release. But it can hardly be classed as installed, when it is standalone software and is activated by simply clicking on it. An entry is made in the Windows Registry, but no files are "installed" in the "Program Files" folder.

PERSEUS RELEASE VS 2.1i :

The following may sound like some kind of a slightly damning article about the Perseus SDR. That is not the intention. What it is, is a report of my own experiences (and that of others) over the last few weeks and the struggles, and I also question the lack of information available in connection to the latest releases of the Perseus software..

NB. THE PERSEUS SDR AT THE TIME OF WRITING HAS NO COMPETITION WHATSOEVER AFTER NEARLY TWO AND A HALF YEARS ON THE MARKET, AND IS STILL THE BEST RECEIVER I HAVE EVER HAD FOR MW DXING, EXCLUSIVELY DUE TO THE UNEQUALED WIDEBAND RECORD FUNCTION...

ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT... NOTHING COMES CLOSE..!!!!!!!

My confidence in PERSEUS / Microtelecom is certainly beginning to drop, with yet another release which was tied up with the PC time clock being hurriedly taken off line. This latest problem shows there seems to have been time spent installing tricks and weird weird stuff that seems to do performance no favours whatsoever.

I and my fellow MW dxers have hoped for over a year for repairs to the tiny playback bar to stop the deafening high pitched tones, perhaps improve navigation between recorded files etc. But it is not to be. More time seems to have been spent installing these

somewhat dubious tricks. Think about the time spent to correct the problem, and release yet another error repair version too.

Exactly what these tricks are trying to stop, I have no idea. Who ever heard of a manufacturer that DOESN'T want users to be able use his equipment with 100% reliability. I am so glad that Mr NRD, Mr Yaesu, and Mr Racal have not built silly time out tricks into their receivers. Where would we be then. My old NRD515 is still working a treat, an early 1980's model. The Racal RA17 is almost 50 years old and working fine. Of course these classic sets have no wide band record feature!!

I firmly believe that if you spend £700 on a receiver, the very least you should expect is software that is not going to time out like some dross given away free with a PC magazine. Twice Microtelecom have released so called PROFESSIONAL software that has timed out. One release timed out 31st December 2008, so the recordings set to record New Year celebrations in the States and Canada failed, and were met by a time out message, as though it were a 30 day trial, and not software that was part of a £700 receiver. This created a very negative response not only from dxers, but from professional radio users, who desire 100% reliability, at all times. Many questions were asked about this at the time by the professional users, and we were assured it was an error.

But yet again, version 2.1h, released in December 2009 has been discovered to have timed out if the clock is adjusted!!! Was this some kind of trick incase someone should dare to adjust their PC clock??? Well all I will say to that is that it is my PC, and I will adjust my clock if and when I see fit!!!! I will change the date to 2090 if I wish. (Not that I have any reason to..lol)

Offers to buy a proper non timed out version were answered with claims that the current version will never time out. Let's hope that turns out to be the case.

But redundant (and unwanted) entries must still lurk deep in the registry somewhere that will not allow version 2.1h to operate ever, if the clock has been changed. This will be there until such time as a drive format/ fresh install of Windows is run. Removal of the well used main microtelecom entry makes no odds.

It remains uncertain how much of an adjustment to the clock you had to make before the trick kicked in and killed the software. Would it kill the Perseus software if the PC was connected to these auto fix clocks on line? Or if you adjusted it by an hour in the spring of the year, or did you have to advance or turn back the clock by days to activate the kill? Who knows?

I wonder if the WINRADIO EXCALIBUR software will time out, when released????

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS WITH THE LATEST PERSEUS RELEASES:

The initial problems of the new drivers and latest two releases although never really made too public, were something along the lines of the following:

1) Version 2.1h is released

2) I seem to be the only one on the list that can't seem to get the new drivers to install properly, and finding it difficult to get back to the old drivers, although I eventually sussed, see entry in mid December..

3) Ask the Perseus Yahoo group if the new version perhaps desires a true dual core, or it won't work. Or had the goal posts been shifted again, and required some kind of a Windows update, and therefore changing the official spec of Windows XP and Service Pack 2 as the bare minimum. I tried a fresh install of XP complete with service pack three, but results were still the same. Drivers seemed to be showing up in device manager, but the receiver still refuses to start up. Begin to worry that somehow changes had been made to the hardware that were irreversible.

Eventually discover that there is a problem with the 2.1h release, and a PC that has never been connected to the web and filled up with loads of unnecessary updates will not work with 2.1h and the new style drivers. A few other folk eventually start to announce they also don't have the latest release working. It is suggested that some kind of windows update as well as a dotnet framework download of 237meg is required. This is a big difference from a 32k driver file!!!

4) I try the 237 meg dotnet framework download, and that cures the problem. It works fine with a clean install of windows and service pack 2. Version 2.1h now working.

5) Some 60 day pop up screen comes up on version 2.1h, but we are assured it is only for some frequency convertor or something. After last year's fiasco with time out versions and all that, I always meant to advance the clock and try 60 days onwards, and see if things still worked, but never somehow got around to it. Otherwise this questionable style of trick may have been discovered sooner.

6) There is also a slight problem with the driver locations in the Perseus release. How it was created, I have no idea, but when the zip file is opened with the traditional zip application, "WINZIP", there are no folders within, and all files are simply loose. Winzip was never able to cope with folders within a zip file, and traditionally for this function, WINRAR had to be used. So the location of the driver files were not exactly where the software was looking for them, and every file had to be redirected manually.

Many may use the built in zip function of Windows nowadays, available since XP, and thus did not experience that problem. Who knows, maybe WINZIP is rarely used nowadays.

7) A new DLL is released from Microtelecom, announced as making improvements for third party software. No real interest in this, and don't bother with it, but weeks later, someone on the yahoo group suggests that the clumsy large 237 meg download of the dotnet framework is not necessary to make the Perseus work with the new drivers, if using the new DLL.

Tried a blank windows install, XP + sce pack 2, along with new drivers. Same no results with the old DLL - drivers installed OK, but no results. Replace the old DLL with the new updated version, and the receiver burst into life.

NB: No mention as far as I am aware was ever made of this updated driver situation from Microtelecom. All that was said in the release notes on Microtelecom web site was that the new DLL fixed issues with multi receiver use, and something to do with a third party piece of software, called CW Skimmer. (I have no experience with any of the two, so can't comment) For some reason, a very important part to do with the massive 237meg download of the dotnet framework was not even mentioned. I am unsure as to why there has not been much explanation. Information has certainly been thin on the ground.

8) By late January, some folks are discovering that adjustments to the PC clock effectively kills the Perseus version 2.1h. Another release bites the dust.

9) 2.1i was released, and works a treat. Let's hope there are no unwanted "tricks" built in.

And one final drawback with version 2.1h (unusable now) and 2.1i is the blocking of the possibility of squeezing another 80 or 90khz from either side of an 800kHz Perseus file by direct frequency entry. Don't delete your old 2.1f etc. If like me you like looking back at some of the old Perseus files from good dx days, then in the days of 400 and 800kHz recording bandwidths, an extra 50 or 100kHz at either end of the recorded range just may bring in that new log. Direct entry had to be used to access the frequency. But that option is now blocked since 2.1h.

PERSEUS SAM / AM TEASER:

The answer to the SAM / AM queastion further up the page is as follows:

The clip starts with SAM, followed by AM. Could you tell the difference???

091107_0700_990_cbc_winnipeg_sam_am.mp3

**Ken's TADX
Corner**

LOGS / NEWS - JANUARY 2010

A site mainly dedicated to Mediumwave Dxing

**Ken's TADX
Corner**

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat Contact

1200	WRTO	Chicago, IL	 31/01/10, 0900
1380	WABH	Bath, NY	 31/01/10, 0800
1710	Radio Soleil	Boston	 12/01/10, 0400 Pirate poss * FKR-UK

Personal Firsts this month =3 SO FAR

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 19th JANUARY 2010

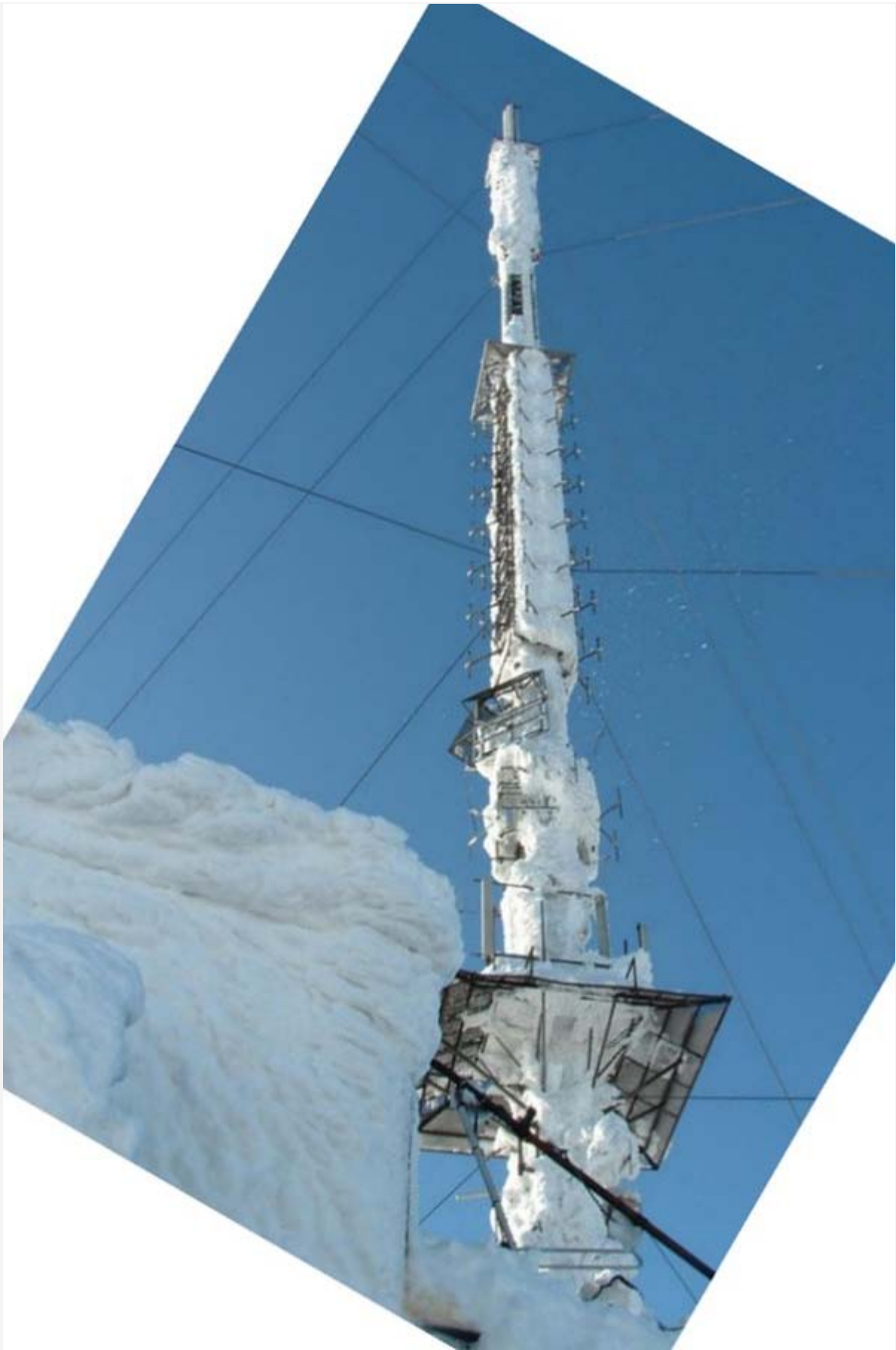
MOUNT LEINSTER IN THE SNOW:

I have received a few snaps taken of Mount Leinster sent to me by Finbar, EI0CF. Mount Leinster is RTE's highest site in Ireland at 792m above sea level. The site was not accesable since before Xmas, so some of the engineering staff went for a look by helicopter!!.









PERSEUS NEW DLL WORKS FINE WITHOUT DOT NET FRAMEWORK:

Today is the first time since the Christmas release of the Perseus latest software that I have been working at PCs which required a clean install of windows.

I saw on the yahoo group that someone suggested the large 237 meg dotnet framework clutter is not necessary with the new DLL. It was neither confirmed or denied I dont think by Nico.

I was under the impression the new DLL served as some kind of other function. According to the release notes on Microtelecom web site, the new DLL fixed issues with multi receiver use, and something to do with a third party piece of software, called CW Skimmer. I have never tried the latter, and the PC I use is at the limit with one Perseus, never mind two. So I wasn't too bothered about downloading it.

But I thought I would make a point on trying a PC that has never been on line looking for updates. I first tried it as before with the new drivers, and the Perseus installed OK, but would not start up. I replaced the dll as supplied by Nico, and voila, the receiver burst into life.

I have to say I find it odd that the software required a 237 meg download to begin with, and now it only requires a 117k file, and yet there is nothing about this in any of the release notes, or have I missed something??? The old DLL just did not work in conjunction with the new drivers, unless the pc had been kept up to date. (I have no reason to download all these daily updates that a lot of folks do. It is not every machine that is on line, even in this day and age.)

But there it is, an unannounced fix for the required dotnet framework anyway.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 16th JANUARY 2010

ICE FLOW JANUARY 15th 2010:

If anyone has city speed broadband and wants a look at a 64 meg video clip taken last night in the dark, using a spotlight of the ice flow on the river at the back door, click the link. The ice damed back some 50 or 100 yards downstream, and the water level began to rise rapidly, untill the pressure was too great and the whole lot began to move downstream. This was spectacular to see, but in the dark, only limited photography was possible. This would have been stunning if it had happened in daylight hours, and I would have had some great DV quality footage. But it was lucky to see this at all at these lattitudes. The couch potatoes I mentioned yesterday were all sat on their couches. I never saw another soul out watching this awesome spectacle, and the noise from the ice breaking up was quite a loud rumble.

Anyway, click to view a 64 meg .mov file. VLC player will play fine.

Woops a daisy. File never loaded properly yesterday. Reloaded Sunday.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 15th JANUARY 2010

GREENLAND RECORDINGS:

I have an unusual request from Paul, a dxer in the States. He requires a reasonable recording of Greenland taken off air. I have found him a decent clip from October, two separate clips in fact, when the signal was strong and clear, though perhaps still a little uninspiring. Freq for both was 570, though shortly after the clips were made, the transmission became nothing more than a blank carrier and about 1% modulation!! They seem in no hurry to make repairs.

091004_2227_570_greenland_inc_cw.mp3 (1,799k)

091004_2257_570_greenland.mp3 (2,395k)

COLD WEATHER AND THE GLOBAL WARMING SCAM:

With all the cold weather we have had around here, there has been little heard from any of the global warming scaremongers. But I was listening amused the other morning to WHAM 1180 and a trailer/ promo for Sean Hannity, one of the controversial talk show hosts on American radio. These guys don't miss the liars and hit the wall. The shoot from the hip, and kick them where it hurts!! We need some more outspoken folks like that over here, before they turn the country completely into a nancy boy state.

Anyway, have a listen to Sean Hannity having a go at the global warming scam, recorded from WHAM 1180 yesterday.

100114_sean_hannity_on_1180_wham.mp3

SHIVERING SCOTLAND:

I live in the country, and the crybabies I have heard bleating on about the snow, and the ice and the pavements are slippery and the council haven't cleared the paths, and this and that. These jokers seem to think it is their right to have a man walking 5 feet in front of them with a brush at all times, incase they should slip!!

It is winter for god sake, and with that can come snow. Yes, the white stuff. It's not a new invention. You'd think some country folks around here had never seen snow before, to listen to them. No it is not a good idea to go up the street in carpet slippers or high heels. You would think that country folks at least would just get on with it, when the cold weather comes. And use maybe even use a pair of decent boots to get around!! Would you go to a ski resort with slippers?? I think not. I think in another 20 years the couch potatoes I hear now will expect the council to come round and "dicht their backsides" in the morning for them!!

If there were any Scandanavian or Canadians listening to these crybabies, or watching the TV reports about the "awful snow conditions" they have had to bear, they would just laugh at them. lol. I have heard the wx reports on CFAM this season!! We never had lows of anything like -48 here!!!

RADIO SUNSHINE / RADIO SOLEIL:

There has been no sign on the FF pirate on 1710 so far again. Well the carrier is there, but much too weak to hear audio. In actual fact, I did check on the day the station was coming in on 1710, and there were 3 strong carriers on 1710. The FF station at that time however was well dominant. I wonder where the other two come from. I did hear SS here last winter, but as ever, lacked IDs.

I pick a fine time to receive a FF Haitian pirate. The poor souls will be far too busy assisting their fellow countrymen to find missing persons etc after the terrible earthquake, to respond to a long distance report. I believe there is some kind on emergency net set up on 7045 and 3720 for assisting the victims.

PERSEUS AGAIN:

I made a muck up of a contribution to the new Perseus wish list files. It seems it can't take much text, and after I pasted a load of text in to the tiny box, all that showed up was a few lines. Below is the complete contribution I tried to add.

A good idea to create a specific page for this kind of wish list.

At least I have made a suggestion, even if it is never used.

Although I surely can not speak for other dxers, I have had correspondence with many MW dxers who have bought the Perseus receiver/ SDR exclusively for the wideband recording capabilities.

For myself, I have no other reason to own a Perseus other than the record / playback facility, which adds such a new dimension to our hobby. I would not have dreamed of spending the money on another receiver, without something special, Which Perseus does have of course in the shape of wideband recording. An SDR, housed in the middle of rf noisy computer seemed mad to me initially!!.

I still own an NRD 545 and 515, as well as the Lowe HF225E, all great and classic receivers. The NRD545 with it's variable bandwidth, the 225E with it's amazing capabilities to bring out stations from the mud. The Lowe was by far the best of all the radios during the 2007 St Helena broadcast, and that included the Perseus, and an AOR 7030 I had at the time. I don't know why the HF225 was superior. It was just the way it was, and all aerials tried..

But for MW dxing, the Perseus comes into it's own for one reason. I can listen at the top of the hour to the complete MW band, 120 channels or so and not be limited to one channel!!! What a difference!!!

But the record facility, the main selling point of the receiver for so many dxers, has remained underdeveloped.

I made an imaginary Perseus "photoshoped" style. That is unfortunately the limit of my knowledge I'm afraid. If I knew hard programming, I would design my own. But I doubt I ever will have that ability.

I am willing to pay for a version capable of the following upgrades.

This image below comes from my "Perseus - A Life Changing Receiver" article.

www.ayrshirehistory.eu/tadx/images/imaginary_perseus.jpg

www.ayrshirehistory.eu/tadx/perseus_a_life_changing_receiver.html

1. Moving easily from current recorded file to next, or previous file. Is navigation backwards as easy to make as a step forward? The SDR can flawlessly run to the next file in the series. But to repeat an id 20 seconds back into the previous file, requires a lot of clicking and browsing.

2. Buttons for "forward" and "back" 10 seconds, and use also right and left keyboard arrows, (like winamp keyboard shortcuts.)

3. Pause Button

4. Kill the live area around the playback bar that causes the dreadful loud tones during playback. Some of us use band/ disco speakers, and the noise would lift the roof!!

5. A wider playback bar would be a great benefit. It is very thin if you are using it all the time.

6. A wider playback bar would benefit the short repeat annoyance if you click on the playback bar, but have a tiny movement of the mouse at the same time. A minimum time for the repeat function on the playbar may benefit, say a second or 2. I dont think anyone is going to be listening to a repeat less than 2 seconds are they?
?

It may be these updates would be a nightmare code wise, to incorporate. Who knows.

But every dvd player, software player etc all have basic file navigation, forward and back.

The addition of these items of basic navigation would make the perseus untouchable.

Pro receivers may not have some functions that a hobby rx has. (as per group messages) But name me a pro rx with a wide band rec facility.

Ken
Scotland

www.ayrshirehistory.eu/tadx

AND FINALLY, THE DX:

O yes, and the DX. I have no updates to report of dx logs. The band has been the same old same old every morning. It is more like August than mid winter.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2010

STATESIDE MW PIRATE HEARD - RADIO SOLEIL INTERNATIONAL:

At last after hearing these elusive stations for a few seasons, but only barely, I had a very strong peak from RADIO SOLEIL INTERNATIONAL today. This was on 1710 at 0400, although heard at 02, 03 and 05 as well. It may well have been the weak signal on 1710 at 2200 11/1.

I don't know if these guys are running a special transmitter for heavy snowstorms or something, in the hope the FCC won't come out, but they were strong!! Listen to the two clips below, one is long, from AM, and the other is shorter, with both, and IDs in AM, then SSB.

This is the first positive ID I have had on any of the handful of stations heard. There was a NY religious station heard, as well as SS stn in NY, and I think the FF station is in Boston, hrd in FF last winter, but not positively ided.

I will have to look up the web. I have a link to their web pages which I presume is still working.

[Click here for the web site of 1710, Radio Soleil International](#)

Or listen to today's clips

100112_0400_1710_radio_soleil_long_clip.mp3

100112_0400_1710_radio_soleil_am_ssb.mp3

We always assume these stations are running quite low power, but this one may surprise us I think, judging by the signal!!! I think that is one that I may just write to!!!

Maybe I needed the boost, as I feel all dxed out at this time of year. It is a shame that hobby stations such as Radio Metalica or Radio USA don't use the top end of MW sometimes to try for dx reports.

WWRU POWER DOWN:

Alan in Northern Ireland let me hear a clip of WWRU powering down at 2200 on 1660. I had also recorded 2200, and was amused by the break, mid ID.

100111_2200_1660_wwru_power_down.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2010

ALAN'S LOGS FROM NORTHERN IRELAND:

Alan from Portrush who is a lively member of our Skype chat mw dx group has offered some logs for posting in public. Click below to view.

Alan lives on the North Coast of Northern Ireland and brings in some superb DX on his SDR IQ RX and Super KAZ, at 140 feet for the bottom leg. (40 odd metres), at around 300 degrees.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALAN'S LOGS 1/12/09 - 10/1/10](#)

ILR AYR OFF AIR FOR SOME HOURS:

Unusually for these type of stations, but ILR AYR was off the air last night, Sunday, for a few hours, unfortunately coming back on just before midnight. Pity they never stayed off all night.

The MW band was pretty average during the off period, but some good WBZ ids were noted, as well as WHO and unid counrty mx stn, which pres is the French Canadian. Audio seemed to be similar to the audio from CKNB 950, and on peaks was reasonable at best, but always faded at the end of tracks etc.

ASIAN PIRATE ON AIR:

I am not sure of it's language, but my pal Trevor from Kilmarnock rang to alert me of Pakistani or Indian or similar type of music and language on around 1026kHz. I couldn't hear anything here at all, only Euros and DTR. I originally was trying FM, as the first text came in saying that it was just below IRL Ayr. I naturally assumed FM, but amazingly, it seems we have a QRP pirate on MW!!

Davie up the road and I went out a field trip last night, but couldn't hear a thing. It had switched off just about the time we arrived in Killie. So we couldn't track a station down that wasn't on the air!!!! It was a great shame.

It seemed to be quite a coincidence that ILR Ayr was off just at the time when there was someone on the next channel. We should have taken a run to their MW site and see if we could get some photos of their transmitters, if there was someone working at the normally unmanned set up.

These fools will only have themselves to blame for unwanted problems if they continue to operate on the next channel to a local ILR station. This will obviously cause some grief in the immediate area around the transmitter. They probably would have a free run at the airwaves if they chose some kind of sensible frequency. Watch this space for more info as it happens.

I don't think I have ever heard anything unusual like this on MW in years. The last pirate MW signal heard from Scotland I think was a test around xmas time one year, maybe in the early 90's or late 80's, on 1251. This was loud and clear and from Glasgow somewhere. Then there was also a Radio Gladice on 1248kHz from Glasgow area with an address in Motherwell, Radio Active on 1242 seemingly from Ayr was heard around 1984, and various Edinburgh pirates over the years. Radio Telstar, Radio Free City, Radio Kay. There was also a SW station Radio Woodstock in Falkirk which had used MW in the past, and heard once as well on 1254kHz.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 9th JANUARY 2010

ISN'T IT TIME - AS "THE BABY'S" USED TO SAY ():

Isn't it long overdue for an update to this blog? OK there is nothing wrong in taking things easy over the holidays, and doing nothing other than taking very postcard like photos. But enough's enough. I have to get out the big chair someday..

DX this holiday season has been what they say in the trade, "absolutely ***** average". I neither have exciting dx to report nor super strong ids on normally weaker stations to include here. Not that there has been no dx. I know some dxers and enthusiasts who may struggle because of locations etc, to hear WBBR or WWKB. But here there has been dx every day.

Isn't it somehow odd that in mid winter when the expected peak should be, that we are listening to some late morning openings and only have the watery carrier of CKNB on 950, and not sports from KJR, or loud classical music from MB, that we had on a daily basis in November?? I always feel the band is poor if I hear the watery carrier on 950, and the bent on screen peak and drone on 940 caused by an off channel station somewhere.

POSSIBLE NEW CONTRIBUTOR TO THESE PAGES:

I was discussing possible contributions from another dxer to include here. Alan who will be introduced after his first contribution, has heard some gems lately over in Northern Ireland.

1170 AK at 1500
1180 KERN CA 0930 I think it was.

Full details shortly.

All contributions are more than welcome from anyone else that wishes to publish their own logs on line and doesn't have a blog of their own. Maybe it would be an idea to publish logs here from other dxers who wish their logs to be seen in public, and not just in club publications, and non public groups etc.

All I will say is that the logs have to be in a ready to use format. My days for mind numbing typing out of other folks logs is long gone.

TYPING LOGS IN THE OLD DAYS:

I used to receive logs for a couple of pages of pirate news in a DSWCI magazine some years ago, and used to physically cut up logs into tiny strips, set them out on the floor in freq order, and then roll out a length of sellotape to stick them in order. Then I'd start with the old manual typewriter and tipex trying to decipher some serious scribbles!! After this laborious task was complete, I had to send the finished pages off to Denmark by swift air, because I was always working at the last minute!! Phew, how pc's and email have changed the life of log publishing in the dx press.

RADIO CAROLINE - 20 YEARS ON LAND:

The Ross Revenge has been off air from the High Seas for an amazing 20 years this year! And it will be an amazing 21 years this year since the brutal and highly illegal raid on the Ross Revenge by Dutch and English gun slingers.

And while I'm in the mood for links to youtube, here's one that makes the hackles stand up, The Hooters and Give the Music back, mixed along with video of the Ross Revenge being raided by a bunch of alcoholic Dutch thugs in 1989. Remember the station was operating from International waters and the Dutch and British had no jurisdiction whatsoever on the high seas and acted in complete contravention of all international law. And guess what. No one was jailed for their crimes of piracy on the high seas.

They gave the confiscated gear back to Caroline and that was that. No official was ever even brought to justice, whether it be hanged, or sacked from their nice little pensionable position, or had their little perks removed, or their houses taken away from them. It just shows that these government officials are above the law, and had they shot anyone aboard the Ross, I doubt that they would have had to answer to it.

LOOK AT THE YOUTUBE VIDEO OF THE HOOTERS.

TOP BAND DIPOLE BITES THE DUST:

I feel like a Canadian having to make statements like the following. Let me diversify. My top band dipole runs from my old rickety single pole mast, to a tree across the river from the shack. The live end was high on a thick branch. During a recent windy spell the branch has broken, after years of service holding up various antennas. It was probably weakened by all the snow we have had, which broke many big branches and even full trees have fallen over around the area. The top band dipole landed in the drink. It took me a day to get out to make repairs. But when I went to pull up the cable again, I found it is frozen solid into the ice on the river!!

Now as they say in Canada, I have to wait till the spring thaw.. lol

The forecast is certainly for the cold snap to last a bit longer.

I must also remember next time I am climbing a tree to put up an aerial, that I may be quite a few stones heavier than the snow on some of these branches that fell ..!!

570 & 950 TRANSMITTERS STILL BROKEN:

The transmitter on 570 from Greenland is still a virtual carrier, with about 5% modulation. How this is worth keeping on the air, I have no idea. There have been some strong signals of late as well, the other morning was no exception. The CBC transmitter on 600 seems to have a little more audio than it had for many months, though not exactly roaring it's head off. I can fully understand that with government stations like 570 and 600 CBC there is no desire to care whether it is on or off, but commercial station CKNB 950 operating from NB in Canada have had very watery audio for a long time now. Quite how they manage to make a few dollars in advertising with that audio I have no idea. It is worse than a bad 70's land based pirate.

PERSEUS LATEST AND WINRADIO EXCALIBUR:

I have a feeling that the Persus yahoo group is getting kinda big and out of control sometimes. There are almost 2000 members now I think, so it is quite a large group. But the negative side of that can be that messages get lost in the mess.

Nico did say that after the Christmas release, he was going to be doing other stuff in relation to hardware, so I guess that's it then. Perseus may be as far developed as it is going to be for the time being. So the dream of a navigable recorded file system will remain a dream.

Of course the Perseus has opened up a new dimension to MW dxing, and it would be

difficult to go back to single channel dxing now I suspect. It will work well as it is, but I have felt that for a year now we have had the software spoilt for the sake of a few repairs and tweaks. There have been more gimmiky colouring in tools added, rather than tweaking what is already up and running. For me personally, the exclusive reason for buying a Perseus was the record facility, which has been left somewhat under developed.

But like everything else we must move on and see if there is anything better or more managable just around the corner. The WINRADIO Excalibur looks interesting. It has also the claim of a wide band recording facility. The software has yet to be seen in a demo mode, so I am unsure if WINRADIO will provide the basic record / playback system that the Perseus lacks. The Excalibur is guaranteed to lack something silly, that will make the choice between Perseus and the WINRADIO difficult for MW dxers. That is assuming the WINRADIO is not going to become the damp squib that perhaps some of the other SDR's ended up being.

Of course Perseus has a clear run till March at least, when Winradio announced they will release the Excalibur. It amazes me that the competition have taken over two years to produce anything that comes close to Perseus.

But then again, no one actually has released any serious competition as yet, as it is not yet available, and we know nothing of it's performance. So far it is only promises.

I'm sure I have seen similar promises somewhere before??

Bjarne in Norway received some correspondence from WINRADIO.

<http://arcticdx.blogspot.com/2009/12/more-on-winradio-excalibur.html>

And you may read some pre release notes from WINRADIO about their forth coming radio.

<http://www.winradio.com/home/g31ddc.htm>

<http://www.winradio.com/home/g31ddc-s.htm>

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS - OR NOT:

So what New Year's resolutions did you make?

Am I going to be nice to everyone this year on this blog, and not be critical of for example Amazon for ridiculously poor delivery times, or to highlight more con artist's at work on the web? I doubt it.

I guess nothing will change.

Our friends in Denmark at mediumwave.info (Ydun) recently published the desire for money for the assistance to run an \$18,000 web site. That is eighteen thousand dollars they want to run a web site that can be run for a tenner. I can't believe this outfit are being given web space for their rip off. Am I am missing something these guys are doing which is very important? Is it really nothing other than a serious scam, which is what I am reading into it. I for one shall not encourage them. See Dec pages for more details.

People take these "make a quick buck" scams in their stride these days, and seem to accept it is part of modern life. I remember not so long back almost being a sucker to some guys I once thought of as trustworthy and well respected dxers. (Luckily the then webmaster was on the ball).

These modern day cut throats are no better than the bogus callers on the elderly, that talk their way into pensioner's houses and steal their precious savings. Both are pretending to be something they certainly are not. How these characters can sleep at night is beyond me.

So that nicey nicey New Years Resolution is out the window.

So what else is there? OK maybe I will drink less, and stop going to late night parties, and running around in bad company...lol

Then again, what's the point in giving this up now?? If it doesn't kill me, something else will.. lol

Then I could say to myself that enough is enough, and relax the intensive MW dxing that has been going on since the advent of the Perseus receiver. Some days, I feel there is splatter and noise inside my head, even as I drift off to sleep at night!!! But then again, we better make the most of it before our wonderful regime in charge decide to impose more unwanted sanctions and close down radio as we know it altogether. At least we have the Perseus files as memories.

OK, let's carry on as usual..... without the resolutions... where's the dx.....

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat

Contact

610	KCSP	Kansas City MO	0700 17/12 (Poss FRK-UK) 
910	CKDQ	AB	Q91 IDs' 0828 0815 12/12
1160	WPIE	Truemansberg, NY	2300 16/12 ESPN
1270	KNWC	Sioux Falls SD	0800 9/12 Tip Paul C
1430	KEZW	Aurora, CO	0805 9/12. Tip Paul C
1670	CJEU	Canadian	FF Enfants stn 2258 10/12

Personal Firsts this month =0 SO FAR

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 28th DECEMBER 2009:**SCOTLAND'S WINTER WONDERLAND:**

Well, I have not had too much to say this last few days. We have had snow like the proverbial winter wonderland here in Scotland. The trees have even been breaking and falling over under the strain of the weight of the snow.

It is not often we have scenery such as this here in Scotland. The photos I uploaded last week are not worth talking about by comparason to the ones I have taken in the days afterwards.



Above is only a sample of Norwegian Postcard views we had here a few days ago, over the Christmas period. And we did have a beautiful white Christmas. The last two images here were taken on 25th December, and the first four on 23rd. I will have a lot more up on line soon.

I have a limited number on my local history site as well, but if you click the link, use the back button to return here, as there are no links back. As said here before, I'd prefer local kids not seeing photos of my beverages!! lol

http://www.ayrshirehistory.com/sorn_winter_wonderland.html

DX CLUB RELEASE OLD UK LISTS:

One of the dx clubs in the UK have released an old version of their former secret all time UK dx lists. These old files can be found here. The listing is a good guide as to what can be heard in the UK.

I am led to believe, the current list is still kept amongst themselves, close to their chests.

Right click and save target as etc...

North American List

Central American List

South American List

HOW TO EARN A QUICK BUCK:

Talking of \$\$ and £££, I read an amusing begging letter in the IRCA the other day. One down under group call themselves a free service for radio archives, yet send out begging letters to raise funds for a web site with photos and audio clips etc.

Thanks for trusting us with your memories, stories, photographs, audio recordings, and memorabilia during this time....

With tough economic times in 2009, our income will be struggling to reach the US\$6000 we achieved last year, and this only covers about 33% of just our operating costs.....so I have a special request this holiday season, will you make a donation towards our operating costs

so we can bring you even more memories, information and free content in 2010?

Considering web space costs about £10 or £20 a year for 3gig, and not much more for a lot more space, it makes you wonder where the rest of the six thousand dollars is going!!!!!! Why do they need \$18,000 to run a £20 web site?

I for one smell something seriously dubious in all this this.

Should we all put our hands in our pockets and send this mob money?? Well they have some web pages up all be it with nightmare navigation. Maybe they do deserve a new car, or a good tropical holiday..... That will be right.

Another web scam..... for sure... These scammers will certainly not be linked from these pages.

But if anyone wants to drop a few grand in the post to me, do get in touch... lol.

STUART RUSSEL BOOK ARRIVES!!

The extremely long wait from the supposedly wonderful AMAZON to decide to mail a book is now over. I have SHIPS IN TROUBLED WATERS by NIGEL HARRIS at last, delivered on Christmas Eve. This took an amazing 38 days to crawl in from England!!! Almost 6 weeks!! I doubt if I will ever be foolish enough to use Amazon ever again. Why does this take so long to deliver a book from England?? Even if it came by pushbike, it would not have taken all that time.



I have already made the author aware of the shocking service. I was initially put off at his own web site and delivery dates, of 5 to 10 working days, which can easily mean two or maybe even three weeks.

I was also put off by the Caroline web shop for taking an amazing three weeks to deliver a book earlier in the year, although I would have preferred to give them money anyway, as it helps to keep the station on the air!!

So I thought I would go for the well publicised AMAZON name!!! Never again.

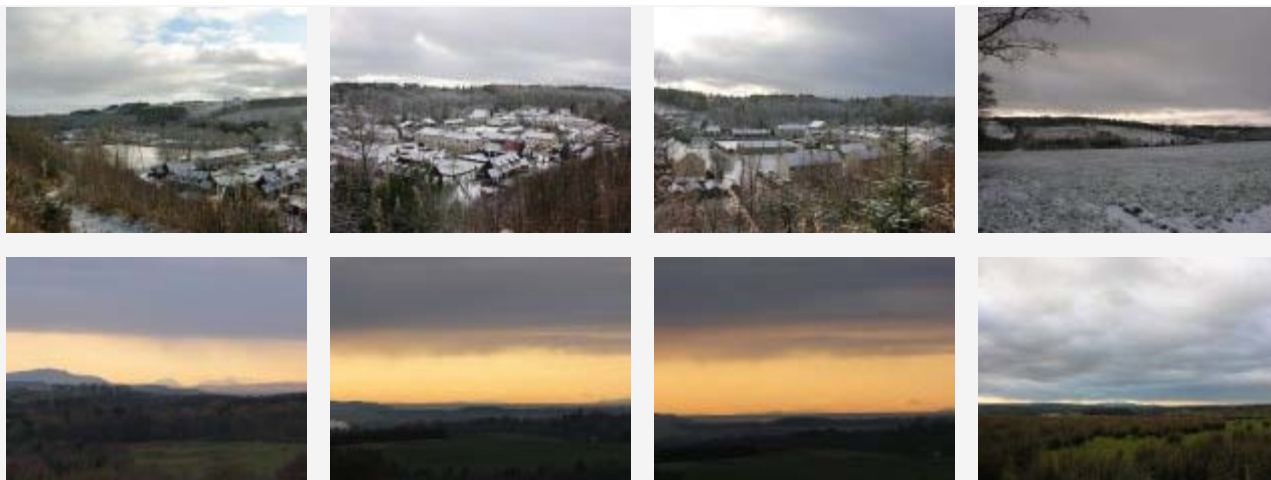
I use ebay to buy odd things from time to time, and often the goods arrive next day!! An average Joe, geared up to mail goods better than the mighty Amazon?? True it seems.

The book itself is a great read, and as I expected. I read it over Christmas, and thoroughly enjoyed it all. Anyone who was a fan of Offshore Radio in the 70's and 80's is in for a treat, and this book is a must for the old creaky book shelf.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 21st DECEMBER 2009:

Nothing much to report here, except that the winter snow has arrived this year, and it is the biggest dump of snow I have seen here for a number of years. So I thought I would add a few photos I have taken this last week. I also have included some from yesterday's snow, and a few from a clear clear day last week, of the Paps of Jura, Sanda Island off Kintyre, and the Irish coastline, and high ground.





Noisy Birds!!

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER 2009:

AN NEW ENTRY AT LAST HERE:

It's been a week since I have made any entries in this page. It is not because of the band being bad. It has a lot to do with the band being rather good and wide open again in fact.

I have been busy listening to my files too, and working on another web project for one of my neighbours, unconnected with radio.

I have not yet filled in any personal firsts this month at the top of the page, yet there have been quite a number. That will be taken care of soon too hopefully, as well as filling in the last 3 months in my all time list.

The audio clip project is coming on, though I have been slacking this last few weeks. Bear with me on the various projects which are on going here. Luckily there are no time limits.

THE LONG MISERABLE WAIT FOR AMAZON:

I will never try and buy anything through Amazon again. I thought they were an "on the ball company", and geared up as a mail order crowd. It seems I was wrong. I have

been waiting for the book "Ships in Troubled Waters" by Nigel Harris for about a month now. I intentionally never ordered through the Radio Caroline Web shop, as they took three weeks for delivery of a book earlier in the year.

I really would have preferred to order from the Caroline Web shop, as part of the money goes towards the upkeep of the Ross Revenge, and keeping the station on air, but with a book taking three weeks to come from England, that can hardly be classed as a good service.

Amazon on the other hand have beat that record by a long shot, and their service is not much short of a disgrace. I wonder if I am the only one who has had this problem with this outfit?

QUICK AND EASY MW DX LISTS:

Davie up the road (David Hamilton) sent me a link for a great mw listing which I have not seen before. Quick and easy they are called, and they certainly are. No clutter, and no begging buttons trying to sell you better versions etc. Any regular readers to this blog will know I hate clutter on software, or web sites

There are four lists.

1. EUROPE
2. ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
3. NORTH AMERICA (AK - MEX)
4. CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

I have been on the home page before, but failed to see a link jumping out at me to these pages. A great piece of work. This is the same group of DXers who produce the superb FM listings per country. Hats off to you guys. A job very well done.

Pity there are no States or Provinces incorporated.

PERSEUS RELEASE:

The Perseus release was interesting, and a number of people have contacted me to thank me for the detailed installation guide on these pages. Thanks for the vote of confidence. It seems that there is to be a new release again before Christmas, to tidy up some loose ends. I wonder if the long sought after navigation with recorded files will ever happen, as well as the cure for the deafening whistle that happens if you miss the tiny thin playback bar with the mouse.. Try listening to recordings if you are just up in the morning or came in from the pub. You'd wake the house up with the noise!!

OFF TOPIC - SCIENTISTS CAUGHT WITH THEIR TROUSERS DOWN:

The news a couple of weeks ago was quite interesting. Scientists in England have been caught red handed fixing and manipulating figures related to controversial supposed global warming. A download of 60 meg is on line for download, of all the emails which contain the details. Here are a few links.

Read about the scientists here

Link to the 60meg file of original material

THE GREAT GLOBAL WARMING SWINDLE:

Anyone interested in this subject should watch the excellent documentary, THE GREAT GLOBAL WARMING SWINDLE. Here are a few words about the documentary.

"The Great Global Warming Swindle is a controversial documentary film by British television producer Martin Durkin, which argues against the scientific opinion that human activity is the main cause of global warming. The film showcases scientists, economists, politicians, writers, and others who are sceptical of the scientific consensus on anthropogenic global warming. Publicity for the programme states that global warming is 'a lie' and 'the biggest scam of modern times.'"

http://www.moviesfoundonline.com/great_global_warming_swindle.php

RTTY ON 570 MW - FROM WHERE???

Are there any dxers with rtty software or decoders, that can identify the source of the rtty on 570 in the European afternoons and evenings. Logged here initially a few weeks ago, along with Greenland, and I had wondered if it was somehow getting into their duff 570 transmitter. But I tried an inverted L antenna the other day, and found the signal came right up. It is also heard on the NRD, and is not a product of the RPA1 preamp. On the thru position, the rtty is still loud and clear. Neither is it any overload from 518. There were similar signals on 518 a few dayes ago, but 518 went off, while 570 carried on. This has also been heard in Holland by John M.

SAQ 17.2 kHz 24th DECEMBER:

SAQ reactivate the If transmitter again at 0800 on 24th December on the ver low freq of 17.2kHz. I must remember to set my recording to take in the extreme LF area of the band. Just incase I am not up in time to chat to Santa on his rounds..

http://www.alexander.n.se/startside_e.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexanderson_alternator

This is another interesting web site

<http://mt-utility.blogspot.com/>

SKYPE CHAT:

Our Skype chat has been quite busy lately too, and makes for interesting dxing, having live text chats with other dxers about their logs, (and anything else for that matter). Some of the dxers are having great success, logging many weird and wonderful calls that just are not making it here. Swings and roundabouts I suppose, as I have had a few pleasant surprises myself.

FESTIVE SEASON:

Dare I say what I say every Christmas. I hope to have some spare and lazy time to myself to do some dxing around the festive season. I may even get the chance to do some late night live dxing. Then again, I may be out where I should be, and enjoying myself. So long as the band stays nice and calm, just maybe for once we may have a few surprises during a former traditional time of busy dxing, between Christmas and New Year. Not that I am short of recordings from real good days that still need rechecked!!

ALASKA 680 COMING THROUGH AGAIN:

Alaska has been regular signal wise here, but completely lacking IDs. KBRW on 680 is by far the most regular, and can sometimes peak to quite reasonable signal levels. Last night at some time or other around 1740 I think it was, the signal was very good. Sadly there are a few things on the negative side with KBRW. Their audio is like something out of 1970s African tropical bands, very low and muffled. They don't seem to ID much more than once an hour either. So the chances of an ID during a peak, are pretty slim. The added drawback here is holland. The bible station from Holland on 675 has exceptionally wide bandwidth when they play those funny style of tunes they play, and can cause real grief here.

I have a flag antenna facing more or less due north, but results from it are poor. Weak signals etc. I am not sure if something is wrong, that the signals are so poor. OK it brings in 675 NRK with virtually no NL most of the time. But as far as an antenna especially for AK is concerned, it is not much use. Signals on a beverage facing NW are much better. Maybe I need to try and swing it around slightly. I don't know. Or maybe I am looking for beverage signals on a flag, ie trying to take ten gallons out of a five gallon drum.

COAST TO COAST STATION ON 610 - CKTB, ST CATHARINE, ONT:

I was under the impression I sometimes hear KDAL with C/C but always fading out aty

toth, or during id,s. Today, Friday, I managed to hear an ID after c/c, but it came from CKTB Ontario. So beware. I did hear the KDAL station last winter, which also carries c/c. I suspect CKTB will be a common station if the Frenchie ever closes up shop. That has been on the cards for some time now, yet still they hang on in there. Typical, though not exclusive, was the response to my request to the station for information on the AM closure. Nothing.....

LOGS FOR DECEMBER SO FAR:

(Some unids are listed mainly for my own ease of finding and relistening to my recordings. My log book is really no more than scribbles, and I am falling behind on listening)

17.2 Swedish LF station SAQ test. hrd well. 0800 10/12

147.3 DDH47 German LF stn 9/12 2350 approx

1170 VOA Phillipines 1459 12/12, 1500 17/12

540 WFLA FL 0800 12/12

540 W Radio Mex in pile up with CBC and WFLA 15/12 0900

550 WSAU 0859 Gd signal with ads 7/12, 0800 9/12 VG

560 WIND Chicago 0900 16/12

570 CFCB 0831 7/12

570 WSYR Syracuse NY 0830 13/12, 0700 17/12

600 CBC Local ID 2359 11/12, again 2259 17/12 (750 had same ID)

600 unid sport 0846 12/12

600 WMT 0900 12/12

600 CJWW 0905 12/12

610 CKTB 0758 17/12 inc c/c

610 KCSP Kansas City MO 0700 17/12 Poss FKR-UK Sports Radio

610 CHNC Still on 0000 9/12 vg, 0805 12/12

610 Unid wx Rebecca Russel 0859 12/12 snds like id in here somewhere. 0906 into c/c

620 VOXM Booming in Merry Christmas Stn 9/12 0800, Mix with sport 10/12 0200, 0832 12/12 vvg,

630 Unid back to c/c 0838 12/12 poss CHED, ee tk 0843

630 CHED 0805 0831 0900 12/12 Nx and wx and plenty ids

630 Unid SS 0834 12/12 web address. Think PR

660 Calgary 6-60 News gd wx 0822 12/12, 0600 12/12

670 KBOI 0900 10/12

670 WSCR 0902 16/12 VG 0900, but no id till 0902, which was weaker

680 CJOB Winnipeg 0834 7/12, 0900 16/12

680 CJOB mix 680 news 0800 9/12

680 680 News VG 0700 17/12

690 FF stn 0000 17/12

700 WLW 0000 9/12

720 WGN Chicago 0800 9/12, 0900 16/12

760 WJR VVG 0900 16/12

770 CHQR 0800 9/12, 0900 12/12, 0900 16/12, 0800 17/12

770 WABC The Wild West of Talk Radio !!! 17/12 0700
 780 WBBM BOOMING! 10/12 0800, 0730 12/12 same jin as CHQR, and KMOX
 790 Unid Country mx. Couldn't id this. ab and mb stuff coming in. 0818 12/12
790 WTNY Watertown, NY 17/12 0500 Tip DH. Fair signal
 800 Frenchie loud 0903 9/12
 830 WCCO 0900 9/12
850 KOA Denver 0305 9/12
 860 CBC FF SCE SK 0800 12/12
880 Unid Country Mx. Vy loud and alone on freq 0843. tk 0844 but wcbs well dom 12/12
 890 WAMG Boston back on the air SS format 8/12 2200
 890 WLS Big at 0900 9/12
 900 unid break in country mx, poss ads 0841 12/12
900 CKBI Prince Albert SK 0901 12/12
 900 CHML Hamilton, ONT 0800 18/12
910 CKDQ AB Country mx and a couple of Q91 IDs' 0828 0815 12/12 Pers 1st
 920 CFRY 0900 9/12, 0822 0905 12/12,
 920 UNID Radio America and IRN USA Radio nx 0900 9/12
 930 WBEN Reg 0400 12/12
930 CJCA The Light, AB Best log of this yet 0904 12/12
940 CX 940 0900 10/12, 0837 12/12
 950 CKNB 0900 9/12 audio loud enough to hear id!!
950 KJR Seattle, WA 1100 4/12, 0700 12/12,
950 CFAM MB 0200 9/12, 2330 11/12, 2300 12/12 Exc
 960 KMA ESPN which today was KMA!! 1000 16/12
960 ESPN Calgary 14/12 0000 (Early!!)
 960 KMA 0800 9/12
 960 unid 0200 13/12 Snded like "Talk Radio for East Montana" but nothing matches
960 UNID Country Radio jingle of some kind. Cant get id 0000 17/12, +0100 18/12
 970 Unid 2 stns 0800 that need a good hard relisten 9/12
970 KQAQ 0900 12/12
 980 WCUB 0600 10/12
 980 CJME 0600 0900 0935 12/12
980 KKMS Minneapolis/ Richfield, MN 0300 9/12 all but call id, inc qth etc. mix WCUB
 980 Unid dual call id on a sports stn. 2200 8/12
 980 unid Web adress of a radio station, but just too weak 2300 8/12
 1000 ESPN Chicago 0800 gd 9/12, 0900 12/12
 1060 AM 1060 Calgary 0808, 0937 12/12
1070 KNX CA, Gd clip 0800 0856 9/12, 0856 0900 12/12
1070 Eve 1070 2100 12/12
1130 CKWX Vancouver, BC 1100 4/12
 1130 KFAN Minneapolis MN 0800 7/12, 0900 9/12
 1130 WWVA VVG 11/12 0906
1140 AM 1140 VG ID just before I started recording. Glad not a 1st 1054 16/12
 1150 WHBY 2302 12/12
 1150 Unid, poss only WHBY. VG in quiet time of ILR Glasgow 1124 16/12!!
 1150 Frenchie still here // 610 16/12 2300
 1160 WYLL VG signal 0200 16/12
1160 WPIE Truemansberg, NY 2300 16/12 ESPN Pers 1st

1190 WOWO Screechy YL ads, like disney sound 9/12 0900
 1190 Unid SS Sport 9/12 0856
 1200 WOAI TX 0900 9/12
1200 KFNW Fargo/ Fargo Moorhead 1100 16/12
 1220 WHK 0901 9/12
 1230 CBC News 0900 9/12
1260 WRIE Erie, PA ESPN 0900 9/12
 1270 WXYT Detroit sporting news radio 97.1 id hrd. their call mumbled as ever 0900 9/12
 1270 CJCB 0834 7/12 ID sand web ad, and mx
1270 KNWC Sioux Falls SD 0800 9/12 Tip Paul C Pers 1st
 1270 WMKT 0900 13/12
 1280 WNAM 0700 10/12, 0830 12/12
 1280 Unid singing jingle before Jingle Bells 0200 16/12
1290 CFRW MB 0900 9/12, 0907 11/12
 1300 WOOD 0900 9/12 VG
 1310 WIBA Madison, WI 09090 9/12, 0700 17/12
 1350 WARF Akron, OH 2300 10/12
 1350 WOYK Jingle ann Sports Radio 1350 and Sports Radio 1600
 1360 WTAQ 0900 13/12, 1100 16/12
 1370 Unid mix WDEA 2300 17/12
 1380 unid, like one of the quiet mumbled id liners. 0900 13/12 like WLKG . req relisten.
 1420 KTOE 0900 9/12, 1100 16/12
1430 KEZW Aurora, CO 0805 9/12. Tnx Paul C tip Pers 1st
 1480 Real Oldies WGVU 2301 17/12
1510 KCKK VVG 0400 9/12. Loudest ever prob.
 1510 WLAC Nashville 15/12 0934
 1540 KXEL 0005 9/12 LOUD, 09 9/12, 0101 12/12, 0300 16/12
1570 CKLW MB 0000 12/12
1570 WNSH Beverly. Daytimer!! 17/12 0000
 1600 unid into c/c 0906 9/12 after ads
 1600 WAAM 0900 9/12
 1600 Unid Chinese sounding tk 0828 13/12 snded like call, but maybe not
 1620 ESPN Omaha 0100 11/12, 0100 12/12, 2300 16/12,
 1630 Unknown stn with CNN Nx late. 1100 16/12. Unusual for x band at this time
 1630 KCJJ VG 0000 18/12
 1650 CINA 2300 17/12
 1650 KCNZ 0700 17/12
 1660 KQWB Fargo 2200 8/12
 1660 WQLR Kalamazoo 2300 17/12
1670 CJEU Canadian Enfants stn 2258 10/12, and other times, 2256 12/12, 2302 16/12, 2303 17/12
 1680 WTTM VG id 2259 8/12
 1680 WPRR Ada MI 2200 16/12
 1690 CJLO 0000 11/12
 1690 CHTO VG IDs EE 17/12

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 11th DECEMBER 2009:**LOGS AND PERSONAL FIRSTS:**

I have been neglecting my recordings lately. It has been chaos since mid week. Just as I was going to settle down and try the files from Wednesdays great morning, the Perseus release came out. I have had a number of personal firsts, mainly thanks to tips from Paul C, but there are also some unids which I have still to work at. Bear with me on publishing the logs for a day or two. The Canadian kids station on 1670 was active last night. Is it on air every day?? Don't hear much tonight on 1670. Maybe the kids are normally in bed early....

PERSEUS RELEASE AGAIN:

Today has been fun and games again with the Perseus latest release. I finally have the software working. If you read yesterday's entry, you will see that I couldn't make the new release work here.

Here's what happened.

There was much speculation on the Perseus Yahoo group last night, but eventually Nico left a message that they had a laptop at Microtelecom with the same results as I have. Various windows updates and dot net framework updates were made to the Microtelecom PC before it burst into life. .

I had tried dot net framework with wave chopper, but still never got it to work, but I was up for trying it again. I couldn't find the last download I made, so had to download it again. It turned out to be the same file I did download before, which I found in the wavechopper folder!! Typical. It is 237meg, so it is a fair download.

First off I tried the Perseus again with a clean install of XP and service pack 3. 2.1h wouldn't work, like yesterday. I installed the dot net framework, and voila. Success. Working perfectly.

Next I tried a fresh install of XP with service pack 2 only, and the dot net framework. Success again. Working perfectly.

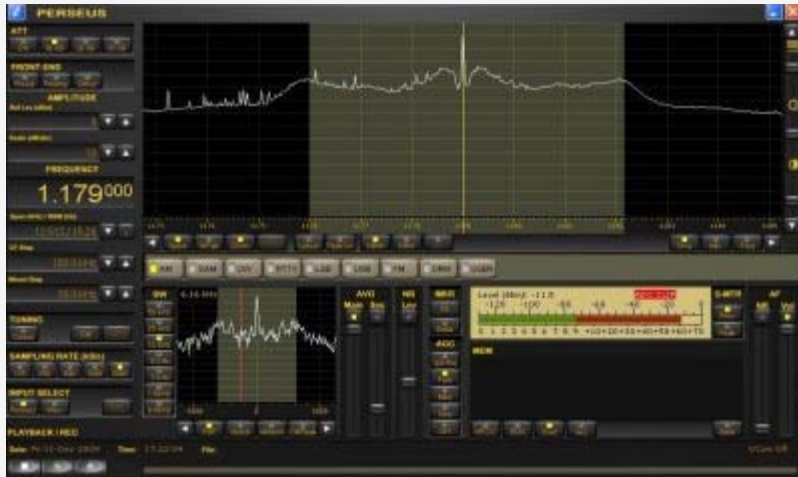
So this leaves us with the assumption that to use Perseus from version 2.1h and onwards, we have to use a PC with XP and Service Pack 2 to begin with. This was the minimum spec anyway. But we require dot net framework. That is unless there is a "work around" planned.

Here is the link for a download. Always handy to have the .exe file incase it is required again. 237 meg takes about 90m to download here.

<http://download.microsoft.com/download/2/0/e/20e90413-712f-438c-988e-fdaa79a8ac3d/dotnetfx35.exe>

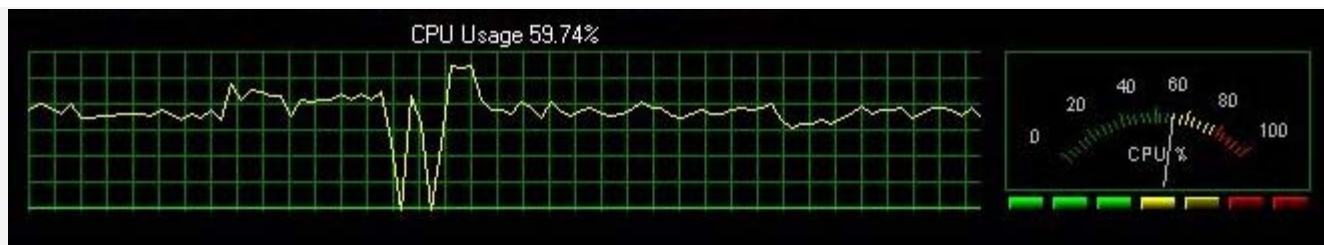
The new version was said to be memory hungry, more so than the older version. I quite honestly can say I haven't found this. I made a test with Radio Sweden on AM, using the same settings, set to spect, zoom function on. Here are my results. First the older version 2.1f. When I am using a single core 2.8g PC, I need the extra few percent!!

NB. I reverted back to the old driver to try vs 2.1f, but resource demands on the CPU were about the same. No difference noted. All tests made at 2000khz sampling.



2.1f





I can also say that nothing has moved or got in the way, and auto hotkeys can still be used with the former files I made up for vs 2.1f. They are on line here if anyone want's them. Check Perseus Lifechanging Receiver article. So I am now successfully recording files with the new release.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2009:

NEW PERSEUS RELEASE - A LONG NIGHT:

There was a mad rush to download the new version of Perseus last night, so much so that the Microtelecom server seemed to be struggling under the strain!!

The initial excitement soon turned to despair here however. My evening was set out before me. I planned to have a nice relaxing one and trawl through the files from the previous overnight session, as there were some rarer stations around on the MW band. I thought as usual there would have been the usual simple transition to the new release. Not so.

After managing some download bandwidth from the struggling Microtelecom site, I discovered that the new version requires new drivers to operate as a full working version. This was unexpected. The instructions suggested creating a restore point. I never made any system restore point, mainly because my system restore is always turned off. I also trusted Microtelecom's download. Maybe I should have tried the new version on an old test drive. Hindsight is a great thing.

The instructions in the WinUSB_ENG_R1.pdf were unclear due to differences in languages I suspect. But after reading, all that is required is to navigate to the device manager in windows XP.

The easiest way to reach the device manager for me using Windows XP is simply this:

1. Right click "My Computer" (Not on a shortcut)

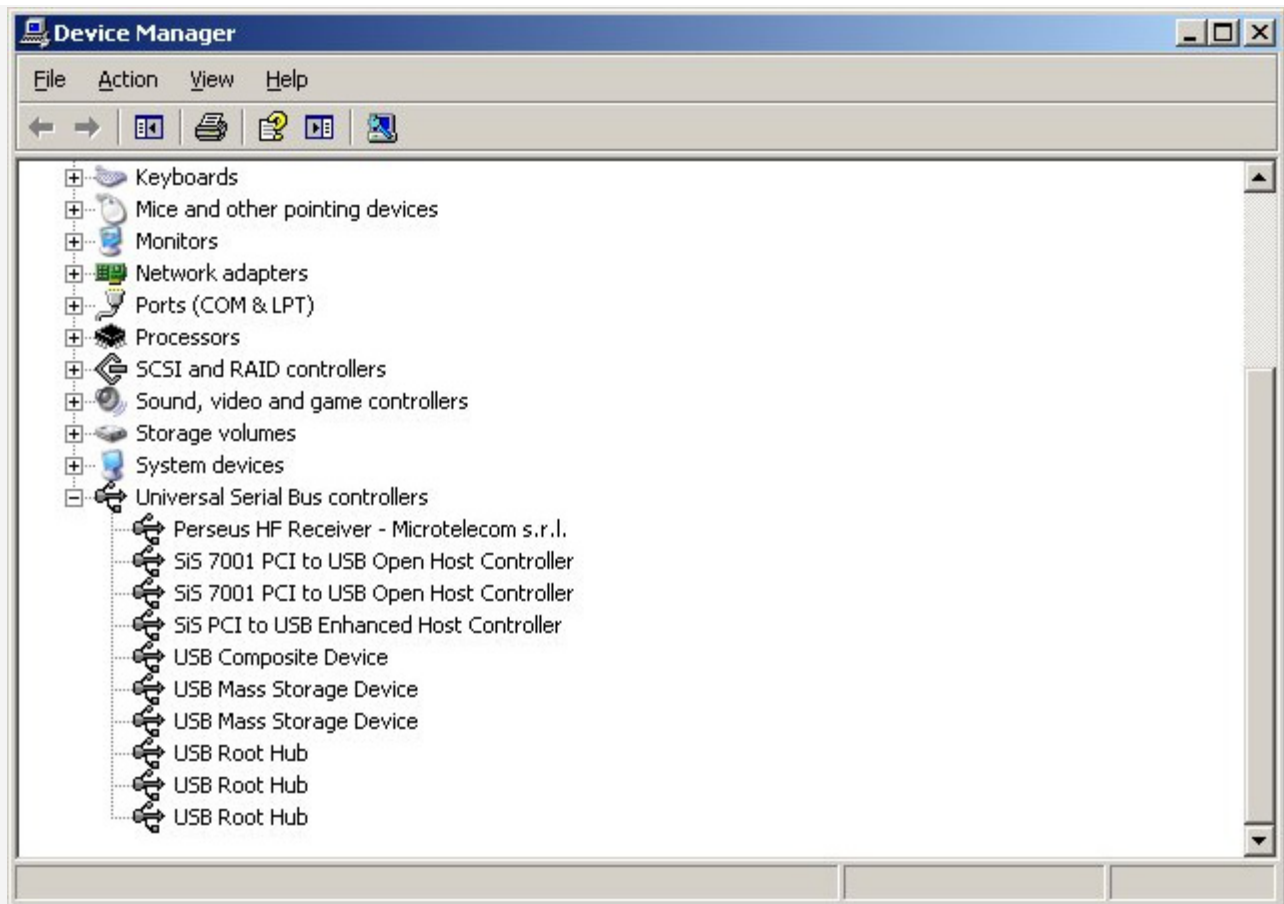
2. "Properties"
3. "Hardware"
4. "Device Manager"

Alternative

1. Start
2. Settings
3. Control Panel
4. System
5. Hardware
6. Device Manager

Using the old style drivers Perseus appears in "Universal Serial Bus Controllers" (At the bottom of the list in mine).

Click the + to expand.

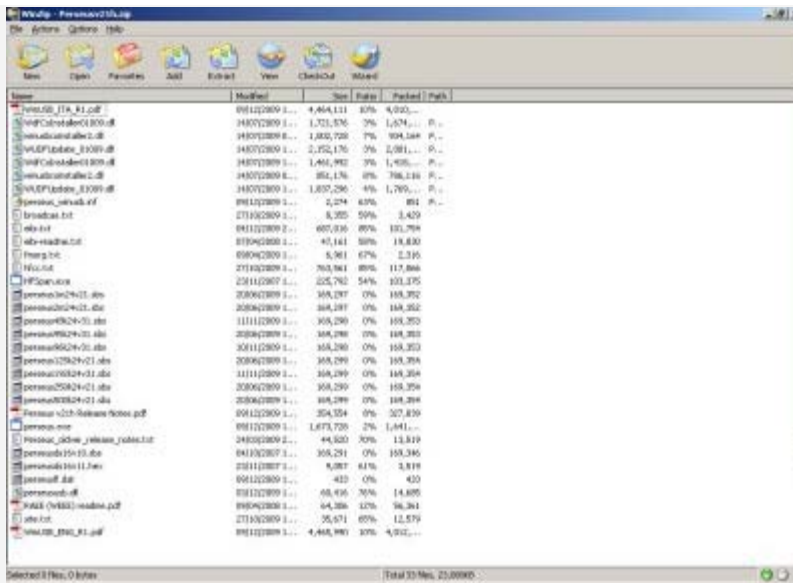


"Perseus HF receiver - Microtelecom s.r.l." has an entry here

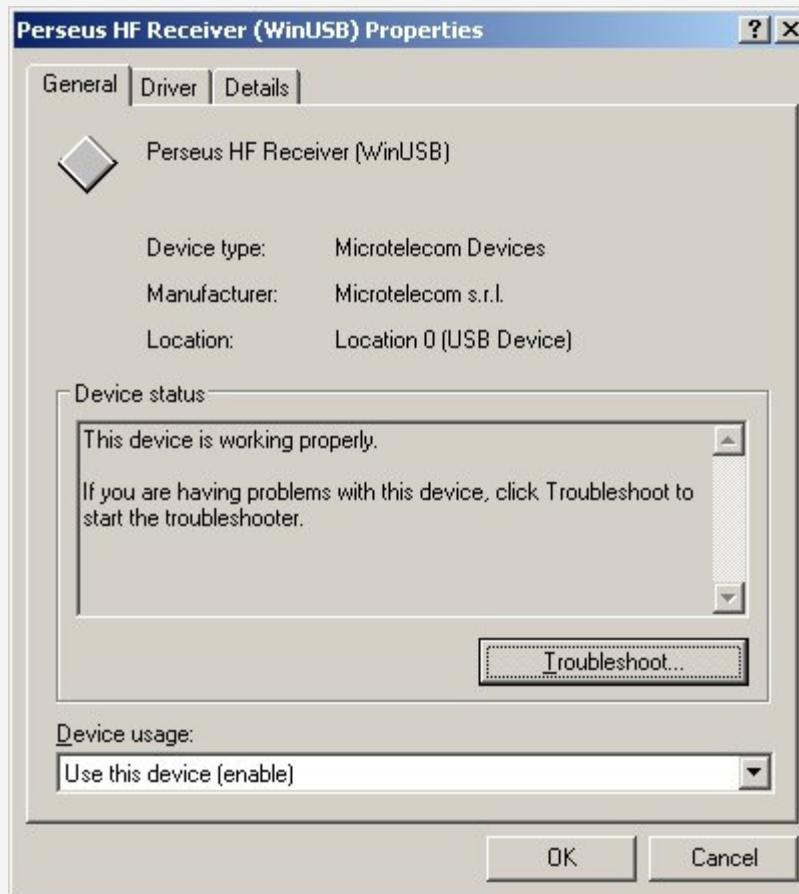
Right click this entry key and click on "update driver..."

Browse to navigate to wherever you have downloaded the new software to. The drivers are within the folder in the new release.

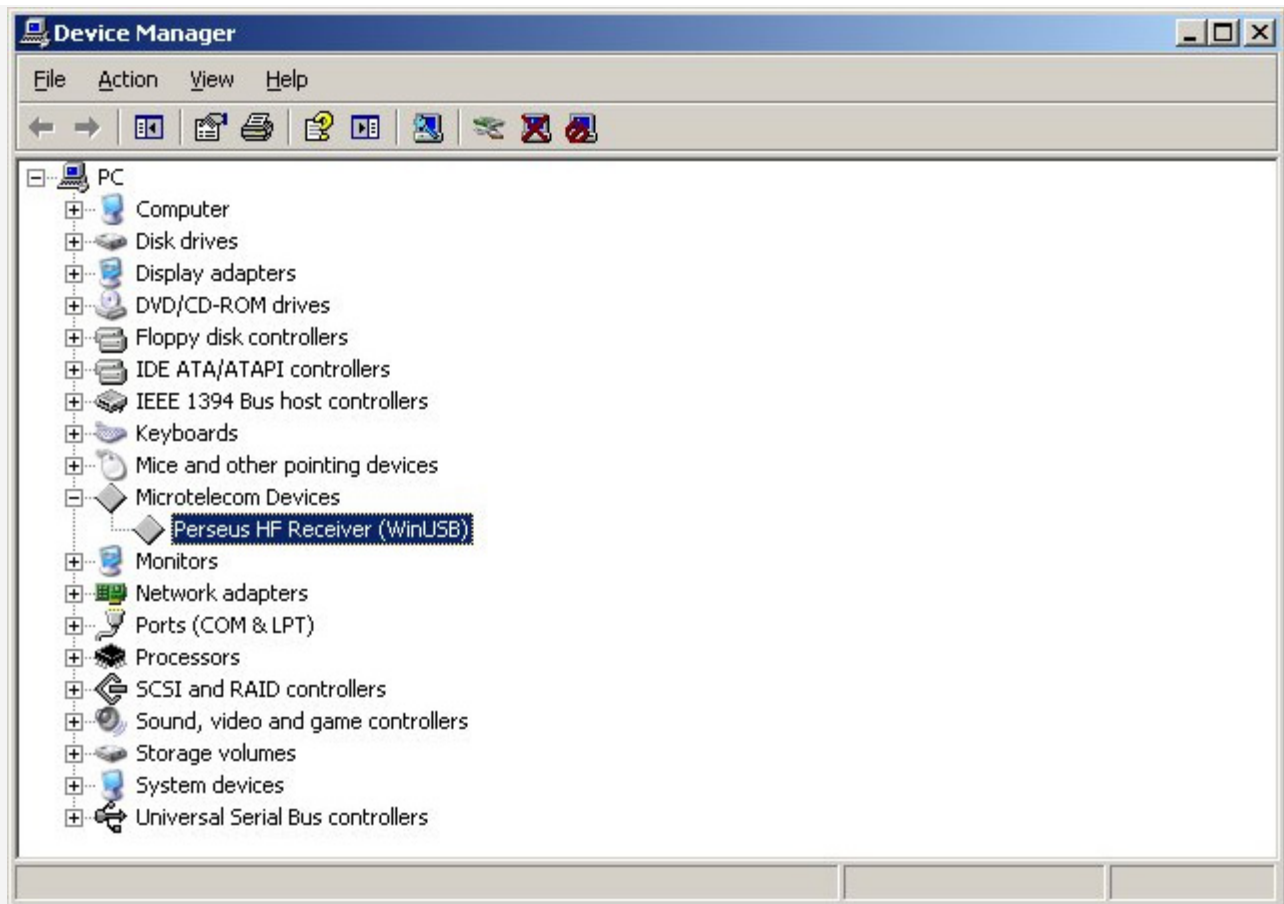
NB. Using WINZIP, the folder is not shown, and all files are left loose within one folder. I have never seen a zip file with folders. (Usually I had to use WINRAR to create a .rar file which contained multiple folders)



Once you install the drivers, Windows says that the device is installed and working properly.

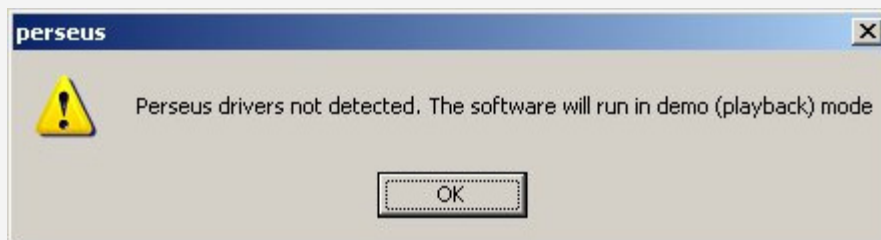


And in Device Manager, there is a new entry for Microtelecom and Perseus



BUT

On my system it ain't gonna work. I can not now use Perseus with either the new version or the old version for live dxing. Both work fine for playback of recordings.

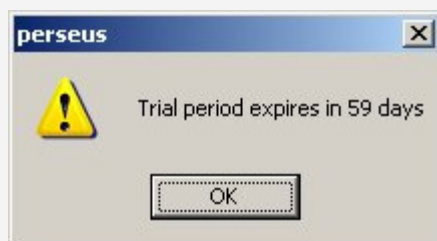


I get either this message, claiming drivers not found, despite the above device manager entries.



OR this message

I have error messages, saying Receiver Not Found, so software operates in demo mode. This is a playback only mode. It looks as though there are going to be flashing signs every day to say the 60 day trial is almost over etc. What happens when it is?? Remember the timed out version last New Year??



I was recording New Year celebrations on MW each hour through the night. When I came home from my night out, a timed out message had come up!! This was on supposed working software!! Is this new version going to time out when we least expect it?? Is it going to be reliable?? Who knows. To be sure, I think I will stick to version 2.1f for making recordings. It was promised not to have any silly time out messages in built.

STILL NOT WORKING:

So what do we do with the software that doesn't like my PC? OK I thought to myself, let's uninstall within device manager, and reinstall the old drivers, and return to the previous version. Right click the new entry and uninstall. OK, let's also delete the microtelecom key in the registry. All done. Let's also reboot the PC for a laugh and try it from there.

After boot up, windows finds a new device. Navigate to the original CD that came with the Perseus receiver. Now it is not so easy. The new drivers get reinstalled anyway, so somewhere along the line, the new drivers are not completely uninstalled. Like most software, traces seem to remain.

And during this frustrating time, I was not helped by an old friend being on the phone for about 2 hours while I was trying to work this out, and wouldn't go off the phone!!! (I could smell the vodka coming down the phone line..lol) Nothing like someone

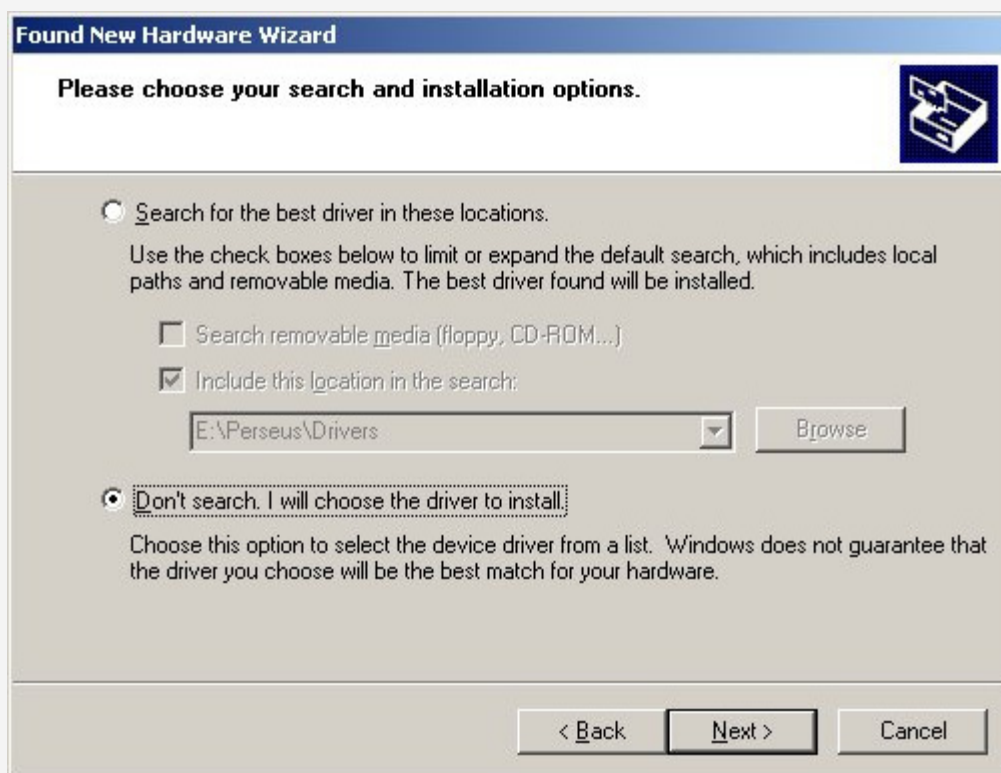
yattering in your ear to put you "aff the chap" as they say here in Ayrshire.

Began to worry incase the hardware had somehow been modified/ firmware update of some kind, and I couldn't reverse it. I tried the perseus on another PC, and it burst into life fine.

I ended up throwing another hard drive in the main machine, with a fresh install of Windows, and tried again. Version 2.1f worked perfectly with the old drivers, and when I updated again, both new and old releases sat down and refused to play live, just as before.

I hastily made a new windows install on a fresh drive, ready for my overnight recordings. Went to bed beaten, and feeling like a novice!!

Came into the shack in the morning and all was fine, recordings made overnight with autohotkeys were fine. So I gave the main hard drive a try again, and with a fresh brain, noticed at this screen, when trying to reinstall the old drivers, there was an option for "*Don't search, I will choose the driver to install*" I had always used the first choice, and browsed for the drivers. Using the second option, see below, the old drivers installed straight away, and without any problems. Great I think, no need to wipe my main drive after all.



So with the old version 2.1f working again on the original hard drive, again I tried to reinstall the new drivers. Again, they install fine. Again the successful message in device manager. Again the cryptic sign that says no drivers found etc. Perseus plugged in and out again too as you would do, but still the same. Reinstall the old drivers again, and leave the version 2.1f as a working unit.

I decided there could be a clash with the hardware, or you somehow had to be connected to the web to activate? The main PC is never near the web. I have a web only PC, which is a good system. Too much work and stuff on the main pc to be bothered with web stuff slowing it up.

Tried a completely separate PC, and find that incredible though it seems, the exact same thing happens.

This leads me to wonder why. I can think of a few reasons.

1. Does the software somehow require a web connection to activate?
2. Does the software fail to operate unless it detects that the PC is at least a dual core machine??
3. Does it now require a certain windows update or .net framework etc to operate?? I never managed to work wavechopper on my main machine. It required web connections.
4. Is there something simple which I am overlooking.
4. Have I lost it altogether, and need to take up knitting??

Answers to.....etc etc....

After trying the software, on playback mode, I can comment on a few things. I hope there are no annoying pop up screens every time perseus activates. That could mess up the autohotkeys files. I see there are no real improvements that benefit my kind of dxing, which is MW. The recording bar is still very thin, the deafening tones when you miss the playback bar are still there, and there are still about 9 or 10 clicks to go back 20 seconds to a previous recorded file, depends where you keep the files. It is a pity, as the main selling point of the receiver is the record facility for MW dxers, of which there are many. Most of the mw dxers I am sure bought the receiver on the strength of it's wideband recording capabilities.

I did notice an on / off (pause and clear) button for the waterfall, which is going to be handy for struggling systems. It seems during initial tests, to reduce CPU usage a little more. Nice one.

Fancy colouring in tools have no benefit here really, unless they are a solution waiting for a problem. May be useful to some dxers though.

Nice that the labels go off with the push of a button. I don't do much with those either.

So here am I, the only one I think who never managed to get the software to work!!!

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 9th DECEMBER 2009:**MW DXING IN DECEMBER:**

Sometimes I go through phases in dxing. In years gone past, I would not switch on a MW transatlantic signal for months, and then suddenly I would hear a good lively band, and become hooked again. I think that is what has happened to me yesterday. For the last few weeks, we seem to have been in the doledrums, and every time I check the band, all I am hearing is common every day stations. Sometimes even they were poor or in the mush. My interest wained, and I became busy with another web project. Many nights I did not even bother to record any over night files. I was caught out one night last year when I didn't record anything, and Davie up the road had a logbook full of weird calls from southern states that I had never even heard of (The calls, not the states.. hi). Some of these rarities were FKR-UK logs.

I have such a mountain of files to delete from the last 3 weeks that are gonna go in one foul press of the delete key, bar one odd night of a strange call on 1470, and ee on 1570. So there you are, the story of the last few weeks.

I have noticed the band is picking up slowly, but I wouldn't have said the band was anything near it's enhanced state of early November. Fade out is still so much earlier than a month ago, not something one would think was likely, giving that we have much more darkness. Again this morning I didn't bother to record 1000, as everything was almost gone. Alf Aardal in Norway reports the band wide open past 1300 and 1400 yesterday, but if truth be told, I never rechecked after the initial fade out. Maybe I should have. But read on.

Now that I am gee'ed up again, maybe work can continue on the web stream audio clip resource. Davie up the road has made another 15 or so, waiting for me to bang them on line. Guy in Seattle has also made the offer to assist. As I said, I have been on a dx go slow this last couple of weeks, so there is still a lot of work still to be done on this project, and I have a load of other items which could be labeled "work in progress" for this site as well. Keep watching....

NORTH POLE ALASKA ON 1170:

Yesterday I was struck dumb, (that's novel.. lol) when Stateside dxer "NDB Mark" heard North Pole AK on 1170 via global tuners, from Alan in Port Rush's receiver. (Northern Ireland) I think I can include the audio clip here, if I can find it. Mark has also been listening to some of my recordings which are available on Guy Atkin's site. He has noted a host of beacons, some never known to be reported in Europe before, inc two from AK. Details will follow.

KJNP North Pole 1170 1500 8th December 2009

KCKK DENVER 1510:

Logs for today are being made. Still listening to my files. But here is a taste of how KCKK Denver came in at 0400.

091209_0400_1510_kckk_denver_am_lsb_vg.mp3

LF TESTS:

Tomorrow to commemorate an event in radio history, the 17.2kHz transmitter in Sweden will again be on the air. There will also be a transmission from the German LF station. The Swedish txer will also be heard on 24th Dec on their annual xmas eve broadcast.

GERMANY:

There will be a special broadcast from DDH47 on 147.3 kHz in December: On 10th of December 1909 Prof. F. Braun and G. Marconi received the Nobel Prize for Physics at Stockholm. Both gentlemen were honoured for their developments in the field of wireless communication. On its 100th anniversary, Prof. Braun Day (DLOPFB) will make a special transmission with the longwave transmitter DDH47 (147,3 kHz) of National Weather Service Deutscher Wetterdienst. From 9th December 2009 23:00 until 10th December 2009 01:00 UTC the transmitter is available for 2 hours in telegraphy. (Ydun Ritz)

GRIMETON RADIO/SAQ TRANSMISSION

There will be a transmission with the Alexanderson alternator on 17,2 kHz on December 10 2009 at 08:00 UTC and will be repeated at 16:00 UTC the same day. The reason for the extra transmission is a centenary commemoration of the Nobel Prize given to Guglielmo Marconi and Karl Ferdinand Brown. We do not require any QSL-reports this time and will not verify.

GOING THROUGH CHANGES (AS OZZY WOULD SAY):

It has been a sad week for dxers. We have lost 1590 again to jamming from Germany. I suppose their listener will be extatic though. They may get another listener if they run an awareness campaign.

Big L is back on 1395, but in all honesty, is causing no real grief in the late morning hours. The night time hours are somewhat different.

The station in Canada on 610 is still on the air in French, despite the transmitter supposed to have been switched off by now. I wonder if they have an extension, or if they have conveniently forgotton to switch off??

890 has seen the return of Boston's WAMG, the former ESPN station. According to a

report on the web, they have been back since 3rd Dec with SS, noted here last night.

Below are some of the changes happening / happened in recent times. There may be more.

594 QRO German due off year end??

610 Frenchie still on air (Due off 1st Dec)

890 WAMG Boston back on air in SS

963 Finland back with relays

1395 Big L back on air (QRP WNKR moved to 1512)

1440 Extra Hour of relays 0000 - 0100

1593 German Jamming back

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2009:

DECEMBER AGAIN :

Well here we are in the season of goodwill again, and the band is as good as dead. So much so that in the last week, I have about 5 entries in the log, and one of them is Boomerang on 1660, a Dutch pirate!! On the plus side, think on the hard drive space saved, by not keeping any rubbish files!!!

QRM BACK:

BIG L is back on 1395. Bad news for dxers.

NOVEMBER DX LOGS NOW ON LINE:

My logs for the whole month of November are now on line and available in the public domain. They are all at the end of the pdf file for November, in frequency order. (*PDF) They may not be as neat and detailed as contributions are to a paper DX club. But I simply don't write long logs any more. This is far far too time consuming. I admire the

dxers who still take the time to complete detailed logs these in days of wideband recordings. I never seem to find the time to do much else when the band is good for dx, never mind write up detailed logs... You are no sooner finished listening to a top of the hour recording, till it's time to record another one!! Great fun?? Or geeky?? lol ... Both I think..

FINLAND - ALL TIME MW LIST:

It seems that according to what I am reading, the UK all time mw dx list will still remain secret, away from the public eyes. I have found another list which may be a better option for European dxers to use as a reference, created by Finnish DXers, and available in the public domain. This may be preferable to use as a guide to what is being heard in Europe, rather than the UK all time list. I am not sure if this is a listing from one DX club, or an attempt at producing a complete all time list of known logs. It is certainly a very impressive list of dx catches, and may act as a guide to dxers that are not members of the paper dx clubs.

<http://www.diccons.com/radio/jenklist.xls>

There was once talk of the UK all time list being made public, but on the dx club concerned's web pages, it is described as being available "soon" in a subscription only yahoo group. (As usual with dx clubs, I mean cash subscription, not membership subscription).

That is hardly what could be called being available in the public domain. What a disgrace, after all the work that has been put in to it by various dxers under the pretence that the list would be made public.

My own all time list is and always will be available in the public domain, but that is only a shadow of the complete UK listings.

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat Contact

570	CKSW	Swift Current, SK	7/11/09 0902 - 10KW
580	CKWW	Winsor, ONT	17/11/09 0911 - 500W
600	WNSL	Flint, MI	7/11/09 0900 - 440 / 250 W (Victory 600) - Poss FKR-UK
620	WDAE	St Petersburg, FL	2/11/09 0700 - 5.6 / 5.5 KW (!)
630	CHED	Edmonton, AB	11/11/09 1000 - 50 KW
730	CHMJ	Vancouver, BC	7/11/09 0958 - 50KW
790	WPRV	Providence, RI	3/11/09 2300 - 5KW
820	KGNW	Seattle, WA	7/11/09 0900 - 50 / 5KW
890	KVOZ	Laredo, TX	8/11/09 0800 - 10 / 1KW (Tip Paul C)
900	CKBI	Prince Albert, SK	6/11/09 0901 - 10KW
920	KARN	Little Rock, AR	2/11/09 0000 - 5KW - Poss FKR-UK 
970	KBUL	Billings, MT	10/11/09 1000 - 5KW
980	CJME	Regina, SK	7/11/09 0600 - 10KW
1140	Rebelde	Cuba	2/11/09 0700 - Tip DH
1230	CFFB	Iqaluit, NU	15/11/09 2059 - 4 / 1KW (CBC Eskimo stn, 1st local ID)
1260	CFRN	Edmonton, AB	7/11/09 1000 - 50KW (Team 12-60) (VG 11/11)
1280	CJSL	Estevan, SK	10/11/09 1024 - 10KW (CJ-1280)
1300	KKOL	Seattle, WA	10/11/09 1000 - 50 / 47KW (!)
1300	KGLO	Mason City, IA	7/11/09 0959 - 5KW
1310	CHLW	St Paul, AB	7/11/09 1100 - 10KW
1340	WMDR	Augusta, ME	7/11/09 0200 - 1KW - Poss FKR-UK
1360	WKMI	Kalamazoo, MI	8/11/09 0700 - 5 / 1KW
1590	WPUL	Platteville, WI	17/11/09 2300 - 1 / .5 KW - Poss FKR-UK 

Personal Firsts this month =23 SO FAR

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th
17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2009:

WOBBLE ON 930:

I was looking through a hard drive for something, and found one of my overnight files. Remember those days?? It is about 5 or 6 hours of 930. So I had a quick listen, and there as plain as day is the Cuban warbler. Exactly as we have heard in recent months. I don't even have the date listed in the log book of the day. I wonder if the file has gone unlistened to?? The date was 2nd April 2005.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2009:

WEB STREAMS ADDED TO AUDIO PAGE:

That is another 18 clips of web streams added tonight to the audio page, Remember they are clearly marked with a red **(WEB STREAM CLIP)**. Tnx to David Hamilton for 13 of the clips. The 14th has to be redone...

BLAST FROM THE PAST:

Remember the ILR stations used to go off for the night, and they jammed the band with tones?? Remember the tests the IBA used to make, prior to handing over to the programmers? I have some in the archives, but here are just three I have found tonight.

810906_2341bst_96.2fm_ilr_ayr_test.mp3

811011_0929_bst_1035_ilr_ayr.mp3

810714_1748_1035_ilr_aberdeen_test_(long clip, 1.2 meg).mp3

MW TRANSATLANTIC DX - IS THAT IT THEN??

It is these words, I hear echoing around the shack this past week, as we enter the doldrums again. Is that the show over? Luckily we can not reliably predict MW propagation any better than NASA can predict the solar cycle. So we do not really know what is in front of us for December.

Last winter, there was a long slump through most of December to late January that could be called very average at best. Never a day went past though, that there was nothing from across the Atlantic to be heard. Not one day. I don't mean a weak WBBR and WWKB, I mean signals were usually strong, but only the common so called "East Coasters" were being heard daily. AK was well heard however in early December, so surely the band has not simply died off already?? We are mere days away though from December.

A few years ago we had a prolonged period of weeks when there was virtually no dx at all being heard. Was it 2004, 2005 or 2006, or more than once, I can't recall. I think in late 2007, just after I received the Perseus rx, the band took such a tumble, that it was many days before I could get a chance to use the receiver in anger. It may have stretched into weeks. And even then, I recall that the best of the season was by that time, well and truly over.

I still have a number of the first recordings made with Perseus from that time. It seems strange now to hear RTE, ORF, BIG L, 560 CHVO, 920 CJCH, 780 KIX, and any others that have left the AM band or changed calls and names. These wideband recordings will become more and more interesting as the years tick past.

But look on the bright side. If the present doledrums continue, I can get many hours of listening pleasure trawling through the files recorded on the very favourable days of the last few weeks. And think of the drive space I will save by quickly deleting all the overnight files I make when the band is poor.

I seem to recall in years gone by, that mid winter was a traditionally exciting time, especially between Christmas and New Year for DX. I also remember missing the AK day heard by my DX neighbour Paul C in Troon around 1996, due to being away from the receivers. AK hrd on a standard box loop in mid winter here in SW Scotland, incredible. But the last few years have been barely worth listening to at the holiday season.

Or maybe I am wearing those famous "rose tinted glasses", and really the facts are somewhat different. Was the good dx heard simply because some spare time was usually available for DXing during the holiday season, and the band was no different to that of today? There was no wideband recording technique then, and dxing was all "LIVE". Was the band lively with stations such as WJR and WMVP or WBBM and WYLL but we saw these as rarer dx stations back then and not the "common every day" stuff as I would describe them today?? Maybe aye, maybe no. But let's hope we can get some really hot dx conditions in the mid winter this year. It would be nice.

AUDIO CLIPS PAGE:

My old audio clips page has been taken off the main menu. It can still be found under the complete site index, but it will not be modified. Clips worthy of keeping on the site are transferred to the new page.

Davie up the road and myself are both pushing on with the web stream recording project. As expected, offers of assistance have been almost zero. I have had an offer of help from another fellow Scot, and that's it. Maybe it's to do with that infamous game at Wembley?? lol.

Anyway, the biggest difficulty is getting web streams that work. I almost feel like I am running out of stations to record already. If the web streams are not down, then they are not available here in the UK. It is an uphill battle. But the project is coming on.

If anyone is wondering why the appeal for help the other day desired .wav files of CD quality, it is so that the MP3 files can all be made with the same high but variable bitrate and using the same software. Have a look around the web and see the shockingly poor bit rate many dxers use for clips. I know many clips sound like bad real audio anyway, but I simply want to preserve the best audio possible.

DX ON THE BANDS:

I deleted many of the files from this week very quickly. Although the band has provided DX every day, it has been very poor and noisy compared to the opening of last week. There has been little to inspire, bar on Sunday night, when a few unusual stations popped up.

Daytimer WCPC Houston, MS showed up again this season at 2300 on 940. Also there at 2300 was 1660 KXTR, and unid ee 1570 which I have yet to look into. There was another on 1470 with a twin ID. It sounded like WPEN / WSAN. There is a WSAN on 1470 in PA, but guess what. I can't get the stream to work to check their ID's!! Typical.

WDEA 1370:

Common WDEA 1370 had been on the news. Their web site gives a link to a web stream of the news report of their anniversary. Well worth a look.



KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2009:

FIRST CLIPS UPLOADED:

I have uploaded a few sample web stream clips, to the "TADX audio 2009 page". (Audio Downloads in the pop up menu). Check 630, 980, 1070, 1480, 1260 800, 930, 970, 1410 for the time being. Web streams are obvious, with the bright red (**WEB STREAM CLIP**)

APPEAL FOR HELP!!!

This is an appeal for assistance with a rather large project. I intend to add an on line resource for MW dxers who hear a top of the hour ID and need an decent audio clip of the station to compare. I already have many of my best quality audio clips on line, although my old clip page incorporates many poor signals that need updating.

This new resource I speak of will consist of audio clips from the web, or recorded locally in for example Seattle, with the help of Guy etc. Any clips will be identified as web or Guy etc, so as not to be confused with my own dx clips.

There is often much confusion under dx conditions caused by the strange calls of both sister stations and FM HD calls. See my article called ACCURACY IN MW DXING. With this project, an instant top of the hour ID need only be a click away. This saves much effort waiting for the top of the hour to come around.

The station streams can be difficult to access sometimes. Some are impossible. Many of the US streams claim to not be available outside the US, except to the military etc. It is possible to receive them through a proxy server though I believe, although I have not got around to trying this yet.

Quality of the various web streams vary wildly. Some streams sound very nice. Some have absolutely no compression on the streams at all and the sound like a bad 1970's pirate. I wonder why they don' t feed the audio from their optimod? Of course, I think the answer may lie in the fact that the optimods are usually at the transmitter site, so the studio feed may well be uncompressed right up till it gets to the transmitter. This is

often many miles away, out of town, and it will be more convenient to stream from the studio. But on the other hand a cheap compressor that would do for the www is hardly expensive. Free software versions are even available.

Many of the station's web sites themselves are nothing more than a cluttered mess, with flashing lights everywhere. Many of the listen live pages are not much better, and can be huge cluttered pages with flashing lights and ads. Radio Newfoundland have a graphic which is bigger than a 600 by 800 page, and only shows part of the screen on that size of PC monitor setting. Some stations DO have a nice little small player of a similar size to WINAMP, but very few. At the time of writing, the KBRW 680 link has to be pasted into a player like VLC Player. They have some kind of a problem with the stream.

What stations do we desire a web stream clip of?? My suggested starting place is the UK all time list. I have been told that it will be available in the public domain at long last very shortly. Obviously I can only listen to one stream per top of the hour, so it is a long term project, unless outside help is offered. I have no real requirement to add clips from WWKB or WCBS for example. Their top of the hours are so clear from the AM recordings, to not have any benefit from a stream clip.

Probably a good time to start the streams is around 45m past the hour. It can take 15m to find a working one!! They are notoriously slow to kick in here. Once they do however, they are usually reliable streams. If you don't get a decent top of the hour due to for example a sports match, try again at another hour. I am trying to archive the usual top of the hour ids from as many as possible of the stations that are heard here in the UK / Europe.

I know that the top of the hour announcements change regularly, but at least this project will be of some benefit to AM dxers. I know that this type of resource has never been attempted I don't think, and never by any DX clubs. (DX clubs in general tend to have poor on line representation, and seem only interested in hard sell for a fast buck, and not creating on line resources, that you might imagine a dx club would do)

TIME REQUIRED:

Record about 30 seconds to a minute around the top of the hour. Please also include the start of the news, which has the additional benefit of being a resource for identifying which news services are carried where.

FILE TYPES:

The type of file I require is a 44kHz 16 bit .wav file. I have various reasons for wishing the files to be sent in the first place as .wav. Because these are .wav files, the file sizes are likely to be too big to e-mail me. So I would appreciate the old CD through the post routine.

FILE NAMES:

I would appreciate file names to be like the following.

091120_1800_web_knx_1070.wav

Remember that many web streams lag real time by quite a bit.

Please e mail me if you want to assist, or discuss software etc. I already have David Hamilton here in Ayrshire, as well as Paul C offering assistance.

This could be extended to become a resource for top of the hour Euro IDs as well.

I was tempted to create a new page for the clips, but then I began to consider using my existing audio clips page. I think it would be easier to have one single page with links to all audio clips in a frequency list. It is quite easy to change this in the future if things seem to become cluttered, but I feel it will be easy enough to use. By the time I have finished, the audio clip page will incorporate just about all the audio clips available on this site, in freq order.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2009:

SUM UP OF THE BAND TODAY:

SUPERB. Not as superb as last week, but still very very good. I had a very nice fade in from KNX 1070, probably the best ever from them, and to go hand in hand with my recording of KJR Seattle from the 7th was it, I had a great top of the hour at 1100 today. The odd thing was, KJR was coming in at the strength they were, see audio clip below, yet there was only a much weaker AM 1060 Calgary, and 1130 Vancouver heard at the same time. Almost all the rest of the stations had gone, or were barely at audio level, while KJR was there like some kind of a loud beacon!! Completely unexpected.

A FEW AUDIO CLIPS:

Here are a few audio clips from today and also a nice one of KOMO from a great peak on 7th which I found. I have included a web clip of KNX top of the hours below the off air one. This is an ongoing project here, to add audio clips of many of the stations heard here in Europe. Anyone who wishes to assist this project, get in touch.

091120_1100_950_kjr_vg_inc_silly_sounding_commentator.mp3

091120_0858_1070_knx_vg.mp3

091120_1800_web_knx_1070.mp3 < NB WEB CLIP OF TOTH ON KNX >

091107_0948_1000_komo_vg_long_clip (1,037k).mp3

BIG AIN'T ALWAYS BEST (SO THEY TELL ME):

I have used beverages since discovering that I could run long feeders into the woods, and they would still work. That was in the 90's. Before that I had random wires, not always great for TADX. In the 80's there was very little thought put into the aerials. It was more a case of "stick it up, and hope for the best". These days, many dxers who lack space for beverages, do well with the flag / ewe family of aerials. I find the signal level low compared to beverages, but when Alaska was being heard the other day on 680 by my fellow Ayrshire dxers, I was struggling with splatter from the extreme wide bandwidth of Holland during their strange music programmes. This was on 675, when I was trying to hear Barrow on 680. The beverage gives a better signal when the Dutchie is quiet, but that is rare.

So today I ripped down a useless flag which was meant for Latins, and recreated a flag facing slightly East of due North. (That's where the clothes poles are situated). This flag is much smaller than the useless Latin one, and initial tests have been encouraging. I have a dominant NRK on 675 now, NL is gone, and at night 1008 and 747 are much reduced. So if I can get the North of Norway good like that on the flag, with the flick of a switch in the shack, maybe this antenna will be just what I was after for AK. I have no room/ direction here for a Northern beverage antenna sadly. I would have to go straight across the bowling green, and the bowlers would hit my sticks with their bowls, and have to work around the wires. Even if a neighbour takes to do with the club, I can't see them being enthusiastic..!!! lol.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2009:

Well, the band has been a bit average this last few mornings, not helped by the high K index in the mornings. I have been a bit short on stories and memoirs recently because of the great band conditions. I am again in danger of becoming a recluse again because of the Perseus recordings!!!! We have had a great winter so far.

SO CALLED NOVEMBER ANOMALY:

One thing I have been hearing nothing of this year is the so called November Anomaly. This man made expression has been used in MW DX circles for a few years, ever since there was a marked depressed time for mw for a few years in the month of November. Last winter did not have this problem, and neither has this season so far. If anything,

this season has excelled so far over last year's excellent band conditions.

I wonder if the phrase was conjured up after a couple of poor seasons? Is the MW propagation really so unpredictable? Seems it can be. I have in the past had good dx in deep mid winter, in mid December, but this last couple of years it has been very average. Let's hope for a long run of quiet A and K's this year during the holiday time.

One thing is certain. You just never know what to expect, and no two nights are the same. If you hear a rare station at a given time on one day with a fair signal, the chances of it being there the following day at the same time is pretty remote. (Common powerhouses such as WWKB 1520 don't come into that category)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2009:

EIOCF BEACON ON 501kHz:

My old pal Finbar has his beacon working again on 501kHz. Location is in Co Donegal, Eire. The text which is currently sending is as follows, and an audio clip is given below.

< ei0cf qsl to ei0cf500 at gmail.com >

091118_1926_501_ei0cf_beacon.mp3

LOGS FROM THE LAST DAYS:

Am I glad that's the logs typed up to date again. I really can't get into typing labourious logs of WBBR every day, so the common stations are not included very often unless they give a super signal or something. There are some UNID stations which are really for my own benefit, so I can look here with ease and go back for another look.

570 5-70 News 1000 18/11

570 WSYR News Radio 5-70 2301 15/11, 0200 18/11

580 CKWW Windsor, Ont in CFRA breakdown. (carrier only) jin id 0911 17/11

590 WEZE Boston 0600 17/11

610 Unid c/c 0906 17/11 610 soon off, so dx will come through hopefully

640 Cuban Tent. No ID, Much tk SS of Cuba. 093018/11

680 KBRW Pres in and out late pm with mx, nx usual low audio. No ids yet so far. 16/11, 1230 17/11

710 VPCM Local CKVO ID 2031 13/11
730 AM 730 Vancouver 0958 16/11
 740 AM 740 Toronto VG id 0934 14/11
 760 WJR Nice different toth 2300 15/11
 790 Unid in the mess. need check in detail 0700 17/11
 830 WCRN VG id 2300 16/11
 920 Unid ABC News stn 0300 Not managed to winkle an id yet 14/11
 920 CKNX VG 0900 17/11
 940 WINZ FL 0700 16/11
950 KJR 0705 14/11, 0958 16/11,
 950 WWJ Dominant 1000 18/11
 970 Unid country. mx stops & straight into news. no ID. Gd pk too!! KQAO poss 0600
 14/11
 980 WCUB 0758 VG id .NE Wisconsin's Most Powerful Radio Stn 17/11
1000 KOMO 0700 14/11
 1050 CP24 Toronto 0701 16/11, 0300 18/11
 1060 WBIX VG id 2100 16/11
1070 WFLI Lookout Mountain, TN 2200 14/11
 1070 CHOK 2300 14/11, vg 2200 15/11
1070 EVE 10-70 2101 ABC nx wx id 15/11
1080 WMEU Coral Gables FL 0000 18/11 Mix WTIC
 1090 WBAL Baltimore. CBS NX. 0700 14/11 Fairly good considering
 1150 WHBY Kimberly. 0700 14/11
1160 KSL 0700 17/11
1190 CFSL SK 0948 7/11 Good AM 11-90 id. Country. Old file.
 1220 WHKZ 2200 15/11
1230 CBC / CFFB Iqaluit, NU Local ID ann 106.1 2059 15/11
1230 WBLQ / WXNI RI Advertising relaunch of WBLQ 1230 and 96.7 2200
15/11
 1240 VPCM Gd pks 2059 nx 2159 15/11, loud 2100 16/11
 1250 Joy 1250 Nx and live px 2100 16/11
 1250 WEAE Pittsburgh 0300 18/11
 1280 BBN Bermuda 2200 15/11
 1280 CFMB 2100 16/11, also 2100 15/11
 1290 WMCS The talk of the town, Greenfield/ Milwaukee 0301 18/11
 1310 WIBA Madison Wi 0300 18/11
 1330 WFNN The Fan 0300 17/11
 1350 WOYK VG ID 0903 17/11
 1360 WTAQ 0700 17/11
 1380 CKPC 1007 17/11, gd 1000 18/11
 1390 WPLM Plymouth. Ann // 1120 and ?? 0000 18/11
 1400 CBC Local ID as 990 and 600 2159 14/11
 1420 KTOE 0000 18/11 poor id
 1470 WBKV West Bend 0700 14/11
 1480 WGVU Real oldies 1480 and 850 2359 17/11
 1500 KTSP St Paul's, MN 0700 14/11 Clear id in a brief silence toth
 1500 WLQV Detroit 2200 14/11, 0500 15/11, 2100 dom 15/11
 1510 WWZN Great ID 1520 WWKB!!!!!! 0900 14/11
 1530 WCKY Cincinnati 0700 14/11
 1540 WDCD 2200 14/11
 1590 Usual WAKR / WARV mix 0900 14/11

1590 KVGB 0900 17/11
1590 WPUL Plattteville, WI Ann // am 1280 Lancaster ESPN. Poss FKR-UK
 1630 KCJJ 0700 14/11, weird ann of call 2305 15/11
 1640 WTNI Power down mid ID 2300 15/11
 1660 WWRU 0500 15/11
 1660 The Avenue FL 0100 18/11
 1680 KRJO Poor id 2300 15/11
 1690 WPTX 0500 15/11
 1690 CHTO Toronto 2100 16/11
 1700 KKLf Sports Radio 1310 The Ticket 13/11 2300, vvg id 2300 15/11, 0900 17/11

ASIAN AND EURO

501 EIOCF EIRE CW Beacon mode 1920 18/11
 508 SM6BHZ 2010 Gothenberg, Sweden CW + LSB 1W!! 17/11
 549 old Mayak int sig 1400 16/11
 570 unid rtty 1500 16/11, 1505 17/11
 1170 VOA Philipines 1700 18/11
 1395 All India Radio 1530 16/11 poor. ee id
 1395 WNKR QRP London Pirate 0200 15/11
 1521 Peking 1700 VVG 15/11, vvg 1400 16/11
 1557 WYFR 1700 15/11
 1575 VOA Thailand 1700 18/11
 1593 Unid CC or JJ. Sound same to me 1600 15/11, 1600 17/11, 1500 18/11
 1593 Unid EE ann 1500 15/11 Weak ann "this is" and not much else detectable. Who??

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2009:

I still have to type up logs from the last few days, and although there are a few goodies, I thought the band has been down on last weeks superb west coast reception. I will type up the most recent logs shortly. At the end of the month, the pdf of this month's logs and gossip will be available as ever, with a separate section for the logs, in freq order. I have at last taken only slightly more time to type up the logs to include dates, rather than simply have them listed every day. It is easy enough to follow on a daily basis, but a simple bit of copy/ paste routine will make them all available in one go, like a traditional dx publication. The only difference is that the list of contributors is only 1..!!! Me!!

WPUL PLATTEVILLE, WI 1590 - PERSONAL FIRST:

At 2300 tonight, the above station was heard, ann as am 1280 WGLR Lancaster, and WPUL Platteville.

091117_2300_1590_wpul_platteville_wi_espn_ann_1280.mp3

CKWW 580 - PERSONAL FIRST:

I took advantage of a duff audio feed today, or whatever the reason was. 580 CFRA had a rather powerful carrier at 0900, and at 0911, the lower powered CKWW came through, see audio clips. Also carrier only was CKAC 730 at the same time, but only weaker unid SS. Maybe Lider is it on that freq?? Who knows.

QRP MW BEACON FROM SWEDEN - SM6BHZ 508kHz:

The Swedish test beacon has been logged here in Scotland, an audio clip it included. They even have an SSB ann. The stn ann 1w or poss as much as 10w!!! Not a bad dx catch. I was not aware that phone mode was ok on 500kHz.

091117_2020_508_sm6bhz_beacon.mp3



The auto QSL didn't work!!!

AK 780 HEARD IN AYRSHIRE:

Dx neighbour Paul C logged 780 KNOM, Nome, AK Monday 16th Nov. I had no sign, although I did have KBRW 680 Barrow in and out the splatter. David H also logged KBRW with an indoor flag antenna. Well done to all concerned. My biggest problem with KBRW in the late afternoons, is the strength and excessive wide bandwidth of NL on 675. Last winter, they came in at noon and 1300, but there is time yet. The time of the logs last winter was December.

UNID 1593: I had a strange station on 1593 Sunday at 1500. There was a partial EE id with "This is" and something unintelligible. Maybe it was something to do with either China or Japan?? They have been known to use EE from time to time.

091115_1500_1593_unid_e_call_maybe.mp3

091117_1600_1593_unid_chinese_or_eastern.mp3

LOCAL ID ON CBC 1230:

Last night at 2059, I had a local id on 1230, for the CBC station in the North. They announce as 106.1, and something else.

091115_2059_1230_cbc_local_id.mp3

ALL AUDIO CLIPS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS:

Below are a few clips from the last days. There is a lot more dx to come in the logs. Bear with me. I have been wondering the purpose of the RTTY on 570?? Anyone else hear this?? Heard a couple of days. There is also a beacon appears on about 1069, and can be quite strong. Anyone know the location of these?

The logs of 1593 are interesting. Can anyone with better understanding of far eastern languages, help with the 1593 full id, and suggest anything for the English "This Is" id? ?

Normally that channel has been jammed by the Germans for a number of years, but we are in reprieve for now!!

091117_2020_508_sm6bhz_beacon.mp3

091117_1505_570_unid_rtty.mp3

091117_0911_580_ckww_singing_jin_cfra_carrier_only.mp3

091111_1000_710_kiro_espn_gd.mp3

091111_1018_730_am_730_vancouver.mp3

091117_0758_980_wcub_most_powerful_ann.mp3

091107_0600_980_cjme_regina_sk.mp3

091115_2059_1230_cbc_local_id.mp3

091115_2159_1230_wblq_ri.mp3

091113_2101_1280_cfmb.mp3

091112_0900_1410_cfun_team_14_10.mp3

091117_1600_1593_unid_chinese_or_eastern.mp3

091115_1500_1593_unid_e_call_maybe.mp3

091115_2300_1700_kklf.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2009:

NEW WAN..!!

I had a new personal first today, from my recordings of last Saturday. 980 CJME 0600 7/11. It sounded very like KJME at first, but after listening to a clip from Alfie in Norway, I could hear the proper ID.

WNKR - 1395:

I have a nice ID this morning at 0200 from WNKR on 1395. This station runs at weekends only. This is the one that has proper shows. There is another station on the frequency from Dublin, but they only come on the air each weekend and play back to back music. Why they don't do any programmes is a mystery, and seems such a waste of a good AM signal. Both stations may find life much more difficult if the dreaded BIG L does return to 1395. The other clear channel of 1476 has been taken over by Spanish, as has 1386. The old Energy channel of 1593, while currently usable, is not exactly clear any longer. It once was free of all Euros at night.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2009:**COMMENTS (AS ALWAYS!!) :**

The band has been very good to us, although tailed off a little since Wednesday's extravaganza!! I still have files to listen to from last weekend and through the week.

Davie "up the road" Hamilton passed comment today about hearing west coast stations 7 days on the trot!!! Roll them on!!! If this continues, I will have to take on an extra pair of ears!!

I must apologise for the articles and projects here that have taken a back seat for the dxing!!! I am not sure, but I suspect the band is actually better this year than it was last winter, or certainly as exciting. I have never ever had KJR as loud and clear, and a few weeks ago I was happy because it scraped in!!

Good to see Mark Bothwick of St Boswells on the Scottish borders with us on the Skype chat. Another dxer who has been enjoying the West Coast dx of late.

THE PATRIOT 1280:

I had a log of 1280 The Patriot this morning at 0900. This is WWTC, Minneapolis, MN. The name rang bells, because I noted this a couple of times last season, I'm sure. But I don't see it on my all time list. Have to rectify this!! Just shows how the stations get through the net easily

ADS FOR PORTLAND ON 1190!!!

I sat up and took note when I heard ads for Portland the other day on 1190. I thought I had finally caught KEX. But I nearly fell off the chair after the announcer said WOWO!! Better luck next time. There must be another Portland somewhere, or I picked up wrong.

LOGS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS:

540 CBC NFLD Exc long local ID 0928 12/11

600 CJWW 1005 11/11

610 Unid Country music. Poor in fading band 1021 11/11

630 CHED 1000 11/11 I ded at last after missing it last season.

650 Greenland pres 1022 11/11
660 660 News Calgary. Great signals and ID 1021 + 0959. Traffic reports 11/11
670 KBOI, BOISE, ID 1000 11/11 ID + ABC News
710 KIRO ESPN Seattle 710 1021 + other times 11/11, 1100 12/11
730 AM 730 Vancouver. 1019 with traffic for Vancouver. 11/11. 0931 12/11
750 WSB below CBC. 0800 11/11
770 UNID SS Mx and Ann 0748 11/11
780 WBBM HD light on HD set. Not locked though. 0750 11/11
900 Country mx no ids so far 1018 11/11
900 CHML 0942 12/11. Hoping for something more exotic
920 KXLY WA 1100 11/11
950 KJR Seattle 0800 + Exc 1005 see recording below 11/11, ` 12/11 0904 + 950 KJR 11/11 Last man standing!! Only stn identifiable at high noon!! poor 13/11 1000
970 WDAY vy poor in the mush 0858 12/11.
980 CJME Regina, SK 0600 7/11 Personal first
1000 KOMO News Radio gd levels 0950 + 1005, 1050 11/11, 1000 13/11
1010 CBR CALGARY, CBC Dominant over CFRB/ WINS1031 11/11
1060 AM 1060 Calgary, AB. Exc AM 10-60 ID 1039 11/11
1060 Radio Education Mex WBIX in b/g 0300 12/11
1060 Unid Prob WLNO. Religious. VG carrier, low audio no id today 2230 12/11
1120 KMOX 0757 11/11. similar jingle tune to CHQR 0904 12/11
1130 11-30 News, Vancouver vg 1041 11/11 + 1000 inc call sign
1160 KSL 1000 + 1005 11/11 Good KSL ID
1190 Country mx , no id so far 1027 11/11
1190 ADVERTS FOR PORTLAND..... ON...WOWO. 1008 12/11 Hoping for elusive KEX!!!
1200 WKOX Loud Rumbos jingle 2232 12/11
1250 Unid 2300 11/11 ?? Radio. Prob something to do with JOY 12-50
1260 Team 12-60 Edmonton, AB. Amazing signal, on top of Euros. IDs ads in Edmonton. 1026 11/11
1280 WWTC, The Patriot, Minneapolis, MN 0900 13/11
1290 CFRW Good id 0958 11/11
1300 KKOL Seattle Bloomberg 1106 + 1100 11/11
1310 CIWW Address for complaints 2356 12/11
1330 SS on WRCA 2234 12/11
1410 CFUN is now ESPN Vancouver vg 0900 12/11
1470 CJVB Vancouver 0400 11/11
1480 WHBC Canton 0900 12/11
1510 KGA 1104 11/11 ann 101.1 FM 1st log I think this season. 0900 12/11
1510 WWZN with a good WWKB id at1540 KXEL Pretty gd pk 0700 13/11
1620 The Zone Omaha 2300 11/11
1630 KCJJ 0000 11/11
1650 CINA 0100 13/11
1660 KXTR KS Classical. hrd before 2240 till 2300 ID. KQWB Fargo ID too 2300 12/11
1680 KRJO 2300 12/11 Great call ID and Old School catch phrase.
1700 KVNS Dallas Cowboys Radio Network. (Def KVNS, not KKLf). 13/11 0100

ASIAN DX

1593 UNID Chinese / Far Eastern language thing?? 1600 11/11

ILR AYR SILENT BEFORE THE OFFICIAL 2m SILENCE:

ILR AYR was silent for a technical break on 11/11 at 1016 for a good minute +, noticed by the keen ears of David Hamilton. There was a strong unid sports station noted on the difficult normally freq of 1040, and surprisingly nothing on 1030. No sign of WBZ. It is a shame they don't break down at the top of the hour!!

Later that day at 1100 local time, the official 2m silence to honour the war veterans sounded more like DRM. ILR Ayr had some kind of a feed which was taken from some kind of a service. The background noise was seriously brought up by the compression. Sunday past was remembrance Sunday, and there was probably 2m silence as well. I failed to remember to record at 11am, as the band condx had by that time taken a nose dive from a dxers point of view. I'm sure it may have been more rewarding up north.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2009:
LOGS AND MORE LOGS:

The prolonged excellent band conditions have given me 13 personal firsts this last few days, and counting. I still have many hours of recordings to go though, and the band being the way it was, there could easily be more.

The band was again wide open to the west coast at 1000 and KOMO and KJR were both hammering in just before the hour. Sadly the signals were not there at ID time, but they were still there. At high noon, the only thing audible, and identifiable was KJR 950!!! Stay tuned for more logs from the band today.

AUDIO CLIPS - WORTH A LISTEN!!

I have a small taster of the dx that has been coming through here in SW Scotland this last few days. I was chatting to DX friend, Paul C about today's KJR at 1000 GMT. Paul told me that his 1000 was good, while 1005 was mixing with CFAM. I was the exact opposite. Below are my clips from today. There are also a few others which are worth a listen from some of the less usual stations. My two KJR clips first. No particular order today.

091111_1000_950_kjr_cfam.mp3

091111_1005_950_kjr_superb.mp3
 091111_1005_1000_komo.mp3
 091111_1000_660_cffr_calgary.mp3
 091107_0900_960_the_fan_calgary_vvg.mp3
 091107_0900_770_chqr_superb.mp3
 091111_1026_1260_team_1260_edmonton_vg.mp3
 091110_0900_920_cfry_vg.mp3
 091110_1009_730_ckdm_gd.mp3
 091110_1000_970_kbul.mp3
 091111_1000_670_kboi.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2009:

I am completely overwhelmed by logs. Here goes, in an effort to catch up..... Remember bold suggests either a personal first or a rarer station. I apologise if I am behind in keeping the all time list up to date. There are about 11 personal firsts to add to the table above, and a few of them are possible FRK-UK's.

NB: A lot of unsure and unids are logged in this list for my own ease of finding them again. I have so many pages of logs from the last days. Many are simply reminders to go back and listen again, and not real worthy logs that would be sent to publications etc. Eg unid country on 600, may be logged so I can follow up and have a re listen. It is better than sifting through pages and pages of scribbles in a log book.

540 WFLA FL 0800 8/11
 570 Unid call like WHBO. Have to relisten. Dreadful copy. 0700 6/11
 570 Unid like KMX partial call in the mud?? USB 0700 6/11
 570 CKGL 0900 6/11
570 CKSW SK country mx and wx 0902 7/11
 570 Reloj Loud 0938 8/11
 570 Big Carrier, pres Greenlands duff txer which broke a couple of weks ago
 580 CFRA Loud 0200 7/11
 590 VOXM Good sig 0900 6/11
 600 Unid C/W mx 1010 6/11
600 WSNL Victory 600 AM 0900 7/11
600 WMT 0800 8/11 (May have been wrong date. 7/11)

640 AM 640 Toronto CFMJ call ID 0600 6/11
 650 WSM NAsville 0800 + 0958 7/11, 0937 8/11
 660 WFAN Good signal during wx 0004 6/11
660 660 News Calgary best ever here 0900 7/11, 0849 8/11
 670 The Score, Chicago 0800 7/11, 1004 8/11
 680 WRKO 2137 5/11
680 CJOB 0900 7/11. Their audio needs an optimod!! 1000 + 1018 10/11
680 KBRW AK pres NPR news 1425 10/11 In and out at various times. Biggest problem NL splatter. No ID's yet
 700 WLW vg 0900 6/11
710 KIRO ID only as ESPN 710 Seattle now, 1000 7/11
730 CHMJ - AM 7-30 Vancouver 0958 7/11
730 CKDM MB 1009 10/11 Good ID before Pink Floyd also 1001 poorer. community stuff 1019
 740 AM 7-40 Toronto Exc 0901 6/11, call id 0759 7/11
740 CBC Edmonton, AB (CBX) CBC nx . Only CBC stn here 0700 _0858 7/11
 760 Unid SS snds like an ABC in SS?? 0158 10/11
 770 WABC - The Wild West of Talk Radio!! 0700 5/11,
770 CHQR vg 0900 6/11, 0700 6/11, 0600 6/11, exc 0900 7/11,
 790 WAXY 0700 6/11 870 WWL New Orleans vg 0900 6/11
 800 CKLW Disclaimer 1000 7/11, 0900 CKLW call snding more like CJAD in mess !! 10/11
820 KGNW Seattle 0900 7/11
 830 unid Radio Nacional in SS in gap 0900 7/11
 830 UNID SS 0705 10/11
 830 WCRN 2300 9/11 CBS Nx rather than the usual IRNUSA Radio News. odd
 840 WHAS Gd id 0934 8/11
 870 WWL VG 0900 10/11
 880 Unid Country mx, mix WCBS 0948 7/11
 890 WLS End of Midnight Truckers 0900 6/11
 890 Mix on the freq 0700 7/11
890 KVOZ, Laredo, TX 0800 8/11 Multi Stn id mixing WLS. Pers 1st, tnx Paul C tip
900 CKBI Prince Albert, SK 0901 6/11
 900 Unid . "This is the United States" then mx. oddity. Poss from RAI?? 0600 6/11
 920 CFRY 0947 7/11, 0858 7/11, 0900 10/11
930 AM 930, The Light AB 0900 7/11 poor but there
940 CKGX 1000 6/11
950 CFAM MB Classical mx. Reg, but huge 1007 10/11
950 KJR Seattle 1100 6/11 Fox sports Radio, 1000 6/11, 1000 7/11 gd, poor 0800 7/11, 0200 7/11
 950 CKNB Amazing how locals can still hear this low audio - id 0936 8/11, 0200 10/11
960 The Fan Calgary ESPN Gd 1000 6/11, 0927 7/11, exc 0900 7/11, poor 0800 7/11, 1000 7/11
 970 Unid Country 0953 8/11 Might have KQAQ ID around 1000
970 KBUL Nx R 9-70 its 3 o'clock 1000 10/11
 980 WCUB 0957 7/11, + Unid ... most powerful radio stn. Think this slogan is WCUB. 0900 6/11
 980 WOFX Troy poor 0600 6/11
 980 WTEM Washington Best ever hrd, great peak. 0900 8/11
1000 KOMO 0600 6/11, gd 1000 7/11,

1010 CBC (CBR Calgary, AB) CBC nx 0900 7/11 with WINS & CFRB

1010 CFRB Gd ID 1000 8/11 No call used now

1070 CHOK Fairly gd 2300 5/11

1070 Unid All News All the time into CBS nx KNX? Hrd a few times lack ids 0800 6/11, 0900 10/11

1110 WBT Booming in 0800 6/11

1120 KMOX 0900 6/11

1130 KFAN 0900 7/11

1130 News 1130 Vancouver 1032 6/11, 1100 7/11, 1005 10/11,

1140 CBC Sydney, NS Good local ID 2159 6/11, VG Local id 2159 9/11, 2159 10/11

1140 AM 1140 AB. Religious stuff, ID after ad in Quebec. 0931 7/11, 1046 7/11, 0946 7/11 Saga of a goat with one horn!!, 1003 7/11 vg id massive sig 1000,0903 7/11, 1046 7/11, gd 0819 8/11

1150 WHBY 0700 + 0900 7/11

1160 KSL Salt Lake City 0800 6/11 WYLL mix, in the clear 0600 6/11, 0700 + 0900 + 1000 7/11,

1160 WSKW Legacy 1160 id. Very poor 0000 10/11

1170 WWVA Wheeling, WV 0900 7/11

1180 UNID. Relevant Radio in dirt with WHAM. Prob only one possibility, but No ID. 1000 7/11

1190 AM 1190 SK - Unid country mx 1027 7/11, ID 1101 7/11

1190 WLIB ID 2132 8/11 (DH heard power down 2140 10/11)

1190 unids mix of odd languages, poss SS, mush killed it. recheck. 0700 10/11

1200 WOAI 0700 7/11, 1000 10/11

1230 CBC Eskimo type language. quite good peaks. Is this CFFB. Only possibility?? 2100 6/11, 1950 10/11 // web stream

1230 CBC EE Loud at 0941 1000, 1002 CBC ID, still there 1020 7/11. 2100 7/11, 0000 9/11, bbc ws 1020 10/11, More than one possibility??

1230 WCMC Wildwood, NJ weak 0700 10/11

1240 VOCM 2031 7/11

1250 JOY 12-50 Local px inc traffic 2204 5/11

1250 AM 1250 Classical Music mix with sports 0944 7/11, Lumber Ad + id 1043 7/11

1250 WSSP Milwaukee Gd ID 1000 7/11

1250 UNID Something like Sports Radio 12-50 WSL Need to relisten. LSB 0700 7/11

1260 Disney Boston 0456 7/11 Sport by 0500. gd 0657 7/11,

1260 CFRN Edmonton AB Team 1260 1000 7/11 poor. Best LSB

1270 Unid poss ID with ads. needs recheck 1021 7/11

1270 CJCB Sydney NS 0929 8/11

1280 Unid Long tk, inc lots of RADIO mentioned.. need to listen again 1017 10/11

1280 WNAM 0705 good 6/11, 0900 6/11

1280 CFMB pres. Daytimer. Usual Italian tk. No id this time. 2105 6/11

1280 WFAU Multi Call ids 2200 9/11

1280 CJ 1280 SK 1024 10/11**1290 CFRW Mx loud at 1012 7/11, 1024 10/11,**

1290 WRNI Fair 2200 10/11

1300 WOOD gd Fox Nx 0800 6/11, exc 0900 8/11

1300 Unid with a Reality Radio px 0300 7/11

1300 KGLO 0959 7/11

1300 Unid Sports Radio , ads then sports again 1014 10/11

1300 KKOL Seattle 1000 10/11 First for me here

1310 CHLW St Paul, AB 1100 7/11

1310 CIWW ESPN sports 0000 5/11, 2200 5/11 mix WLOB, 1033 6/11

1310 WCCW TRaverse City 1000 10/11

1320 CHMB, Vancouver. Chinese languages No ID 1030 7/11, IDs 1100 7/11, 1000 10/11**1340 WMDR Augusta ME 0200 7/11 Encouraging Talk Radio**

1360 Unid like KUMA or KONA or maybe nothing 0800 6/11

1360 WKMI Kalamazoo 0700 8/11

1360 Unid SS ann best in lsb with notch 1000 10/11

1390 WRIG 0600 6/11 Strange pronunciation of WRIG, GD 0700 7/11

1390 WLCM 0300 7/11

1390 WPLM 2200 9/11 Multi Call, 0000 10/11 money matters radio network

1390 WFBL 2300 9/11 ABC Nx . Sounded like new call for Charleston, WSPO!!!

1400 WOND / mix CBC 2200 10/11

1410 Team 1410 Vancouver ESPN (CFUN) 0800 6/11

1430 CHKT / WENE mix 1000 6/11

1430 Team WENE VG 2300 9/11

1430 KLO Ogden, UT Fair 1100 7/11, 1000 7/11

1440 WHKZ Warren 0700 5/11

1440 WJAB Multi Call 0300 7/11

1460 WHIC 0900 6/11

1460 CJOY 1000 6/11

1470 CJVB Vancouver 0600 6/11 pips in the mush. VG 1000 7/11, gd 1100 7/11

1470 WLAM inc the TV Nx channel WCSH. 2200 5/11

1500 KTSP St Paul's 0900 6/11

1500 WLQV Detroit 2200 10/11

1510 KCKK 0800 6/11, 0900 7/11, 1100 7/11 Seems this is reg these days

1510 KGA 1000 7/11 1st log this season

1520 WWKB Extreme signals 0900 6/11

1550 SS UNID mix CBC. Like Principales, C??? 0800 8/11

1560 KGOW TX 0800 6/11

1570 Unid. Mess. Need to relisten 0900 7/11

1590 WARV Gd id 0300 7/11

1600 WUNR Rare EE 2300 8/11

1620 WDND ESPN etc South Bend. Best ID yet from this one 0300 7/11**1630 La Grande 0600 6/11****1640 Super Radio - Utah 0600 6/11**

1640 Disney Milwaukee call ids 0100 7/11

1650 CINA 0600 6/11

1660 The Avenue, FL 0000 6/11, 2302 8/11

1660 WQLR Kalamazoo 0800 6/11, 0800 8/11

1660 KQWB Fargo 0300 7/11

1670 WTDY Madison 0600 6/11

1680 Unid SS. Best USB. Prob 3 to chose from 0600 6/11

1690 CHTO 0600 6/11, 0900 7/11

1690 WPTX Lexington Pk Gd. CNN Radio 2200 8/11

1700 San Diego 1700 0600 6/11

OTHER LOGS FROM ASIA AND EUROPE:

1170 VOA Phillipines 1600 5/11

1188 LV Romanyska ?? Need to relisten. I don't spend much time with Euros 1600 5/11

1170 VOA Phillipines 1600 5/11

1236 unid, snds like Iran or something 1600 5/11

1575 Radio Farda VG signals 1600 5/11

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER 2009:**MAYHEM - CHAOS - HELP!!!**

So many hours of full band recordings to go through from the last few days, it looks as though these will be files for the future. The band has been great, open to the West Coast, Alaska coming through, and strong signals on some of the Calgary stations. It has been great, but will have to play catch up now to get a list of logs produced. Bear with me. There has been some seriously good DX conditions this last few days.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER 2009:**1st LOOK AT TODAYS LOGS:**

Trying to sort through my recordings from this morning. Had a brief look and had some super signals for this latitude, from way out west. A lot of time lapse dxing to do tonight.

950 KJR, FAN 960 Calgary, 1160 KSL, UNID K stn 0800 1360, Team 1410 ESPN = CFUN 0800, CKBI Alberta 900, San Diego 1700 0600, 1640 Super Radio Utah 0600, KOMO 0600, KBRW 1655 680 AK. Mx only, Euro splatter in the way of a decent signal!! I wish those christians would close up shop on 675.

AUDIO CLIPS OF A FEW OF TODAYS LOGS:

091106_1000_950_kjr.mp3

091106_1000_960_the_fan_960_calgary.mp3

091106_2100_1230_unid_eskimo_language_poss.mp3

091106_0600_1650_cina.mp3

091106_0600_1700_sandiego_1700.mp3

ACCURACY IN MW DXING:

I have written a few lines about accuracy in the reporting with regards to MW dxing. This is accessible through the full site index, which I have recently completed. Below are links to some pages which have been added recently, or will be added soon.

ACCURATE MW DXING - BY KEN BAIRD - NOVEMBER 2009 [New 11/09](#)

PERSEUS SDR - TIPS AND TRICKS [New 11/09](#)

PERSEUS - A LIFE CHANGING RECEIVER - OCT 2009 [New 10/09](#)

INTERVAL SIGNALS [New 11/09](#)

MW DXING AUDIO CLIPS 2009 PAGE [New 10/09](#)

MP3 FILES AND THE MW DXER [New 11/09](#)

PERSEUS MW SCREENSHOTS OF CARRIERS - 530 / 800kHz [New 10/09](#)

SONY XDR F1HD TUNER [New 11/09](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2009:

WWZN WRONGLY REPORTED:

No one is above errors!! I correctly reported yesterday WWZN Boston 1510, playing WWKB 1520 jingles. But my audio clips were titled as WBBR!!! Correction made!!

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2009:

VINTAGE DX RECORDINGS FROM 1960'S:

I was browsing the web just yesterday, and came across a Finnish guy's web page, with lots of old photographs and dx clips, pennents, as well as non radio related photos. This very interesting site is certainly worth a look. I tried the contact details, but the e mail was returned. It looks like it may be one of those sites that has been there for a number of years, and been abandoned. Download the clips when you can then.

<http://www.filatelia.fi/dx/>

WRTH DUE OUT SOON:

The WRTH, or World Radio And TV Handbook is due out in early December. Often referred to as the radio listeners bible, or so the old advert years back on World Music Radio used to say. (That was in the Radio Andorra years).

The cheapest I have seen the publication so far in the UK is WH SMITH'S. Amazon are also offering the WRTH now, preordered.

<http://www.whsmith.co.uk/CatalogAndSearch/ProductDetails--9780955548123.html>

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/World-Radio-Handbook-2010-Broadcasting/dp/0955548128>

My first WRTH was the now very well worn 1976 edition. This edition had both an article about the beverage antenna and MW dxing in the Western Hemisphere, both reproduced here, see site index. Both caught my attention all those years ago.

WHAT'S WITH 1510 - WWZN BOSTON?

Are WWZN 1510 tring to be WWKB??? They will never manage it. They don't have the signal!!

John Marsyla in NL pointed out on the Skype chat yesterday that WWZN had WWKB ids yesterday at 0730, or just after. On tuning in, sure enough, there was some kind of feed from WWKB!!! It didnt seem parallel to 1520. It was during the so called REVOLUTION BOSTON programme. I heard another similar BUFFALO id which only just missed out the WWKB call signs at 0700 today, but there was an ad for WWKB web site. At 0600 today a full blown ID of WWKB!! Surely not a legal ID. What is the reason for this?? Is the Revolution Boston programme somehow connected with WWKB??

This reminds me of when Radio Dublin used to nick the news from RTE and would often mess up the exact moment and have RTE announcements being broadcast. Radio

Dublin were a rough and ready bunch of pirates though. Surely a feed can not be mixed up like this from big statios??

Mind you, look at WCRN. Does no one work at these stations with the dodgy automated systems, to monitor the output?? Mind you, could you sit and listen / monitor such dribble??

This must be the strangest hobby. How do you explain to someone down the pub that you willfully listen to American MW radio stations, whose programmes in general must be some of the worst in the English speaking world. (I may add that there are many exceptions). After all, how many listeners can Brother Stair really have, or the mouthy talk show hosts who want to ram politics down your neck, or the guy on Coast to Coast that has wee men running around the moon not unlike the Clangers, as well as in his own back yard.... Or even that dubious Spanish language station that has annoying time pips all the way through it's broadcasts!!! Who could believe it!!

I suppose it shows who listens when the dodgy output of a 50kW station is never noticed by their staff or listeners, as perhaps was the case of WCRN 830. They are guilty of running with two audio feeds for news, or even for some of the following programming.

Try telling the intrigued (or maybe bored) listener at the bar that into the bargain you went to a great deal of trouble to lay out a 500 metre beverage aerial in the woods, and buy expensive receivers, just especially to tune in to something which by their very programme output quality, is completely unlistenable, and he is sure to make a hastey exit.lol

Anyhow, I now have another couple of audio clips for my up and coming page with confusing ID's!!

091103_0733_1510_wwzn_inc_wwkb_ids.mp3

091104_0600_1510_wwzn_inc_wwkb_ids.mp3

091104_0700_1510_wwzn_inc_wwkb_ids.mp3

FRENCH QRM 1377 OFF AIR:

The splattery Frenchy that once was off air supposedly permanently some years ago, was off last night briefly from tune in 2200, till sometime after 2235. It was back on air by 2300. I was looking forward to a good nights dxing with 1380 as well..

OTHER RUMOURS AND CHANGES:

594: What is going off this year? I think I read that the 594 German powerhouse is going off air. Get the flags out. I guess it will help dxers on the continent more than here, because it is not such a pest as many other splattery signals. But it is always good from a dxers point of view to see a powerhouse Euro go off.

610 / 1150: I believe 610 and 1150 Frenchies are due to be off air by 1st December. I don't know about 1150, but 610 may produce some more interesting DX.

1395: I am glad to see that BIG L never managed back on air on their promised 1st Nov. I see that they still ann November on line though.

1593: And we still see the very difficult channel of 1590 is still with us for the time being, although the jamming may be back at any time.

I make all the above comments as a selfish DXer you understand...

UNID 1080:

I have an UNID from 30/10 just before 2300. It seems to be on top of WTIC, though I couldn't say for sure. There was some kind of religious advert for goisrael.com. Sadly it was a mess by ID time. I don't think this was on WTIC, but not sure.

LOGS FROM THE BAND SO FAR:

650 WSM 0100 4/11

760 WCHP 31/10 2156 Daytimer

790 WPRV Providence RI 2300 3/11 Pers 1st. Best USB with big notch and wider b/w

820 Hamilton's Talk 8-20 2300 3/11

850 WEEI 0700 3/11 Remember this is ESPN now, or partly

950 KJR Seattle 0900 3/11 Weak. (Sober in Seattle AD 0703 and id 0727 4/11)

1000 KOMO 0900 3/11 weak

1080 Unid Ad for goisrael.com, some kind of religious ad, don't think WTIC 2300 30/10

1170 WWVA 0706 3/11 Ann HD, and I had light on with the HD set

1270 WTSN Dover, NH am1270am.com 0800 3/11

1290 WKBK Keane 2200 3/11

1360 WKAT FL 0600 4/11

1390 WEGP Extreme signal. Not so strong in general this season I dont think. 2300 3/11

1430 CHKT Great Peak. Tip DH. 3/11 0300

1450 WENJ Good sig, well average. good for them. SS and EE 2300 3/11

1460 CJOY Poor 2300 3/11

1490 WBAE (am 1400 and 1490 " ID 2330 3/11

1510 WWZN with WWKB ids. 0732 3/11 0700 4/11

1560 KGOW Bellaire, TX 0700 3/11 also 0800 etc

1580 CKDO Traffic vg sig 2300 3/11

1670 WFSM Dry Branch 0100 4/11 foxsports1670.com
1680 KJRO LA. "Old School 16-80" id 2300 3/11

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2009:

TODAYS BAND:

I haven't finished going through my recordings for today yet, but on first look I noticed that the Texan on 1560 was coming in very well for 100 watts!! (KGOW 50kW by Day..lol). I also had strong signals from WWVA on 1170, and had the HD light on with the Sony HD rx, but so far no stations have locked on to the HD. At 0900 again today, KJR 950 Seattle was heard, as was KOMO 1000. Both these were extremely poor. And thanks to a tip from DH, CHKT had a good ID at 0300. WTSN was heard on 1270 giving their web address (a typical radio station web site, a cluttered mess I hasten to add) as wtsnam1270.com.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2009:

ANOTHER MONTH'S LOGS:

Another month, come and gone. The band has been good to us in general, though often many mornings were very much the same as the one before. But there has been quite a surprising number of personal firsts in October.

As usual, the PDF file from the month of October is available for download from the logs index page.

Or click here for a direct download.

WEB SITE INDEX, AND NEW ARTICLES BEING ADDED:

I have started a few new articles for these pages, although they are not quite finished. I have also added a site index, which is accessed by clicking the left hand "All DX Logs" pop up menu. This has links to all the index pages and articles on the whole site now. One or two of the pages were becoming lost or difficult to find within the logs and news sections.

920 - KARN LITTLE ROCK, AR:

I had a pleasant surprise at 0000, just before turning in for the night last night, when I was checking 920. The usual pest, CKNX ONT was particularly strong, and I thought about making a nice audio clip of the station, seeing it was so strong. But at the toth, in the background, there was a sports station, and on playing back the recording, it turned out to be KARN!!! This is a personal first, and a possible *FKR-UK. It doesn't seem long ago when I was complaining on these pages about 920 being a rather dull freq this winter, compared to the gems it produced last season.

091102_0000_920_cknx_karn_little_rock_ar_shortened_wx.mp3

620 - WDAE St Petersburg, FL:

I had another new station at 0700 today. 620 WDAE FL. I have often heard sports, but never managed to hear a station ID until today. Not much gets through past VPCM.

I need to update my all time list with the October firsts as well as the two for today.

POWERHOUSE SIGNALS AT 0700 1st NOVEMBER:

Like David Hamilton reported yesterday on his blog, there were some really powerful signals around at 0700 from the common regulars. They were so good, that I have made a number of audio clips. Davie has also produced an impressive 8m clip of the stations as well.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Davie's blog

There were some strong signals around this morning too, but I think yesterday had the edge for sure. Here are a few of the stations heard.

091101_0700_1010_wins_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1060_wbix_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1080_wtic_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1110_wbt_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1130_wbbr_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1170_wwva_vg.mp3

091101_0700_1210_wpht.mp3

091101_0701_1590_wakr_vg.mp3

Regular stations at 0700 here were 1010 WINS, 1590 WAKR, 1170 WWVA, 580 CFRA, 850 WEEI, and Rebelde were heard on at least 560, 600, 610, 670, 770

LOGS FROM THE LAST WEEK:

I haven't really been typing up all the logs here quite as regularly as I would like to. A lot of time is being spent simply listening through the Perseus files. Sorry for any rough entries, but I am glad that typing is all over....

ASIAN DX

1170 VOA Phillipines Personal First 1700 29/10
 1521 CHINA VG 1800 30/10
 1557 WYFR Taiwan 27/10 1600, 1700 29/10
 1575 VOA Thailand 27/10 1600
 1575 Farda 1800 30/10

TRANSATLANTIC DX

540 WFLA FL 0700 2/11
 560 WQAM FL 0700 28/10, 31/10 0700
 580 WQAO PR 31/10 0727
 600 CBC local id 2259 27/10 id 990 and 600
 610 WIOD fl 2300 27/10
620 WDAE FL Personal 1st sports. Hrd sports before, but never ID. 0700 2/11
 770 Rebelde 0300 29/10
 790 VPCM news on CFCB / VPCM network 2230 29/10
 800 VOWR 2259 27/10
 800 CKLW 0731 29/10 gd ids
 920 WGKA Atlanta Daytimer. Hrd last season 29/10 2300
 920 WDMC 0400 1/11
920 CKNX VG signal and ID, but weak below at silent toth KARN Little Rock AR 0000 2/11 (Poss FKR-UK)
 940 Montreal. 29/10 0003 Good audio during a peak, but all too few peaks now since someone is off channel across the water
 950 WWJ 0900 29/10, 0909 30/10
 950 Warble 0002 29/10
950 KJR Seattle 0900 1/11 1st log this season
 960 KMA 0800 29/10
 1000 ESPN Chicago 0938 29/10 vg levels. ads. no local ID though
 1010 WINS Lighting HD lamp 29/10 0834, 0700 1/11
 1010 CFRB 0700 Non id type ID now. 2/11
1070 WFLI Lookout Mountain, TN. 2300 28/10 Daytimer, 30/10 2300 surprisingly gd
1070 EVE 1070 (= WTWK) 2101 1/11 Daytimer
1070 WKOK Sudbury, PA 2200 31/10 Daytimer

1070 CHOK 0600 29/10

1140 CBC local 1140 id 2159 27/10

1140 Rebelde. 0700 2/11 Jingle about 0659 ish .. tip DH. Pers First

1150 FF // 610 30/10 2300 Last days. Their dates are 1/12 for switch off I believe. 610 should be interesting.

1160 WCSO East Point, GA 27/10 2300 50KW Daytimer. Poss FKR-UK?? (Also 29/10 2300)

1160 UNID weird ID, Like Dever, and other 2 cities. Requires another listen. 30/10 2300.

1180 Rebelde jingle 29/10 2300

1200 WKOX Rare call ID 0703 31/10

1210 The Big Talker 0700 1/11

1220 WHK nwk 0700 1/11

1280 CFMB Montreal Pres. Italian lingo no id 2100 27/10

1290 WRNI 2300 28/10

1290 Unid call, poss WHIO. The Happy Valley's Nx Traffic and Wx stn. need another listen 0600 1/11

1300 WJNO Praise 1300 Cleveland 0000 28/10

1300 WJZ Baltimore 0700 31/10 ESPN station. Good fade of the usual ones for this pers first

1310 CIWW Ottawa 2300 27/10 Hrd reg this week with ESPN sports games. (VVG 0759 29/10)(ESPN TORONTO 570 ID 0300 29/10)

1320 unid Mention sports on WAPI?? or maybe WEEI?? Sports progs mention a lot of calls at different times though. 0000 31/10

1320 WBOB 0000 2/11

1320 CJMR 0600 1/11 Gd id, // 1250 yl id. Voice of the City id 0000 1/11

1330 WRCA SS language progs 2235 29/10

1340 UNID ESPN. BBC OFF, tnx DH tip. ESPN id only hrd. 18 possibilities!!!

1360 WDRC Hartford VG sig 0700 2/11

1370 WDEA 2300 27/10 gd sig

1390 WSPQ Charleston Poor ID, New call for the Charleston stn

1400 CBC 2100 27/10 VG signal. (2159 28/10 ID AS 990 AND 600)

1400 WOND 2200 27/10 ABC nx

1460 WHIC The station of the cross. 0000 28/10,, 0659 2/11

1470 WLAM 2129 27/10 WCSH ID's = tv audio on WLAM, Gd id 0000 28/10, 2300 28/10

1470 WJDY 0200 28/10

1490 WBAE 2300 27/10

1510 WLAC Multi Call 2300 28/10, 2300 30/10

1540 KXEL 0700 29/10

1540 WDCD 2300 30/10

1580 CKDO VG 0601 29/10

1590 KVGB The Talk of the town. 0700 29/10

1590 WVNA GD 2359 29/10, 0559 2/11

1620 WDND South Bend Great ID in a fade of WTAW 1/11 0000

1630 WRDW Augusta 2300 2/11 (unusual, KCJJ more common)

1640 WTNI vg 2301 30/10

1660 KRZI TX 0700 29/10

1690 WPTX Lexington Park 2230 27/10, 30/10 2300, 2/11 2300

1700 WEUP 2357 29/10

All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat Contact

501 EIOCF EIRE CW Beacon mode 1920 18/11
 508 SM6BHZ 2010 Gothenberg, Sweden CW + LSB 1W!! 17/11
 540 CBC NFLD Exc long local ID 0928 12/11
 540 WFLA FL 0800 8/11
 540 WFLA FL 0700 2/11
 549 old Mayak int sig 1400 16/11
 560 WQAM FL 0700 28/10, 31/10 0700
 570 5-70 News 1000 18/11
 570 WSYR News Radio 5-70 2301 15/11, 0200 18/11
 570 unid rtty 1500 16/11, 1505 17/11
 570 Unid call like WHBO. Have to relisten. Dreadful copy. 0700 6/11
 570 Unid like KMX partial call in the mud?? USB 0700 6/11
 570 CKGL 0900 6/11
 570 CKSW SK country mx and wx 0902 7/11
 570 Reloj Loud 0938 8/11
 570 Big Carrier, pres Greenlands duff txer which broke a couple of weeks ago(No date I see. Early nov log)
 580 CKWW Windsor, Ont in CFRA breakdown. (carrier only) jin id 0911 17/11
 580 CFRA Loud 0200 7/11
 580 WQAQ PR 31/10 0727
 590 WEZE Boston 0600 17/11
 590 VOXM Good sig 0900 6/11
 600 CJWW 1005 11/11
 600 Unid C/W mx 1010 6/11
 600 WSNL Victory 600 AM 0900 7/11
 600 WMT 0800 8/11 (May have been wrong date. 7/11)
 600 CBC local id 2259 27/10 id 990 and 600
 610 Unid c/c 0906 17/11 610 soon off, so dx will come through hopefully
 610 Unid Country music. Poor in fading band 1021 11/11
 610 WIOD fl 2300 27/10
 620 WDAE FL Personal 1st sports. Hrd sports before, but never ID. 0700 2/11
 630 CHED 1000 11/11 Ided at last after missing it last season.
 640 Cuban Tent. No ID, Much tk SS of Cuba. 093018/11
 640 AM 640 Toronto CFMJ call ID 0600 6/11
 650 Greenland pres 1022 11/11
 650 WSM NASHVILLE 0800 + 0958 7/11, 0937 8/11
 650 WSM 0100 4/11
 660 660 News Calgary. Great signals and ID 1021 + 0959. Traffic reports 11/11
 660 WFAN Good signal during wx 0004 6/11
 660 660 News Calgary best ever here 0900 7/11, 0849 8/11
 670 KBOI, BOISE, ID 1000 11/11 ID + ABC News
 670 The Score, Chicago 0800 7/11, 1004 8/11

680 KBRW Pres in and out late pm with mx, nx usual low audio. No ids yet so far.16/11,
1230 17/11
680 WRKO 2137 5/11
680 CJOB 0900 7/11. Their audio needs an optimod!! 1000 + 1018 10/11
680 KBRW AK pres NPR news 1425 10/11 In and out at various times. Biggest problem NL
splatter. No ID's yet
700 WLW vg 0900 6/11
710 VPCM Local CKVO ID 2031 13/11
710 KIRO ESPN Seattle 710 1021 + other times 11/11, 1100 12/11
710 KIRO ID only as ESPN 710 Seattle now, 1000 7/11
730 AM 730 Vancouver 0958 16/11
730 AM 730 Vancouver. 1019 with traffic for Vancouver. 11/11. 0931 12/11
730 CHMJ - AM 7-30 Vancouver 0958 7/11
730 CKDM MB 1009 10/11 Good ID before Pink Floyd also 1001 poorer. community stuff
1019
740 AM 740 Toronto VG id 0934 14/11
740 AM 7-40 Toronto Exc 0901 6/11, call id 0759 7/11
740 CBC Edmonton, AB (CBX) CBC nx . Only CBC stn here 0700 _0858 7/11
750 WSB below CBC. 0800 11/11
760 WJR Nice different toth 2300 15/11
760 Unid SS snds like an ABC in SS?? 0158 10/11
760 WCHP 31/10 2156 Daytimer
770 UNID SS Mx and Ann 0748 11/11
770 WABC - The Wild West of Talk Radio!! 0700 5/11,
770 CHQR vg 0900 6/11, 0700 6/11,0600 6/11, exc 0900 7/11,
770 Rebelde 0300 29/10
780 WBBM HD light on HD set. Not locked though. 0750 11/11
790 Unid in the mess. need check in detail 0700 17/11
790 WAXY 0700 6/11870 WWL New Orleans vg 0900 6/11
790 WPRV Providence RI 2300 3/11 Pers 1st. Best USB with big notch and wider b/w
790 VPCM news on CFCB / VPCM network 2230 29/10
800 CKLW Disclaimer 1000 7/11, 0900 CKLW call snding more like CJAD in mess !! 10/11
800 VOWR 2259 27/10
800 CKLW 0731 29/10 gd ids
820 KGNW Seattle 0900 7/11
820 Hamilton's Talk 8-20 2300 3/11
830 WCRN VG id 2300 16/11
830 unid Radio Nacional in SS in gap 0900 7/11
830 UNID SS 0705 10/11
830 WCRN 2300 9/11 CBS Nx rather than the usual IRNUSA Radio News. odd
840 WHAS Gd id 0934 8/11
850 WEEI 0700 3/11 Remember this is ESPN now, or partly
870 WWL VG 0900 10/11
880 Unid Country mx, mix WCBS 0948 7/11
890 WLS End of Midnight Truckers 0900 6/11
890 Mix on the freq 0700 7/11
890 KVOZ, Laredo, TX 0800 8/11 Multi Stn id mixing WLS. Pers 1st, tnx Paul C tip
900 Country mx no ids so far 1018 11/11
900 CHML 0942 12/11. Hoping for something more exotic
900 CKBI Prince Albert, SK 0901 6/11
900 Unid . "This is the United States" then mx. oddity. Poss from RAI?? 0600 6/11

920 Unid ABC News stn 0300 Not managed to winkle an id yet 14/11
 920 CKNX VG 0900 17/11
 920 KXLY WA 1100 11/11
 920 CFRY 0947 7/11, 0858 7/11, 0900 10/11
 920 WGKA Atlanta Daytimer. Hrd last season 29/10 2300
 920 WDMC 0400 1/11
 920 CKNX VG signal and ID, but weak below at silent toth KARN Little Rock AR 0000 2/11
 (Poss FKR-UK)
 930 AM 930, The Light AB 0900 7/11 poor but there
 940 WINZ FL 0700 16/11
 940 CKGX 1000 6/11
 940 Montreal. 29/10 0003 Good audio during a peak, but all too few peaks now since
 someone is off channel across the water
 950 KJR 0705 14/11, 0958 16/11,
 950 WWJ Dominant 1000 18/11
 950 KJR Seattle 0800 + Exc 1005 see recording below 11/11, ` 12/11 0904 +
 950 KJR 11/11 Last man standing!! Only stn identifiable at high noon!! poor 13/11 1000
 950 CFAM MB Classical mx. Reg, but huge 1007 10/11
 950 KJR Seattle 1100 6/11 Fox sports Radio, 1000 6/11, 1000 7/11 gd, poor 0800 7/11,
 0200 7/11
 950 CKNB Amazing how locals can still hear this low audio - id 0936 8/11, 0200 10/11
 950 KJR Seattle 0900 3/11 Weak. (Sober in Seattle AD 0703 and id 0727 4/11)
 950 WWJ 0900 29/10, 0909 30/10
 950 Warble 0002 29/10
 950 KJR Seattle 0900 1/11 1st log this season
 960 The Fan Calgary ESPN Gd 1000 6/11, 0927 7/11, exc 0900 7/11, poor 0800 7/11, 1000
 7/11
 960 KMA 0800 29/10
 970 Unid country. mx stops & straight into news. no ID. Gd pk too!! KQAQ poss 0600 14/11
 970 WDAY vy poor in the mush 0858 12/11.
 970 Unid Country 0953 8/11 Might have KQAQ ID around 1000
 970 KBUL Nx R 9-70 its 3 o'clock 1000 10/11
 980 WCUB 0758 VG id .NE Wisconsin's Most Powerful Radio Stn 17/11
 980 CJME Regina, SK 0600 7/11 Personal first
 980 WCUB 0957 7/11, + Unid ... most powerful radio stn. Think this slogan is WCUB. 0900
 6/11
 980 WOFX Troy poor 0600 6/11
 980 WTEM Washington Best ever hrd, great peak. 0900 8/11
 1000 KOMO 0700 14/11
 1000 KOMO News Radio gd levels 0950 + 1005, 1050 11/11, 1000 13/11
 1000 KOMO 0600 6/11, gd 1000 7/11,
 1000 KOMO 0900 3/11 weak
 1000 ESPN Chicago 0938 29/10 vg levels. ads. no local ID though
 1010 CBR CALGARY, CBC Dominant over CFRB/ WINS1031 11/11
 1010 CBC (CBR Calgary, AB) CBC nx 0900 7/11 with WINS & CFRB
 1010 CFRB Gd ID 1000 8/11 No call used now
 1010 WINS Lighting HD lamp 29/10 0834, 0700 1/11
 1010 CFRB 0700 Non id type ID now. 2/11
 1050 CP24 Toronto 0701 16/11, 0300 18/11
 1060 WBIX VG id 2100 16/11
 1060 AM 1060 Calgary, AB. Exc AM 10-60 ID 1039 11/11

1060 Radio Education Mex WBIX in b/g 0300 12/11
 1060 Unid Prob WLNO. Religious. VG carrier, low audio no id today 2230 12/11
 1070 WFLI Lookout Mountain, TN 2200 14/11
 1070 CHOK 2300 14/11, vg 2200 15/11
 1070 EVE 10-70 2101 ABC nx wx id 15/11
 1070 CHOK Fairly gd 2300 5/11
 1070 Unid All News All the time into CBS nx KNX? Hrd a few times lack ids 0800 6/11, 0900 10/11
 1070 WFLI Lookout Mountain, TN. 2300 28/10 Daytimer, 30/10 2300 surprisingly gd
 1070 EVE 1070 (= WTWK) 2101 1/11 Daytimer
 1070 WKOK Sudbury, PA 2200 31/10 Daytimer
 1070 CHOK 0600 29/10
 1080 WMEU Coral Gables FL 0000 18/11 Mix WTIC
 1080 Unid Ad for goisrael.com, some kind of religious ad, don't think WTIC 2300 30/10
 1090 WBAL Baltimore. CBS NX. 0700 14/11 Fairly good considering
 1110 WBT Booming in 0800 6/11
 1120 KMOX 0757 11/11. similar jingle tune to CHQR 0904 12/11
 1120 KMOX 0900 6/11
 1130 11-30 News, Vancouver vg 1041 11/11 + 1000 inc call sign
 1130 KFAN 0900 7/11
 1130 News 1130 Vancouver 1032 6/11, 1100 7/11, 1005 10/11,
 1140 CBC Sydney, NS Good local ID 2159 6/11, VG Local id 2159 9/11, 2159 10/11
 1140 CBC local 1140 id 2159 27/10
 1140 AM 1140 AB. Religious stuff, ID after ad in Quebec. 0931 7/11, 1046 7/11, 0946 7/11
 Saga of a goat with one horn!!, 1003 7/11 vg id massive sig 1000,0903 7/11, 1046 7/11, gd 0819 8/11
 1140 Rebelde. 0700 2/11 Jingle about 0659 ish .. tip DH. Pers First
 1150 WHBY Kimberly. 0700 14/11
 1150 WHBY 0700 + 0900 7/11
 1150 FF // 610 30/10 2300 Last days. Their dates are 1/12 for switch off I believe. 610 should be interesting.
 1160 KSL 0700 17/11
 1160 KSL 1000 + 1005 11/11 Good KSL ID
 1160 KSL Salt Lake City 0800 6/11 WYLL mix, in the clear 0600 6/11, 0700 + 0900 +1000 7/11,
 1160 WSKW Legacy 1160 id. Very poor 0000 10/11
 1160 WCSO East Point, GA 27/10 2300 50kW Daytimer. Poss FKR-UK?? (Also 29/10 2300)
 1160 UNID weird ID, Like Dever, and other 2 cities. Requires another listen. 30/10 2300.
 1170 VOA Philipines 1700 18/11
 1170 WWVA Wheeling, WV 0900 7/11
 1170 VOA Phillipines 1600 5/11
 1170 VOA Phillipines 1600 5/11
 1170 WWVA 0706 3/11 Ann HD, and I had light on with the HD set
 1180 UNID. Relevant Radio in dirt with WHAM. Prob only one possibility, but No ID. 1000 7/11
 1180 Rebelde jingle 29/10 2300
 1188 LV Romanyska ?? Need to relisten. I don't spend much time with Euros 1600 5/11
 1190 CFSL SK 0948 7/11 Good AM 11-90 id. Country. Old file.
 1190 Country mx , no id so far 1027 11/11
 1190 ADVERTS FOR PORTLAND..... ON...WOWO. 1008 12/11 Hoping for elusive KEX!!!
 1190 AM 1190 SK - Unid country mx 1027 7/11, ID 1101 7/11

1190 WLIB ID 2132 8/11 (DH heard power down 2140 10/11)
 1190 unids mix of odd languages, poss SS, mush killed it. recheck. 0700 10/11
 1200 WKOX Loud Rumbos jingle 2232 12/11
 1200 WOAI 0700 7/11, 1000 10/11
 1200 WKOX Rare call ID 0703 31/10
 1210 The Big Talker 0700 1/11
 1220 WHKZ 2200 15/11
 1220 WHK nwk 0700 1/11
 1230 CBC / CFFB Iqaluit, NU Local ID ann 106.1 2059 15/11
 1230 WBLQ / WXNI RI Advertising relaunch of WBLQ 1230 and 96.7 2200 15/11
 1230 CBC Eskimo type language. quite good peaks. Is this CFFB. Only possibility?? 2100
 6/11, 1950 10/11 // web stream
 1230 CBC EE Loud at 0941 1000, 1002 CBC ID, still there 1020 7/11. 2100 7/11, 0000 9/11,
 bbc ws 1020 10/11, More than one possibility??
 1230 WCMC Wildwood, NJ weak 0700 10/11
 1236 unid, snds like Iran or something 1600 5/11
 1240 VOCM Gd pks 2059 nx 2159 15/11, loud 2100 16/11
 1240 VOCM 2031 7/11
 1250 Joy 1250 Nx and live px 2100 16/11
 1250 WEAE Pittsburgh 0300 18/11
 1250 Unid 2300 11/11 ?? Radio. Prob something to do with JOY 12-50
 1250 JOY 12-50 Local px inc traffic 2204 5/11
 1250 AM 1250 Classical Music mix with sports 0944 7/11, Lumber Ad + id 1043 7/11
 1250 WSSP Milwaukee Gd ID 1000 7/11
 1250 UNID Something like Sports Radio 12-50 WSL Need to relisten. LSB 0700 7/11
 1260 Team 12-60 Edmonton, AB. Amazing signal, on top of Euros. IDs ads in Edmonton.
 1026 11/11
 1260 Disney Boston 0456 7/11 Sport by 0500. gd 0657 7/11,
 1260 CFRN Edmonton AB Team 1260 1000 7/11 poor. Best LSB
 1270 Unid poss ID with ads. needs recheck 1021 7/11
 1270 CJCB Sydney NS 0929 8/11
 1270 WTSN Dover, NH am1270am.com 0800 3/11
 1280 BBN Bermuda 2200 15/11
 1280 CFMB 2100 16/11, also 2100 15/11
 1280 WWTC, The Patriot, Minneapolis, MN 0900 13/11
 1280 Unid Long tk, inc lots of RADIO mentioned.. need to listen again 1017 10/11
 1280 WNAM 0705 good 6/11, 0900 6/11
 1280 CFMB pres. Daytimer. Usual Italian tk. No id this time. 2105 6/11
 1280 WFAU Multi Call ids 2200 9/11
 1280 CJ 1280 SK 1024 10/11
 1280 CFMB Montreal Pres. Italian lingo no id 2100 27/10
 1290 WMCS The talk of the town, Greenfield/ Milwaukee 0301 18/11
 1290 CFRW Good id 0958 11/11
 1290 CFRW Mx loud at 1012 7/11, 1024 10/11,
 1290 WRNI Fair 2200 10/11
 1290 WKBK Keane 2200 3/11
 1290 WRNI 2300 28/10
 1290 Unid call, poss WHIO. The Happy Valley's Nx Traffic and Wx stn. need another listen
 0600 1/11
 1300 KKOL Seattle Bloomberg 1106 + 1100 11/11
 1300 WOOD gd Fox Nx 0800 6/11, exc 0900 8/11

1300 Unid with a Reality Radio px 0300 7/11
 1300 KGLO 0959 7/11
 1300 Unid Sports Radio , ads then sports again 1014 10/11
 1300 KKOL Seattle 1000 10/11 First for me here
 1300 WJNO Praise 1300 Cleveland 0000 28/10
 1300 WJZ Baltimore 0700 31/10 ESPN station. Good fade of the usual ones for this pers first
 1310 WIBA Madison Wi 0300 18/11
 1310 CIWW Address for complaints 2356 12/11
 1310 CHLW St Paul, AB 1100 7/11
 1310 CIWW ESPN sports 0000 5/11, 2200 5/11 mix WLOB, 1033 6/11
 1310 WCCW TRaverse City 1000 10/11
 1310 CIWW Ottawa 2300 27/10 Hrd reg this week with ESPN sports games. (VVG 0759 29/10)(ESPN TORONTO 570 ID 0300 29/10)
 1320 CHMB, Vancouver. Chinese languages No ID 1030 7/11, IDs 1100 7/11, 1000 10/11
 1320 unid Mention sports on WAPI?? or maybe WEEI?? Sports progs mention a lot of calls at different times though. 0000 31/10
 1320 WBOB 0000 2/11
 1320 CJMR 0600 1/11 Gd id, // 1250 yl id. Voice of the City id 0000 1/11
 1330 WFNN The Fan 0300 17/11
 1330 SS on WRCA 2234 12/11
 1330 WRCA SS language progs 2235 29/10
 1340 WMDR Augusta ME 0200 7/11 Encouraging Talk Radio
 1340 UNID ESPN. BBC OFF, txn DH tip. ESPN id only hrd. 18 possibilities!!!
 1350 WOYK VG ID 0903 17/11
 1360 WTAQ 0700 17/11
 1360 Unid like KUMA or KONA or maybe nothing 0800 6/11
 1360 WKMI Kalamazoo 0700 8/11
 1360 Unid SS ann best in lsb with notch 1000 10/11
 1360 WKAT FL 0600 4/11
 1360 WDRC Hartford VG sig 0700 2/11
 1370 WDEA 2300 27/10 gd sig
 1380 CKPC 1007 17/11, gd 1000 18/11
 1390 WPLM Plymouth. Ann // 1120 and ?? 0000 18/11
 1390 WRIG 0600 6/11 Strange pronunciation of WRIG, GD 0700 7/11
 1390 WLCM 0300 7/11
 1390 WPLM 2200 9/11 Multi Call, 0000 10/11 money matters radio network
 1390 WFBL 2300 9/11 ABC Nx . Sounded like new call for Charleston, WSPO!!!
 1390 WEGP Extreme signal. Not so strong in general this season I dont think. 2300 3/11
 1390 WSPO Charleston Poor ID, New call for the Charleston stn
 1395 All India Radio 1530 16/11 poor. ee id
 1395 WNKR QRP London Pirate 0200 15/11
 1400 CBC Local ID as 990 and 600 2159 14/11
 1400 WOND / mix CBC 2200 10/11
 1400 CBC 2100 27/10 VG signal. (2159 28/10 ID AS 990 AND 600)
 1400 WOND 2200 27/10 ABC nx
 1410 CFUN is now ESPN Vancouver vg 0900 12/11
 1410 Team 1410 Vancouver ESPN (CFUN) 0800 6/11
 1420 KTOE 0000 18/11 poor id
 1430 CHKT / WENE mix 1000 6/11
 1430 Team WENE VG 2300 9/11
 1430 KLO Ogden, UT Fair 1100 7/11, 1000 7/11

1430 CHKT Great Peak. Tip DH. 3/11 0300
 1440 WHKZ Warren 0700 5/11
 1440 WJAB Multi Call 0300 7/11
 1450 WENJ Good sig, well average. good for them. SS and EE 2300 3/11
 1460 WHIC 0900 6/11
 1460 CJOY 1000 6/11
 1460 CJOY Poor 2300 3/11
 1460 WHIC The station of the cross. 0000 28/10,, 0659 2/11
 1470 WBKV West Bend 0700 14/11
 1470 CJVB Vancouver 0400 11/11
 1470 CJVB Vancouver 0600 6/11pips in the mush. VG 1000 7/11, gd 1100 7/11
 1470 WLAM inc the TV Nx channel WCSH. 2200 5/11
 1470 WLAM 2129 27/10 WCSH ID's = tv audio on WLAM, Gd id 0000 28/10, 2300 28/10
 1470 WJDY 0200 28/10
 1480 WGVU Real oldies 1480 and 850 2359 17/11
 1480 WHBC Canton 0900 12/11
 1490 WBAE (am 1400 and 1490 " ID 2330 3/11
 1490 WBAE 2300 27/10
 1500 KTSP St Paul's, MN 0700 14/11 Clear id in a brief silence toth
 1500 WLQV Detroit 2200 14/11, 0500 15/11, 2100 dom 15/11
 1500 KTSP St Paul's 0900 6/11
 1500 WLQV Detroit 2200 10/11
 1510 WWZN Great ID 1520 WWKB!!!! 0900 14/11
 1510 KGA 1104 11/11 ann 101.1 FM 1st log I think this season. 0900 12/11
 1510 WWZN with a good WWKB id at1540 KXEL Pretty gd pk 0700 13/11
 1510 KCKK 0800 6/11, 0900 7/11, 1100 7/11Seems this is reg these days
 1510 KGA 1000 7/11 1st log this season
 1510 WWZN with WWKB ids. 0732 3/11 0700 4/11
 1510 WLAC Multi Call 2300 28/10, 2300 30/10
 1520 WWKB Extreme signals 0900 6/11
 1521 Peking 1700 VVG 15/11, vvg 1400 16/11
 1530 WCKY Cincinnati 0700 14/11
 1540 WDCD 2200 14/11
 1540 KXEL 0700 29/10
 1540 WDCD 2300 30/10
 1550 SS UNID mix CBC. Like Principales, C??? 0800 8/11
 1557 WYFR 1700 15/11
 1560 KGOW TX 0800 6/11
 1560 KGOW Bellaire, TX 0700 3/11 also 0800 etc
 1570 Unid. Mess. Need to relisten 0900 7/11
 1575 Radio Farda VG signals 1600 5/11
 1580 CKDO Traffic vg sig 2300 3/11
 1580 CKDO VG 0601 29/10
 1590 Usual WAKR / WARV mix 0900 14/11
 1590 KVGB 0900 17/11
 1590 WPUL Plattteville, WI Ann // am 1280 Lancaster ESPN. Poss FKR-UK
 1590 WARV Gd id 0300 7/11
 1590 KVGB The Talk of the town. 0700 29/10
 1590 WVNA GD 2359 29/10, 0559 2/11
 1593 UNID Chinese / Far Eastern language thing?? 1600 11/11
 1600 WUNR Rare EE 2300 8/11

1620 The Zone Omaha 2300 11/11
1620 WDND ESPN etc South Bend. Best ID yet from this one 0300 7/11
1620 WDND South Bend Great ID in a fade of WTAW 1/11 0000
1630 KCJJ 0700 14/11, weird ann of call 2305 15/11
1630 KCJJ 0000 11/11
1630 La Grande 0600 6/11
1630 WRDW Augusta 2300 2/11 (unusual, KCJJ more common)
1640 WTNI Power down mid ID 2300 15/11
1640 Super Radio - Utah 0600 6/11
1640 Disney Milwaukee call ids 0100 7/11
1640 WTNI vg 2301 30/10
1650 CINA 0100 13/11
1650 CINA 0600 6/11
1660 WWRU 0500 15/11
1660 The Avenue FL 0100 18/11
1660 KXTR KS Classical. hrd before 2240 till 2300 ID. KQWB Fargo ID too 2300 12/11
1660 The Avenue, FL 0000 6/11, 2302 8/11
1660 WQLR Kalamazoo 0800 6/11, 0800 8/11
1660 KQWB Fargo 0300 7/11
1660 KRZI TX 0700 29/10
1670 WTDY Madison 0600 6/11
1670 WFSM Dry Branch 0100 4/11 foxsports1670.com
1680 KRJO Poor id 2300 15/11
1680 KRJO 2300 12/11 Great call ID and Old School catch phrase.
1680 Unid SS. Best USB. Prob 3 to chose from 0600 6/11
1680 KJRO LA. "Old School 16-80" id 2300 3/11
1690 WPTX 0500 15/11
1690 CHTO Toronto 2100 16/11
1690 CHTO 0600 6/11, 0900 7/11
1690 WPTX Lexington Pk Gd. CNN Radio 2200 8/11
1690 WPTX Lexington Park 2230 27/10, 30/10 2300, 2/11 2300
1700 KKLf Sports Radio 1310 The Ticket 13/11 2300, vvg id 2300 15/11, 0900 17/11
1700 KVNS Dallas Cowboys Radio Network. (Def KVNS, not KKLf). 13/11 0100
1700 San Diego 1700 0600 6/11
1700 WEUP 2357 29/10

**Ken's TADX
Corner****LATEST LOGS: OCTOBER 2009**

A site mainly dedicated to Mediumwave Dxing

**Ken's TADX
Corner**All DX Logs - FM / TV DX - DX Equipment - Audio Downloads - Other Items - DX chat [Contact](#)

590	Radio Musical	CUBA	26/10/09 0700 (No real id 25/10 0705)
610	CKTB	Saint Catharine, ONT	1/10/09 0558
670	WWFE	Miami, FL	5/10/09 0700
1070	WFLI	Lookout Mountain, TN	26/10/09 2300 (Daytimer)
1160	WCFO	East Point, GA	26/10/09 2300 (Daytimer)
1290	Radio Treize (13)	Mexico	2/10/09 0630
1300	WJZ	Baltimore, MD	31/10/09 0700 (ESPN)
1310	KNOX	Grand Forks, ND	20/10/09 0700
1320	WTSJ	Randolph, VT	26/10/09 0000 Vy poor
1340	WSTV	STEUBENVILLE, OH	26/10/09 0000 Vy poor
1470	WJDY	Salisbury, MD	22/10/09 2300 + 23/10/09
1590	KCNN	East Grand Forks, MN/ ND	13/10/09 0700
1590	KVGB	Great Bend, KS	15/10/09 0530 +0606 +0706
1590	WVNA	Tuscumbia, AL	19/10/09 0619
1640	KDIA	Vallejo, CA	20/10/09 0500
1640	KBJA	Sandy, UT	21/10/09 0600
1650	KFOX	Torance, CA	20/10/09 0600

Personal Firsts this month = 17

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT
* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER 2009:

The logs have been slow at coming on line this week, due to the time being spent searching through Perseus files.

A few extra pages are planned for this site, as well as a new page which will act as a site index, where there will be links to all pages on line, some of which are now lost in the monthly logs and news. Not every page can fit on the pop up menu system at the top, not neatly anyway. Anyway, new pages tomorrow or Monday, when November begins.

WJZ BALTIMORE, MD - 1300:

This rare three letter station was in at 0700 this morning. A personal first. ESPN.

CIWW OTTOWA - OLDIES 1310:

This station has been pretty loud this week, and has been heard carrying the programmes of ESPN during a special important game of some kind. (I know nothing of sport).

I saw this wrongly reported as a pres WCCW. The reporter had not waited for an ID!!

ASIAN MW DX - NEW STATION HEARD:

There has again been the usual power houses from Asia coming in here in the early European evenings on MW. China is probably the most common and easily heard on 1521. So far I have also heard Taiwan's WYFR outlet on 1557, and VOA Thailand on 1575. I have problems here with a once clear channel of 1566. There are two powerful UK station on the freq, making dx difficult. I must be at the right distance from the UK stations, as they are very loud here. Some dxers manage to log India and Korea on 1566. I have done in the past, but not this season.

But there was one of the powerhouses that always eluded me. VOA Phillipines 1170. This eluded me even since the days when they were on 1143. But on Thursday at 1700, there it was, signing off with the familiar Yankee Doodle Dandy. Ironically it was the Voice of Russia interval signal that was heard on the following night at the same time.

For the record, the best antenna here for the Asian dx is no doubt a 1/4 wave inverted L, cut to the hf end of MW.

091027_1600_1575_voa_thailand.mp3

091029_1700_1170_voa_phillipines_ssb_then_am_inc_magic.mp3

BOOMER 1570:

Does 1570 still id as BOOMER??? Not heard that ID in a while.

CBC 600 AUDIO:

Someone has given the CBC station on 600 a few more db of audio. It is still not 100% mod level by any means, but a little higher.

WKOX - 1200 - A RARE CALL ID:

I had a rare call ID today, 31st at 0700 from WKOX, Rumba 1200. Usually it either doesn't peak at ID time, or doesn't give a call.

DAYTIMERS LAST DAY:

Last day today for daytimers, before they change times to both an hour earlier due to clocks changing tonight, as well as their times changing on the per month basis. Maybe they remain connected to sunrise / sunset??

1395 LAST DAY??

Is this the last day that 1395, and therefore 1390 and 1400 will be wide open for DX? Will the much heralded return on Big L happen tonight or tomorrow??? I hope not for DXing sake. Again QRP pirate WNKR will be beaten off!!! They had to leave 1476 when the SS QRM came on air.

1593 STILL OFF AIR:

It has been good to be rid of the German jamming station on 1593 for the last few weeks. They were off air for service work, but their three weeks I think is now up. I wonder if they will bother to come back on and waste more electricity, or if the listener they had has just given up.

BEACON TYPE THING HEARD 0700 - 0800 ROUGHLY:

Is anyone else hearing a kind of a rough beacon around 1068.6 in the mornings??? Noted on the 0700 recordings for some time now, and the 0800 recordings. I have come to the conclusion it is not local here in the shack, as it is not there all the time.

BBC RADIO ULSTER OFF AIR 0300:

David Hamilton from Davie's Blogs and logs noticed that BBC Radio Ulster was off air at 0300 on 29th. Unfortunately the short 3m window of my recording produced nothing other than a very weak ESPN stn, and at ID time, the channel was complete graveyard mush/ growl. There is a mere 18 possibilities on 1340 for ESPN, according to TOPAZ!!!!

What a pity there was nothing showing itself, during this rare silent period.

IS IT TIME THE BBC SAVED SOME CASH:

It is a pity that the BBC don't switch off the 1341, 810, and 882 regionals at night (and associated smaller relays). They only relay the English "Five Live" anyway. That would be quite a saving when you consider the 400 hundred kilowatts plus output being wasted for 5 or 6 hours during the night. Quite a total in a year.

Us dxers should make a point to put it to the BBC that in these days when they like to claim that AM is not important, they should try and save themselves some money. It is believed that most listeners are on FM, and an increasing amount on DAB and other platforms. The night hours have a very small percentage of audience anyway, and to copy the output that is already available on another frequency overnight seems a pathetic waste of precious energy. Maybe they should start encouraging FM listeners and DAB by switching off the big MW transmitters at 7pm!!!

CBC NEWS ALL CHANGE:

David Hamilton was reporting the other day, the changed toth on CBC, but when I tuned in to one of the other CBC stations, I heard the same old chimes and toth. But when I tried to find that point again, all I heard was all CBC stations carrying the new style tune. I must have been listening to an older file at the time David alerted me!!!

The familiar and unique chimes seem to be dropped, last noted on Monday 26th, in favour of a very quiet sounding tune that is much more difficult to hear under extreme MW dx conditions. I can give the example of 1010 CBC Calgary last winter, my first log of CBR, when I only heard the sound of the unique CBC chimes. It will not be so easy now I don't think to hear it in the mush with the new quiet tune under "stressful dx conditions".

This type of log is much the same as dxers who are satisfied of a log of Vancouver 1470, when they hear only the unique 3 pips. I must say that I am one of those who is satisfied with that as a log. The pips are as unique to CJVB 1470, as the CBC chimes are / were to CBR 1010.

Look at my "identify that news service" page for the new CBC tune.

WCFO - EAST POINT - GA:

On Tuesday night while chasing down daytimers, and there wasn't much "pookin'", but I came across what I think could be a station in GA, WCFO. Initially I thought it might be the Homer City station, but after some extensive listening, and also tnx to Paul C for listening to the clip, it may well be the GA stn. It does sound like WCFS mind you, or could it be WCCS Homer City. The city name is a bit difficult to make out. From TOPAZ, the station details are:

1160 WCFO EAST POINT GA 50000 160 DA-2 TALK

I heard it again on 29th and had a better ID. It **was** GA, a potential for an FKR-UK

Also heard on 29th, WKGA Atlanta 920, another daytimer. This one was heard here last winter.

091027_2300_1160_unid_like_wcfo_east_point_ga.mp3

091029_2300_1160_wcso_east_point_ga.mp3

LINKS TO ALL AUDIO CLIPS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS:

091026_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain_tn.mp3

091026_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain_tn_b.mp3 (different perseus settings)

091030_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain.mp3

091031_0704_1200_wkox_good_call_id.mp3

091027_2300_1160_unid_like_wcfo_east_point_ga.mp3

091029_2300_1160_wcso_east_point_ga.mp3

091029_1700_1170_voa_phillipines_ssb_then_am_inc_magic.mp3

091030_0003_1310_ciww_inc_espn_.mp3

091029_2249_1310_ciww_sports_ann.mp3

091029_0800_1310_ciww_ottowa_vg.mp3

091026_0000_1340_wstv_steubenville_oh.mp3

091023_2200_1500_wfif_milford_amazing_mess_then_clear_id.mp3

091029_0700_1520_wwkb_superb.mp3

080920_0603_1520_webex_ad.mp3 (From last year, but often confused as a call in weak condx)

091027_1600_1575_voa_thailand.mp3

091030_2357_1700_weup_ab.mp3

SONY HD RADIO:

I had an e mail yesterday from an old colleague I haven't heard from in a while. He had been listening to a top band discussion on the Sony HD radio. Just to make it clear, the HD that I have been trying to bring in is the MW version of HD, which is proving very difficult. I have had the HD light on for the channels listed below. Bear in mind that the HD light flashes when HD is detected, but it hasn't ever locked on yet. A couple of times the radio has went silent, as though the HD was about to kick in, but then it eventually reverted back to AM. The longest it was out for was about 15 seconds. I shall keep on trying. If ever I do get a brief HD signal, I think I will remain pleased with the first instance. It looks like an uphill battle at this distance.

Compared to the Perseus, the HD set sounds easy and nice on the ears. It is a nice quiet radio when there is a mid Euro channel TADX freq available. (Meaning the stations with the widest space away from the Euros, eg 1130, 1120 etc)

HD NOTED ON THE FOLLOWING:

660 - Prob WFAN
 680 - WRKO??
 880 - Prob WCBS
 770 - WABC??
 1010 - Prob WINS
 1080 - Prob WTIC
 1100 - Prob WTAM
 1120 - Prob KMOX
 1130 - Prob KFAN
 1140 - Unknown, poss VA?
 1200 - Prob WOAI
 1560 - Prob Disney

Every station is presently UNID, as there has never been an indication of text on screen or HD audio.

The Sony is capable of receiving both AM and FM analogue, as well as AM and FM versions of the American HD. Not that I am a believer in the FCC granting permission to jam the MW band with white noise. But I would like to dx the signal, even if it was only once. See a more detailed description below of the Sony HD set.

Audio clips from the Sony HD set off of MW. You can see how having to stay put on 10kHz effects 880:

091031_0712_570_reloj_gd_on_sony_hd_rx.mp3

091031_0713_590_vocm_gd_on_sony_hd_rx.mp3

091031_0709_880_wcbs_gd_on_sony_hd_rx.mp3

091031_0707_1130_wbbr_gd_on_sony_hd_rx.mp3

091031_0722_1700_kvns_poor_on_sony_hd_rx.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2009:

PERSONAL FIRSTS BETWEEN LAST NIGHT AND THE NIGHT BEFORE:

1320 WTSJ - RANDOLPH:

Because of the Perseus technology, it is now possible to listen to the radio at your leisure, and re listen to the spectrum recorded again and again. This paid off last night while on the Skype text chat to Paul C and Alf A. Paul had heard a very familiar and regularly noted ann heard on WEAV 960. This is common to 1320 WTSJ Randolph, VT, which was the one Paul had just noted, and what all the excitement was about!! The time was 0000 Monday 26th. I already had WJAS Philadelphia, PA on this channel at that time, but I tried again, first in USB, alongside WJAS, but heard nothing else clearly. In LSB however, there was a very weak ann, exactly like the 960 WEAV ann. So WTSJ log, tnx to the keen ears of Paul C. Tnx OM.

1340 WSTV - STEUBENVILLE, OH:

This rarity also popped up at 0000 on 26th October. It was difficult to pick up the ID, but both Paqul C and I have gave it a listen, and are content that it is the above station. It was one of those hours that the signals were peaking with better than average signals on the graveyards. 1230 also produced an ID. WCMC Wildwood.

Anyhow, other than the CBC Radio 1 ann that had to be filed under unid, due to there being more than 1 possibility, I have never identified anything on 1340. The main cause is probably BBC Ulster, though even when it is not splattering, the growl is just like 1240 and 1230 most of the time. Graveyard growl.

091026_0000_1340_wstv_steubenville_oh.mp3

1070 WFLI - LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, TN:

Saving the best till last. The above two can barely be called ID's. This daytimer was first noted by Paul C first on 25th at 2300. There was no sign here. Whilst I was busy with other work on the PC last night, 2300 came up fast. I had not been prepared for the top of the hour, and ended up having to restart the Perseus software a few times, due to using too many other applications. I managed to restart the Perseus reliably with about 30 seconds to spare!!

I sat on 1070 for the top of the hour, but all I could hear was IBOC hash and see a signal peaking above it, but with nothing dominant. Then suddeny at the top of the hour, I was rewarded by the ann below!! What an exotic name for a town. Lookout Mountain!!! Superb. It is a 50kW station daytime, and 2.5kW at night.

There are a few 50kW transmitters on 1070 by day. They are well worth watching out for at the end of the month of October and November, and the beginning of the month in Feb or March. This is due to the changing darkness/ daylight path. There are a few days left till the daytimers have to shut up shop an hour or a half hour earlier, with winter coming in fast. Another one of the big 1070 stations made it to my radios last winter. WAPI Alabama.

Audio clip of Lookout Mountain below. Notice there is both an ABC news and IRN USA

Radio news.

091026_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain_tn.mp3

091026_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain_tn_b.mp3 (different perseus settings)

091030_2300_1070_wfli_lookout_mountain.mp3

ADDITIONAL LOGS:

780 Radio Coro Venezuela. 0701 27/10 (tip David H)

1070 WFLI Lookout Mountain TN 2300 26/10

1120 WBMW 0759 26/10. Very poor

1310 CIWW - Oldies 13-10 2300 26/10 Gd last day or so.

1320 WTSJ Randolph, VT. Zone 960 ann well below WJAS 0000 26/10 0000

Personal First

1340 WSTV, STEUBENVILLE, OH 26/10 0000 Personal first

1430 The Team 0800 27/10

1480 UNID EWTN amongst WSAR 0800 27/10 (Tip Paul C, but no id either)

1490 WBAE 2201 26/10

1590 WAKR 0200 27/10

1640 WTNI 0200 27/10

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 26th OCTOBER 2009:

Some reasonable band condx have been with us at various times over the last few days. Some high A and K indices have also made morning listening so very average on some mornings too. I found another couple of frequencies that HD signals from the States are present. They are 1140 and 660. Perhaps the 1140 will be WQBA?? Remember that this is only a flashing light on the Sony HD set, a sign of weak HD being present. I have had nothing locking on to HD as yet.

LOGS FROM THE BANDS:

540 WFLA FL 24/10 0700

570 WMCA NY 0700 26/10 gd ids

590 Radio Musical, Cuba. La Musica En Cuba jin 0705 25/10. Also ID 0700 26/10

850 WEEI vg 0700 26/10

920 WDMC Melbourne, FL. The station that the lord has made!!!! Tell that to the technicians and riggers who put the mast up.. I wonder how much sweat the lord lost in the construction.. lol!! 0700 26/10

950 CKNB Satellite WX 2227 24/10
 980 WTEM Washington ESPN and multi call ID 0700 980
 1030 WBZ Boston. Very good IDs leading up to the toth. ILR AYR very low music at this time 26/10 0200. Tnx Davie Hamilton for the tip of ILR Ayr quiet audio at this time

 1060 WBIX Boston 0300 26/10
 1130 WBBR NY. Vy Vy srong and loud 0800 25/10
 1140 CBC local ID 2059 24/10
 1170 WWVA Wheeling gd 0700 26/10
 1230 WCMC Wildwood NJ. Toth id 0000 26/10
 1320 WJAS Pittsburgh 0000 26/10
 1360 WDRC Hartford 0000 26/10
 1370 WXXI Rochester 0700 26/10
 1400 CBC Local ID 2059 24/10
1470 WJDY MD inc CNN NX 23/10 2300 (Pers 1st) Also 2300 24/10,
 1470 Radio Formula, MWex 0200 24/10
 1470 WNYW 2234 25/10
 1480 WSAR 0000 26/10
 1500 WFIF 2200 23/10
 1500 Federal Nx Radio Washington. Music prog which had me thinking briefly, till id 2256 25/10
 1510 WWZN Boston. ID as REVOLUTION BOSTON!! 23/10 2200
 1520 WWKB. Vy strong and loud 0700 25/10
 1540 CHIN id mumbled but strong signal 0700 25/10
 1540 WDCD 0000 26/10
 1590 WARV 0700 25/10, 0600 26/10
 1650 CJRS 0700 26/10
 1660 WWRU VG 2200 23/10, also 2300 25/10
 1670 Dry Branch Ga, Fox Sports 1670. 2300 25/10
 1680 WTTM SS LV de Mexico progs. 2200 23/10

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2009:

CLOCKS CHANGE THIS WEEKEND:

I had assumed the change back to GMT time would take place next week, but in fact as the change happens at 2am local, it is tomorrow night, as the last Sunday in October is this weekend. 31st is a Saturday!! So we get an hour longer in bed on Sunday morning, or maybe an hour later in the pub the night before??? (Tried that old trick in the past, they don't bite these days. Gone are the old lock in's we had 10 years ago!!)



SONY XDR-F1HD - GENERAL OPINION OF THE HD RX



I resigned myself to the reality that I am not going to the much anticipated radio day in Amsterdam next month. It is a shame, but a weekend in Holland will end up too dear for me this year. So I bought myself a little American Sony HD receiver instead, which it seems was made in China!!!!!!

The following observations are made of the unit straight out of the box, no modifications, except cutting the American plug off and fitting a UK type!!

These little gadgets are all the rage in the FM DX community, and are remarkably cheap. £55 plus postage. The reviews of this receiver for FM that I have read have been really over the top with praise. It was as though the set had some unique and really "hot" spec. That was one of the reasons I bought it. The second reason was to see if there was any American HD going to be possible across the Atlantic.

During my first trials here, I am comparing side by side with the much heralded Sony SB-920, dual input wide/ narrow tuner. This truly is a great receiver in itself, but I had never read a decent A-B comparison.

Both receivers are running from the same antenna, vertically polarised, and running from the same splitter amp, and fed through the audio desk at the same equaliser settings.

So I began trying the known local channels for selectivity, and sensitivity.

1. 97.4 Belfast and 97.5 Girvan are close in freq, (as well as geographical area). Results showed the HD set was about the same as the SB-920. A little rumble from the stronger ILR AYR 97.5, heard on both sets. Audio on the HD set was far worse, and sounded more like MW, than FM. The SB 920 provided much better audio on both frequencies, and with no difference in selectivity noted, the SB-920 won on that test. My old Grundig Satellit 3400 is also capable of splitting 97.5 and 97.4 equally as good as the two Sony sets, or certainly very close to it.

2. Next, the Kintyre FM frequencies on 107.7 and 107.1. 107.7 is much stronger here, and apart from the audio quality, both radios produced about the same results. On 107.1 on a weak transmission, on a clear frequency, I much prefer the audio of the SB-920. There was absolutely no benefit of any improved signal strength on the HD set.

3. After trying various frequencies, I found a tight one. 101.1 is a weak Edinburgh station, while on 101.3 I have very local Classic FM. On the SB-920, Classic FM is more of a problem, and the weak Edinburgh signal is barely heard. On the HD set, the station is audible without Classic FM splatter, although still very weak. The HD set had the edge on this freq.

The HD set decreases audio if the signal is weak, so volume has to be turned up to compensate.

SONY XDR-F1HD - RDS:

RDS is quite important to FM dxers. I prefer to hear IDs myself, and much prefer to have audio clips. But I have loads of little movie clips of flashing and scrolling RDS. To help check the RDS on the two receivers, David Hamilton and I tuned .1 off freq on each set, and on the count of three, both tuned to a strong local, and waited. The SB-920 showed RDS faster. But the story doesn't stop there. On a weaker station that was touch and go with RDS, the HD set won over the SB-920. The word GALAXY was up on the HD set while there was nothing on the SB-920. Both are quite slow to respond to RDS however.

Is the audio quality on FM kept to a lesser standard on the HD set, so as to fool the public into thinking that the HD is so much better??? Or is the American FM system so very different from here?? Who knows? But knowing what I know now, I wouldn't rush out and replace the SB-920 with the XD set. It is a fine addition though to a dx shack, and at a very reasonable price, and probably beats many other FM tuners easily. I find the sensitivity of the HD set **absolutely no** different to the 920. Selectivity is about the same with moderate strength signals, but if you are tuning a very weak station right next to a very strong local, then the HD set has the edge in some circumstances.

MORAL OF THE STORY: Do not part with your Sony SB-920. I do fancy that the SB-920 will remain to be my FM DX receiver of choice when the season comes in again.

So is it worth while buying a set from the States, paying import duty etc, throwing together a 110v power supply, rather than using a UK tuner, tried and tested in the SB 920.. But there is the stumbling block. They are no longer available, except on the second hand market.

SONY XDR-F1HD - PRESETS, OR LACK OF:

The presets on the HD set revert back to the defaults after power down. So there is no point in programming any local channels in to it. It makes you think this unit has been built as cheaply as possible, or without much thought input, if the presets do not even

work properly!!

You may say, "Oh yes, such and such has shared a modification on their web pages, of how to add a back up battery", but that is hardly the point. Imagine if your television presets had to be retuned every time they were plugged in!!! It is not everyone who wants to start tearing their sets to pieces anyway, if they have just purchased a new radio. And not everyone would feel confident making technical mods.

SONY XDR-F1HD - THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING:

Below are a few audio clips to compare the two receivers. Remember the sets are both supplied from the same antenna from a multi way splitter amp. Despite my best efforts at the time of recording, I was finding it difficult to mimic the results on 101.1 as mentioned above. The signal on the very weak 101.1 was barely there today, except during some fluttery strong signals. The SB-920 has the benefit of tuning to .05mHz up or down, where as the HD set can only tune .1 at a time, so the weak station on 101.1 was still audible on both receivers.

1. Good strong signal on ILR AYR on 96.7 FM. HD receiver is less topky.
2. Strong signal from ILR Glasgow on 102.5. No wonder I don't listen to them with this content!! HD set much less punchy.
3. Medium strength signal from Galaxy Glasgow tx. RDS was more consistant on HD rx.
4. Very weak 107.1 Argyll FM, whose audio is not wonderful at the best of times. Basic flat and non compressed sounding.
5. Very weak signal on Argyll FM 106.5, clear channel, no other stations near by.
6. Cool FM Belfast 97.4. Again the SB-920 audio sticks out a mile here. I see Cool FM have these silly mumbling ID's too that are virtually inaudible.
7. New addition on 24th Oct. I found an example of BBC Radio Cumbria on 104.1 which is very weak, coming through weak but readable on the HD set, but due to the strong local on 104.3, BBC Radio 4 from Darvel, the SB920 can't separate the two. Winner here, the HD set.



The Sony HD rx is on top of the classic NRD 515.
The power unit bottom right is a variable supply useful for the required 110V



Sony SB920, still a great receiver

SONY XDR-F1HD - MW ON THE SONY HD:

I was pleasantly surprised by the AM audio quality of the HD set. Many Euro channels are beyond the 10kHz channels, and not listenable. Some are however, and the response on MW is quite good. It is also good on some of the American channels, eg 1130, or 1080.

NB: The radio is NOT a MW DX machine, but it does pick up TADX, as will any old junk domestic type radio. The reception of long distance AM stations on kids toy radios seems to be a hobby in itself these days, though this fruitless distraction is not for me. Time spent listening on cheap junk for me would be time not spent listening to dx on

my proper receivers, which I spend too much time in front of anyway!!

The Sony HD set has built in AM HD, which is sometimes referred to as IBOC, or to put it another way, jamming with white noise. I thought it would be interesting to try this here in Europe, but the chances I think are slim. Look how unreliable strong DRM is with a skywave signal, never mind a dx signal from 3000 miles away. So trying the band yesterday morning when the signals were well down on the previous day due to high K's and Aurora.

The Sony HD has an HD light, which is always out when listening to European signals. But when listening to American stations, if there is a weak HD signal there, the light will come on and flash. If the signals were strong, I think the idea is that the HD light would lock and the HD signal would switch on automatically, if there was a good enough signal.

I did receive an indication of a weak HD signal from the following.

880, 1080, 1100, 1120, 1200. Also over the weekend I noted the HD light flashing on 660 and 1140. Not sure which station it was on 1140. Listings say the common WQBA has no HD, but WRVA in Virginia does. Add to this 1010, 1130 and 1560, and we have a reasonable selection of signals making it to Europe.

The weak HD signal present indication was as far as it went however. Nothing further noted than a flashing light, which is NOT dx by any means!! I can say however that on MW in the European evenings, even on strong and busy frequencies, the HD light does not come on by itself in error.



[CLICK HERE TO SEE A MOVIE CLIP OF WTIC ON 1080 WITH HD LIGHT ON \(7 meg\)](#)



Often this mush is seen and heard here in Europe as white noise, much the same sound as DRM jamming. But the technical spec of IBOC is very different than that of DRM. IBOC has two signals, one either side of the main AM signal. DRM is an independent signal on one freq. I have no idea if you need the two sides of the IBOC to be of reasonable signal level to lock the HD signal. If that is the case, it becomes more difficult here in the UK. The mush is often seen and heard around 1070, from what I always took to be WTIC 1080. This being the case, the other half of the HD signal will be somewhere in the middle of Talk Radio which is strong on 1089.



LOGS FOR THIS LAST WEEK OR SO:

540 CBC Ann 540 cbc will be off air tomorrow 19/10 2300, 0200 20/10
 570 CKGL 570 news 17/10 0600
 580 WCMA NY 0000 23/10

630 CFCO 0605 15/10
 640 CBC local id 2300 19/10
 640 AM 640 Toronto CFMJ 0605 15/10, Call ID 0700 20/10
 640 Unid sounded like Disney kids, but may have been screechy ad on Toronto. NO id
 0600 19/10
 660 WFAN 0600 21/10 VG
 680 CJOB 0600 21/10
 720 WGN 15/10 0700 GD
740 Warbler 0659 15/10
 760 SS mix WJR 0607 15/10
 770 CHQR 0606 15/10, 0600 21/10
 790 WAXY 0700 20/10
 830 SS INC Jin 0613 15/10
 830 WCRN 2 Audio feeds. Tried fixing 2300 14/10
 850 WFTL FL 0600 14/10, 0300 20/10
870 Warbler on 870 as Reloj ID 0400 15/10. Small wobble
 890 WLS 0700 21/10
 917 Nearly Nigeria. fair in the splatter 2225 14/10
 920 Unid IRN USA RADIO NEWS still coming through sometimes 0601 21/10
 920 WDMC FL EWTN programming 0700 23/10
950 Warbler. Quite good at this time 0619 +0614 better 14/10, 23/10 0700
 950 CFAM 0000 20/10, 0300 21/10
 990 German test tones very wide band. Tnk tip Alfie 2254 15/10
 1020 Radio Guama, Cuba poor. jin 0601 22/10. Tip DH
1070 KNX 0600 20/10
1110 KFAB 0600 15/10
 1130 ESPN/ KFAN 0627 15/10
 1140 AM 1140 AB 0701 17/10, 0608 20/10
 1140 WQBA Miami 20/10 0600 regular
 1150 WHBY 0630 21/10 VVG
 1210 The Big Talker, Philadelphia WPHT 0700 17/10
 1250 WSSP 0605 Gd id 15/10
 1250 AM 1250 MB 0300 15/10
 1270 Unid ann 92.1. WMKT has 92.1, but no id. 14/10 0600
 1280 WNAM 0705 15/10
 1290 CFRW MB 21/10 0631
 1300 Praise 1300 Cleveland OH 0637 15/10
1310 KNOX Grand Forks 0700 20/10 Personal First
 1390 WLCM 0505 14/10
 1440 WHKZ 0000 22/10 Tip DH
 1470 SS Long tk 0700 17/10
 1470 Unid Business Talk Radio Network 2258 18/10 Poss FL WMGG, But no ID
 1470 WLAM The oldies Channel 870 and 1470 inc CNN nx 18/10 2300, 2301 21/10 gd
 1470 WNYW 2232 20/10
 1500 WLQV 0400 20/10
 1510 WLAC Nashville 19/10 0000
 1520 WWKB Exceptional signal 0000 19/10
 1530 Vatican Radio Int sig - See this old int sig still in use 15/10 2200
 1540 CHIN 0000 20/10 ID
 1550 CBC Radio 1 Windsor ID local ID 0000 22/10
1560 KGOW 21/10 0800, 0700, 0600,etc. Gd ids 0700 DISNEY gd 0659

1570 CKMW Winkler. 1st log in a while 0559 17/10 Country 15-70

1590 WAKR ads 0505 14/10, 0650 15/10

1590 KVGB Great Bend, KS!! 0706 15/10. Also 0606 15/10, 0606 16/10. Gd 19/10 0606 0534, 21/10 0800 Personal First

1590 WVNA Voice of Northern Alabama 0619 19/10 Personal First

1593 Euro Sign on with kind of Int sig 0300 16/10

1600 WUNR in EE for once. Irish Hour!! 0100 16/10

1600 KPNP, MN Chanting. This must be pres, as never any ids. Gd 0635, 0700 20/10

1620 KOZN ESPN Omaha - The Zone 0700 20/10

1630 KCJJ VG 0600 16/10, 0700 20/10

1630 KKGM 0459 20/10 0600 20/10

1630 La Grande 0500 20/10

1640 WTNI 0400 15/10

1640 WKSH Disney Milwaukee 2300 19/10

1640 KDIA CA 0500 20/10 Personal First

1640 KBJA UTAH!! 0600 21/10 Personal First

1650 KFOX CA 0600 20/10 Personal First

1650 CINA 0459 20/10

1650 KCNZ 0600 16/10

1650 Long gap then pips into CBS news. 0400 20/10

1650 KKGM 0300 20/10

1660 KRZI 0500 20/10

1660 KQWB Fargo 0700 20/10 also 0600

1660 WCNZ FL 0400 20/10

1660 WQLR Kalamazoo 0300 22/10

1670 WTDY Madison 14/10 0600 19/10 0606, 0000 20/10

1680 WPRR Ada MI 0559 17/10, 19/10 2300,

1680 Multiple calls from Ma, = WTTM 0201 16/10

1700 Sports Radio 1300 = KBGG 0600 16/10

1700 KVNS 0702 20/10

I have heard so much more of course, of the usual regulars, that I don't even write in the log book.

BRIEF NOTES:

La Grande on 1630 is USB only.

CW on 600 seems to be from 594, the both tones.

KVNS seems to have dropped ABC News on 1700

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2009:

We did deserve a break from the very average band conditions. I think we have it!!

A poss FKR-UK in the UTAH stn.

091020_0700_1560_wqew_kgow_great_ids_both.mp3

091021_0600_1640_kbja_sandy_utah.mp3

PERSEUS TIPS, TRICKS AND OBSERVATIONS:

I noticed a bit of overloading the other day with the Perseus, whewn I was messing around with the pre amp. That wasn't there before, but I happened to notice that the three functions that don't seem to do anything were switched on. The preamp is one of them, and for the first time, I noticed this built in preamp was best switched off, and the problem immediately vanished.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2009:

CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' :

Today I have had a mixed bag. Initially my dx neighbour, Paul C in Troon had a long and interesting list on the Skype MW DX Cluser. He heard many rarities from ND, and SD, yet my MW band seemed full of strong "local" common stations. But in between the strong mush and the strong common stuff, there lurked a few surprises. I heard the same station as Paul on 1310, **KNOX Grand Forks**, but that was the only one of interest I thought. Then after checking 0500 I found that the X band was not only quite good, but there was a CA station on 1640, in the clear. **KDIA 1640**. And another CA popped up at 0600 on **1650, KFOX**. This was reported by Jurgen in Germany yesterday or the day before, although his times were kept secret in his entry on the Skywaves MW board. Nice recording though! At the time I checked my own recordings, but found nothing worthy of note. Yet today, there are three personal firsts so far, two from CA!!

INJUNS HEARD AGAIN AND FKR-UK:

The station I used to affectionately refer to as the INJUNS was out and about today. On 1600 at 0630 as well as 0700 the strange and bizzare chanting from radio station KPNP in MN was heard. See audio clips below. I once thought it was the chanting of American Indians, but it seems it is chanting from the far east. It sounded very like Native American chants one morning featured on 1500 WFED or whatever they called themselves that week.

I think everyone that has heard this is still lacking IDs with this one, but during a live dxing session, Paul C matched their web stream. So all we need now is a chanting ID then. If anyone is claiming this as a FKR-UK without a proper ID, then I must dispute the claim, as a friend of mine in Glasgow heard this who was not in any dx club. A fine example of my long held belief that the term UK FIRST should be replaced by something like I use on this page, FKR-UK, which means first known report in the UK. Maybe better sounding letters with a ring to them would benefit, but for now, they are what I use on these pages.

Tnx to Guy Atkins in Seattle for pointing out my typo KPNP - not KPHP. Need Specs I think.. LOL..

AUDIO CLIPS BEFORE LOGS:

OK then, the audio clips are ready before the logs today, so here goes.

091020_0200_540_cbc_off_air_ann.mp3

091020_0608_0600_1140_am_1140_wqba.mp3

091019_0619_1590_wvna_alabama.mp3

091019_0606_1590_kvgb_gd_wx_re_short_vs.mp3

091020_0700_1600_pres_kpnp_watertown_mn.mp3

091020_0702_1620_zone_omaha_kozn.mp3

091020_0500_1630_krnd_wy_la_grande.mp3

091020_0500_1640_kdia_ca_poor.mp3

091020_0600_1650_kfox_ca.mp3

BAND JUMPING AT 0800:

The band seemed to be jumping at 0800 this morning. I never really checked the 0800 GMT time slot in a while, so maybe this has been the case for a week or so?? Winter is upon us for sure.

JAMMING STILL OFF AIR:

It is so nice to be rid of the German jamming QRM on 1593, but make hay while the sun shines. It could return at any time. I'm sure their listener will look forward to that!!!!

I recall when the so called western countries hated the white noise the Soviets broadcast in the middle of AM broadcast bands. Look who is doing the jamming now, with the ITU approval it seems. What does that tell you?

NO LOGS FOR A FEW DAYS:

I have not typed up any logs for a few days, but here goes with what I have heard:

NB Logs will be added here shortly

MORE FAULTY EQUIPMENT:

I often comment here on these pages about the faulty equipment, or maybe poorly maintained equipment that one comes across as a dxer. We are all used to the flat and low audio on 950 CKNB, and this summer saw something go wrong with the usually strong CBC transmitter on 600. The audio is still barely audible.

There is another one to add to the list. Noted tonight, as well as this morning, with not much more than a carrier, was Greenland 570. Let's see if Greenland make repairs now that the word is they will probably leave MW. CBC seem to be in no hurry to repair AM 600 Sydney, NS.

QUOTES FROM THE PAST:

This from my 22nd October 2007 entry.....

Nothing worthy of note, but 1290 CJBK ided 0800, Exc WWL id on 870 at 0700, and ESPN 1450, no real id. 1370 pres WDEA, very strong and clear during music 0719, not ided though. Seemed to be a lot of stations on a lot of frequencies. O if only we could record the full mw band at the peak times....

And this from 1st November

Finally I was reading on the web about the new Perseus SDR. WAHHHHHHHHH.. This is the technology we could only dream of even last year!! Recording 400kHz of bandwidth and playing back at your leisure, all the toth ids!!!! Guess who needs to stay out the pub for a few weeks!!!

NB: I think I got the statement wrong about the dream. I could only dream of it the day before, as that was the day when I first heard of Perseus.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 16th OCTOBER 2009:**1590 JAMMING TRANSMITTER STILL OFF:**

Interesting to see that the German Jamming service was out of action again last night. I'm sure their listener has already written a letter of complaint.

I wonder why they are closing the likes of 594 this year because of the costs, yet keeping this jammer on air with one listener, or maybe two??

I would have thought that in the case of 1593, it may be better to buy the listener a PC and broadband connection for 10 years, rather than jam the AM with that obscene amount of power. What is the price of 1 PC compared to 24/7 white noise??

Anyway, from a DXers point of view, make hay while the sun shines.

1590 KVGB, GREAT BEND, KS:

I have made quite a few logs of the above station in the last days. It began yesterday at 0706, but soon realised it was there at 0606 as well as 0534. JF logged the signal at 0534 too. Well done. It was heard this morning at a couple of different times as well. It is coming though best in USB.

AUDIO CLIPS - A RESOURCE FOR MW DXERS:

Not only do I have the news services jingles / top of the hours on line here, but I feel there is no current resource on line to listen to the top of the hour clips, without resorting to waiting for an hour and streaming live. Not all stations are available on a stream anyway. None of the paper DX clubs have any on line resources like this, (surprise surprise) so I thought I would make an effort to upload station IDs of many of the common top of the hours, in as good a quality as possible. (Not taken from the web, as this can distract from the sound of AM radio). A worthwhile project I feel. The clips of stations with the big signals will be made using AM and will sound like good AM radio. The poorer stations will be made from clips made as best as possible under splatter and weak signal conditions. I will probably change the name of the 2009 page of audio clips, so that they are current. Many stations change TOTH ID's every year, so it will be helpful to have current toth ann's available, including the confusing multiple call and HD calls that are so often so wrongly reported.

PERSEUS STICKING:

Just every now and again, Perseus users may find that the tuning seems to suddenly stop as you try to tune lower in freq, than say 800kHz. The freq is only used as an example, and could be anywhere on the band. I have found this I think during live

dxing only. I think... . I am not too sure about during playback. This would always be on the 2000kHz sampling rate. I am rarely off this setting. It is no problem though. There is a little bug somewhere in the software. I had this happen again last night. The freq in question I could not tune below was around 800kHz. I restarted the software, and still had exactly the same bug. But a quick click to 1000kHz sampling rate and back to 2000 fixed this extremely minor bug. This fix can sometimes help the odd stuttery problem as well.

Another Perseus tip worth remembering.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2009:

1590 SILENT OVERNIGHT:

The German jamming signal on 1590 has been silent for 2 nights now. Let's hope it NEVER comes back on!!

AUDIO CLIPS:

A couple of audio clips so far from this morning. More logs and chat to come.

091015_0700_1100_wtam_cleveland.mp3

091015_0700_1590_kvgb_great_bend_ks.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER 2009:

Nothing too much to report from the dxing front over the weekend. The band has been very much the same, with mainly common stations from the East being heard.

But today. Tuesday, well.... What a difference. At these latitudes it is always a great sign that the band is open farther west when the distinctive classical music comes through on 950, and at 0630 today, it was very loud. The station CFAM rarely ids and does play over the top of the hour most of the time. Check for // 1220 and more so 1250.

AM 1593 OFF AIR TODAY:

Also today, because the band was a bit same old same old for the last while, I limited recordings to only top of the hour, as well as 0630. I now wish I had done the complete hour from 0600 - 0700. The German jamming signal on 1593 went off air at 0606, and was still off at 0700. This made 1590 so much more available. Only seldom do I have the Euro faded out enough to pull in anything on 1590 these days. Let's hope the 1593 transmitter has went on fire and is beyond repair, although I suspect it will be back on by the time you read this. I also read on Ydun's web site that we are to have BIG L back on 1395. Wonderful.... Bang goes another DXable area of the band.

MESSY LOGS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS:

TUESDAY 13th October:

0700

830 WCCO inc a sister stn on FM, WLTE Minneapolis/ St Pauls. Had me fooled for a bit at 06!!

1130 KWKH

1220 WHK 0701

1330 WFNN

1590 WAKR (Better 0705)

1590 KCNN East Grand Fork, ND Very poor ID, but Fox Sports.. Red River Valley

....

1660 KQWB Fargo

0630

680 CJOB Gd 0631

770 Mess with poss old time radio at one point

830 WCCO

1540 KCRJ News on KXEL. Another one to watch the call

0600

600 CJWW id in the mud

770 CHQR

830 Funny sounding ann after IRN USA Radio news instrumental on WCRN. Need to listen closely

MONDAY 12th October 2009

0600 WGN Buffalo 550. Reasonable peak, but not much else of note today.

SUNDAY 11th October 2009

0700

900 CHML

920 CKNX

1130 WBBR Good AP News toth

1280 WFAU Gd multi call ID

1360 WTAQ

SATURDAY 10th October 2009

0536

1060 AM 10-60 Classic Country

0600

830 WCCO

1130 ESPN but local ID lost. Prob KFAN

1150 WHBY VG peak

1310 WCCW

1510 KCKK

1660 KQWB Fargo

0630

640 Unid SS Radio Suyato or similar. (Maybe Progresso, have to relisten) Req closer listening

840 SS here, no id

ANTENNA MEMORIES:

Last year at this time I was out in the field across the way, with sticks and wire and Davie Hamilton. I had permission to use the field as an aerial park, while the farmer was not using it in the winter. Unfortunately this year it has been sown again with

winter barley, so I can't use it. It was such a great aerial, and last years logs of KBRW were enhanced by the aerial. Not that a 500m beverage through the woods is anything to sniff about, but the wire through the open field was just so much better on most frequencies. There were times when the other aerial showed up as better, but in general the wire through the open field was just great.

If anyone is living in an area where they have a chance of throwing up a beverage, I would say, yes, go for it. What a difference to dxing that really is. I often wish I was really in the sticks, and able to run aerials in every direction.

There was an old leaflet from the 70's or 80's I think that came from Radio Nederlands, called "Give your Antenna Some Air". It really does work. If you are fortunate enough to have the access to nearby countryside, make good use of it. You will never regret it.

I have taken notice that last years 420m and my permanent 500m antenna both well out perform much shorter 150m, or 200m beverages. By a very long way. Obviously if you don't have a piece of rough ground or woods near you, 150m may have to do. But if you do have the space, USE IT.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 9th OCTOBER 2009:

WINTER IS HERE:

Today is the first day for many months since I had to light the old calor gas heater in the shack here. Winter is creeping up fast. I suppose it will keep the hard drives cool, but I was still fighting with myself about the fact the summer has gone. I imagined a late summer, to get out and do outside stuff, like walks and bikes, but here we are in the winter now. The trees still have leaves, most of them, but they are gradually going. It is raining leaves in the gusts as I type this. I may manage a few nice photos of Scotland in the Fall, or as we say here, Autumn, before the end of the month, when the trees are normally all but bare.

PERSEUS NAVIGATION - MESSED UP RECORDINGS:

I have made a mess of my long recording this morning. Oh it is recorded and playable ok, but due to the limitations of the Perseus navigation for playback, it is clumsy and awkward to listen over the top of the hour. I should know better, but I wasn't thinking last night while altering my autohotkeys file. I shall explain.

I have been recording some toth (top of the hours) through the night, although I have never found too much to boast about of late. The best time for MW dxing transatlantic signals at this time of year is approximately from 0600 - 0700 GMT. I was recording the full hour from 0526 - 0638 recently, and again a few minutes at 0700. The winter is moving on, and I was finding the 0530 time slot less useful, so changed the times

last night to 0555 - 0708. But I failed to remember that my time started at an even 5 (So to speak). That would be OK if all was as you would expect with the Perseus software.

But files are by default a reasonable 5m long, max 8m. I failed to remember that if the default of 5m was selected, the top of the hour would be just as the file changes to the next one. The navigation in the Perseus software is such that a file will play to the end, and if there is another file to follow in sequence, it will change flawlessly to the next file. But try that in reverse.

YOU CAN'T!

You have to browse for the file again, check the number in the sequence of files, and click on the previous file. The freq reverts back to the centre frequency of the recording, and then you have to retune to wherever you were listening. All to go back 20 seconds!!

Navigation backwards and forwards through recorded files has been asked for repeatedly on the Perseus Yahoo group, but the problem has never been addressed. It is a pity, because the record function is **the** selling point for this receiver, certainly amongst MW dxers. (See my article, Perseus - A Life Changing Receiver)

So anyway, I hastily changed my recording time to 0554, to incorporate the top of the hour well within a single file!!

ON THE BAND:

The band was lacking in interest yesterday morning so much that I did not make a single entry into the log book. It is not as though there were no signals. There were dozens of signals, and some years ago, I would have been happy with logging many of the stations that were coming through, some very loud and clear. But in the case of a dxer who records the whole band every morning and checks for something different, or something powering in which is usually much weaker, there was certainly "no' much pookin'...", to use a local fishing phrase.

Last night in the evening, the band seemed to be alive by 2300. I tried to record a local ID from CJYQ on 930 around 2130. This seems to be coming in quite well in the early evening, at this time in October. BRT did cause a bit of grief, and before the next NFLD toth at gmt -3.5, CFBC was coming in over the top of the weak CJYQ. In years gone by, CJYQ would only have become stronger. Not much used to get past it. It was a big deal for CFBC to fade in at the right time to ID, and even rarer for the now common WBEN!!

There was a loud and clear ID from WCCW 1310 today. This is an example of a recording I would copy off and create an audio clip of. The station IDs that I put on line here are of course my best signals from whatever station they are. The signals are NOT like that all the time... Just incase anyone thinks I always have WCCW for example like the clip today, I can assure you it is more often in the mud!!

0100

920 CKNX with ESPN Game

0200

830 WCCO Dominant

0500

920 UNID RADIO AMERICA and IRN USA Radio News

(This is reported to be KDHL Fairbault, MN, but I have yet to hear this ann associated with a KDHL id)

0600

550 WSAU

550 WGR

770 CHQR Tune only just below WABC

1210 VOAR

1310 WCCW

1420 WOC

1410 WPOP

1360 WDRC

1520 WWKB Joey Reynolds Show Good local IDs and 50kW talk 0610

1560 WQEW (ID 0558)

1640 WTNI

1660 WQLR Fox Sports

WCCW TRAVERSE CITY - 1310:

Below is today's recording of WCCW Traverse City. Quite good, and may be the best I have heard this one.

091009_0600_1310_wccw.mp3

WHAT'S YOUR MOST FRUSTRATING FREQUENCIES ?

This season, my most frustrating frequencies have been I suppose the usual suspects from last season, plus a few others. By frustrating, I mean that the garble of stations often heard mixing only really produces one ID on a regular basis!!! Yes, you know the situation!! It may also include that dominant station that peaks really great sometimes, but rarely if ever has a decent ID.

Here are some of my frustrations..

670 - Cuba is a pest here, knocking out Chicago and possibly others

920 - Every top of the hour seems to only bring in the Information Leader in Mid Western Ontario, CKNX. The Radio America station that was also heard today at one of the hours with IRN USA Radio News is notoriously difficult to put an ID to.

960 - Again loads of stuff seems to be just out of reach as THE ZONE, WEAV takes over the toth...

970 - Despite the multitude of stations coming through regularly, it always seems to be WZAN that is dominant!!!

1080 - How often do you suspect you hear English below WTIC??

1130 - WBBR can be such a pest, especially when there is another station dominant a few minutes before the top of the hour.

1200 - WKOX with the non stop rumbo music seems to never ID now, at least when I am listening. The thing is, their signal is sometimes booming!!

1290 - This frequency has such a garble of stations, often nothing can be heard for graveyard growl. But the common annoyance that seems to be dominant, and certainly this season, is CJBK. This one used to be a dx target for me. I had heard other stuff on there before I managed to hear CJBK. Now it is a pest!!

1360 - Always seems to be WDRC, but never booming.

1370 - Always seems to be WDEA but rarely strong

1650 - Ethnic Canadian that rarely ID's

1690 - Ethnic Canadian that rarely ID's

There are many more, but those are just some of the stations I see as pests and non id'ers.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2009:**A FEW AUDIO CLIPS:**

I have a couple of clips from today, and a couple from January of logs of a couple of stations that have been in the "chat" recently. There has been some mention that Radio AMERICA and IRN USA Radio news on 920 is KDHL, but the clip below shows it as playing ABC news. Today's WGN is good with the pips of BBC notched, but not as good as the 25th January, so there are three from that superb dx day.

I also have an advert from WEBEX.COM which caused some confusion recently as well

091007_0704_1200_wkox_ann_no_id_am_then_usb.mp3

091007_0700_720_wgn_pips_notched.mp3

090125_0800_720_wgn_vg.mp3

090125_0300_920_kdhl_fairbault_mn.mp3

090125_0900_570_wnax_yankton_am_then_lsb.mp3

090125_0946_570_webex_advert_on_wnax.mp3

NORTH AMERICAN MW STATIONS - TOP OF THE HOUR NEWS SERVICES:

Often DXers will have a clue to the ID of a station by hearing their news bulletin at the top of the hour. There are a few audio clips below of top of the hour news services or slogans that are used by many many stations across the USA and Canada.

Some dxers seem happy to hear a news service coupled by some other feature of programming to make a claim of reception. I personally really prefer to hear a real station ID, to make a proper log. Otherwise it is a tent. But these unique news announcements may help with IDs and help eliminate possibilities.

eg I have been trying to ID a station on 920 since last season that carries Radio America and IRN-USA Radio News. I heard the station again on Monday morning, but still no local ID.

Here are how the news services etc sound. Files are only a few k. All are taken off MW, so as not to alter the sound heard by mw dxers. If They had been taken from the web, they would have a false sound compared to from AM Radio.

ABC NEWS - WTAW 1620

ABC NEWS - WJR 760

CBS NEWS - WBBM 780

FOX NEWS RADIO - WTAM 1100

CNN RADIO - WWKB 1520

IRN USA RADIO NEWS - WCRN 830

AP RADIO NEWS - WDRC 1360

AP RADIO NEWS - WBBR 1130

CBC NEWS - CBGY 750

CANADIAN PRESS NEWS OM - CFRB 1010

CANADIAN PRESS NEWS YL - CKNX 920

ESPN RADIO SPORTS CENTRE - WMVP 1000

These results are by monitoring here in Europe, and not taken from any possibly dated web page. The services do change from time to time though. You can find which news services are being heard at the top of the hour on my "all time logs list".

The above audio clips deserve a page to themselves, so it is now on line via "Audio Downloads" - "Identify News Services" in the main menu.

I believe that this type of resource is desirable by dxers from dx club's web pages. Most club's I have seen on line seem to concentrate on pages with hard sell \$\$\$ type pages.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2009:

CFRB - THE STATION WITH NO ID:

I have been hearing CFRB 1010 Toronto with their new NON ID type of ID. The call themselves simply NEWSTALK 10-10. And that is it!! No Newstalk 10-10 CFRB, or in fact any mention of a station ID any more. What a very original name and what a whizzbang of a catch phrase, I don't think.. lol..!!!

It is not only across the Atlantic that they seem to have odd names for their stations these days. In the UK some are coming up with names that are very different from the traditional style of names for a radio station. Names like Real Radio, Absolute Radio, and even silly names like Radio Radio!!!! Even school kids in the 70's came up with more exciting names than that for their low power pirate stations!!

Here are a couple of recordings of CFRB from today, and an older recording to see what the reader thinks is the better of the two announcements for promoting the station!!

091006_0633_1010_newstalk_1010_new_slogans.mp3

091006_0600_1010_newstalk_1010_new_format.mp3

090927_0600_1010_cfrb_old_format.mp3

PHOTOS OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND ST JOHNS:

I wonder if there are any dxers out there who like me, often have a look around the web and look for some decent photos of areas they have heard. Last winter I recall looking at images of Barrow AK, and many others. But this season I thought I would try again and find some photos of Newfoundland. And voila. I came across a great photographers web site, where they actually have high res images on line to share. What a great site this is to see photos of Signal Hill in St John's and photos of the city, including fantastic night views.

[Click here to see a selection of photos of St John's](#)

BEVERAGE ADJUSTMENTS:

I am unable to use the farmers field across the way for a beverage antenna this winter, due to the field already being planted with winter barley. But of course I still have the permanent antenna up through the woods. It has been there for a number of years, but only on low sticks about 4 feet high. I had a much higher signal gain last winter on the antenna through the open field, which was up on poles about 7 feet high, (around 2m if you are French). Maybe it was because the antenna was out in the open, maybe the little bit of height helped, maybe it was much straighter than is possible through a dense wood. Maybe it was a combination of all of the above. The aerial runs through rough and dense woodlands, and one loses sight of the wire pretty quickly when trying to string out hundreds of metres in a straight line. However, the antenna works, even though it has a very long feeder of around 200m!!

Anyway, even though things are working well, I did have the notion of trying a few things. I thought of pegging out and adding a higher aerial side by side, or even above the existing one. What effect this will have I am not sure. I don't have enough heavy duty coax to run another length, so will have to make an A-B test one day while the band is open, and change antennas while recording with the Perseus. But that is OK too.

The situation is not ideal, but better than many can manage who live in cities.

Some of the signals that come in on that old beverage, make me scared to even touch it. Why fix a clock that is ticking.. ! lol

(Mind you some dxers earlier in the year suggested I have serious problems with the beverage!! Listen to some of the dx recordings and see if you agree.....)

LOGS FOR TODAY:

I don't think the conditions were as good as yesterday at 0700, but some loud and powerful signals around though. 0630 had some stations coming through from the mid west again, like CFAM 950, as well as 1250, and CFRW 1290. Good to hear the band opening up west.

950 CFAM Classical Mx No Id though today 0630
 970 KQAQ Country and ID 0637. (Also hrd yesterday 0632)
 980 WOFX Troy 0600
 1010 NEWSTALK 10-10 New CFRB ID. NO call.... clever eh?? 0600
 1010 WINS VG 0625
 1050 CP24 px called EWTB or similar. 0631. Check recording for another possible confusing call
 1080 WTIC VVG 0630
 1250 AM 1250 MB - Classical Mx No id today 0630
 1280 BBN Bermuda Personal first I think for some kind of an ID. 0548 Tnx DH for tip
 1290 CFRW Good ids etc 0630
 1390 WLPM 0300
 1510 KCKK 0300 gd

AUDIO CLIPS:

091006_0633_1010_newstalk_1010_new_slogans.mp3
 091006_0600_1010_newstalk_1010_new_format.mp3
 091006_0626_1010_wins.mp3
 091005_0630_1080_wtic_powering_in.mp3
 091005_0600_1150_whby_vg.mp3
 091003_0557_1160_ksl_am.mp3 (Same file as the other day except AM and not SSB)

CALL CONFUSION:

I will continue to include recordings of stations that could result in confusion, or even wrongly reported dx!! I have heard the following three in the last days.

1. The first clip sounds like a call given on 1290, but listen to the ann heard on LW 198 at the same time. It is prob a relay from WRNI.

091006_0300_1290_bbcws_poss_WRNI_then_198_id.mp3

2. The second clip is an ad heard on VOXM on 1240. Luckily there was a // outlet coming thru at the same time.

091003_2300_1240_eg_of_voxm_ad_with_w_call_then_590_clip.mp3

3. The third clip is a programme on CP24, which sounded like a call initially. On reversing the recording a bit, the disclaimer was heard.

091005_0631_1050_ewtb_on_cp24_call_confusion_possibility.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 5th OCTOBER 2009:

CW ON 930 AT 2200:

Who plays the CW as in the following clip ?? Sounds like YI being repeated... Unfortunately I don't have a Perseus recording of this one, as I only had the radio on in the background, listening to CJYQ and CFBC fighting it out, but at least I was recording.

091005_2200_930_cw_on_930.mp3

CW ON GREENLAND 570:

I also had some kind of a CW signal at the end of this recording of Greenland, from 2230 last night. There was no sign of the CW on either 650 or 720. Wonder what this is. I do have a Perseus wideband file for this.

091004_2230_570_greenland_vg_signal_cw.mp3

I did hear a third CW mystery either today or last night, but can't recall where and when. It was something other than Radio Reloj, Cuba or Radio Moscow on 1323, both of whom have CW. I shall report back here if I find it again.

MY UNID ON 630 WITH THE BIRDS CROWING AT 0300:

Thanks to Ydun's MW web page, the following answers have come up to the unid signal heard last weekend.

From Ehard Goddijn in The Netherlands:

UNID on 630 kHz heard by Ken Baird is most likely Radio Timisoara, Romania. They announce HORA EXAKTA on the hour as heard on their internetstream.

From Patrick Robic, Austria

The spoken words before and after the crowing belong to Radio Romania Actualitat (ID at 00:26). I think the cockeral crowing came also from RRA, although I never heard that before - maybe listening to the wrong time and this is only used in the morning hours.

MW SCREENSHOTS:

I have split up my MW screen grabs which I am gradually adding to this web site. Look under Perseus Screenshots in DX EQUIPMENT, or look for the link from the logs index page. I have just recently uploaded a screenshot from 1340, and the amount of stations at carrier level is pretty amazing. Especially when you consider that there are hardly ever any stations heard on 1340 with audio here...

[Click for Perseus Screenshots page](#)

LOGS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS:

As often happens at the weekends, I have not had much time to write up any logs etc. I have seen some great signals from some stations in the last days. Last night, Sunday, I was amazed by the strength of Greenland on both 570 and 650, as well as 720.

I also had a personal first this morning in the shape of FL on 670. WWFE Miami.

Thanks to AB by the way for pointing out that I had forgotten to put the freq column in the personal first table at the top of the page the other day!!! All sorted today.

I have not too much else to say for myself today, so on with the logs....

Monday 5th October

0600

840 Tent Cuba - Radio Cultura ann. Similar ann on 670. Need to listen more careful.

970 KQAQ 0632

1310 WCCW

1390 WLCM VICTORY 13-90 Gd

1400 WOND

1620 WTAW Excellent peak.. Daytime Power??

1660 KQWB Fargo Moorhead

1690 WPTX

0700

550 WSAU

670 WWFE Miami, FL ID in EE as well as "La Ponderosa" (Pers 1st)

920 UNID again, with Radio America programme, and IRN USA Radio news

950 CFAM Classical Mx Hrd a few times recently

960 KMA

Sunday 4th October**0300**

630 Convinced I am still hearing the French here sometimes. Need to try and ID

730 CKAC SPORT Local IDs and not just the night music

830 WCCO

1090 WBAL using splatter killer as best as possible, ided WBAL. CBS nx

1500 WLQV Detroit

1630 KKGM

0600

850 WFTL FL

1150 WHBY

1250 WSSP Milwaukee

1420 WOC Gd at this time

0700

980 Unintelligible singing jingle

1130 KWKH Superb signal, on it's own almost!!

1200 WOAI

2230 and 2300

650 and 570 as well as 720 all coming in very well from Greenland.

Saturday 3rd October

0600

570 Greenland (No ids of course)

580 WKAQ PR

720 Greenland (No ids of course)

970 Radio Formula Mexico

980 WCUB

990 CBW Winnipeg (CBC) Local CBC Winnipeg AM 990 ID!! 0559 Had poor id the other day, but good today. (News jingle played in error about 30s past toth as well)

1130 KWKH

1140 WQBA LV MIAMI, FL

1150 WHBY

1160 KSL mixing with WYLL. Fair before wx 0559

1180 Rebelde

1620 WTAW ABC NX

2300

1240 VOXM advert sounding like an American call. lucky there were // freqs.

1540 WDCD Great peak

Friday 2nd October:

0600

650 WSM

750 CBC Very Good

900 CHML ID heard best in LSB

1310 WCCW

0630

1290 Radio Treize (Radio 13) Mexico. Cheers to David H for the tip.

AUDIO CLIPS FROM THE LAST FEW DAYS:

091002_0600_750_cbc_vg.mp3

091003_0634_890_wls_vg_bad_jin_before_c_c.mp3

091003_0559_990_cbw_winnipeg_local_id.mp3

091004_0700_1130_kwkh_vvg.mp3

091005_0555_1160_ksl_good_peak.mp3

091005_0600_1390_wlpm_holt_gd.mp3

091005_0600_1620_wtaw_vg.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER 2009:

CALL CONFUSION - WRCA 1330 AND WUNB:

WRCA Watertown / Boston as they announce nowadays, carries a programme from an MA University station WUNB sometimes. I noted this in my logs on 15th Sept this year (Also a Thursday morning). Luckily I had a great fade in at that time. Often WRCA can be in the mush like it was this morning. The ID came through at 0600, but luckily I remembered about this programme. I had not put the audio clip on line from mid September, but I include it today. It is one that could easily be mistaken for something else, if signal strengths are low. I have also included an mp3 of an ID from the former Waltham, MA station from 12th Sept during a great peak.

090915_0530_1330_wrca_inc_wunb_call.mp3

090912_0501_1330_wrca_vg.mp3

It is for this reason that I am a little bit lacking confidence with my 1230 log a few days ago of WBOK New Orleans. We have all heard the WLW id's on 1130 this last month, and regular WRKO id's all over the band in connection with Boston Redsox games. I have had KXEL 1540 with the KCRG weather forecast on 10/9, and I heard the very difficult CJAD 800 id, but on 1010 CFRB!!

(There must be virtually nothing from CJAD 800 comes in this direction. I have never ever heard it here. I had some interesting perseus files from John Washburn in Newport VT, and signals from CJAD, Montreal are booming in).

Some other confusing ID's happen at the top of the hour, either with sister station calls, or with HD calls. How many times have we listened to an ID over and over again only to discover it is the common station with a changed TOTH ID. This happened to me in the case of the 2009 TOTH id from The Zone 960, see below. In the case of KDKA, the HD stations have W calls, yet KDKA is one of the old original K stations!!. Here are a few of other common stations where it would be easy to see where a mix up can happen. So if you hear a station that sounds like a call from a 2 watt station in

Antartica, it probably isn't.. lol.. !!

090826_0500_1020_kdka_vg.mp3

090909_0500_960_weav_vg_new_id.mp3

081002_0600_wepn_ny_vg_1050.mp3

NEW LOG TODAY - CKTB 610:

If the whole month of October brings a new station every day, it will be great month. I doubt however this has any chance of happening. But after a few checks of the 0600 recording this morning, I came across a new one on me. CKTB Saint Catharine, ONT, at 0558. I wondered if 610 had finally switched off, but it seemed it was just on a fade. I think.. Not bad. A new station on 1st day of the month. This is not an FKR-UK, but certainly a rarity with the powerful French station on 610 still on the air. I wonder if soon that station will be a common one, when 610 goes off air on 1st Dec?

091001_0558_610_cktb_st_cath_ont.mp3

SEPTEMBER LOGS FROM SCOTLAND PDF AVAILABLE:

My September logs and notes pages are now available as a PDF from the logs index page, or click below.

Remember there are NO secret passwords, or subscription costs. This material will always be 100% in the public domain!!!

transatlantic_logs_september_2009.pdf

LOGS FROM THE BAND TODAY:

All logs made at 0600 today. I never made any other recordings...

590 WEZE Boston

610 CKTB St Catharine, Ont (0559)

1180 Rebelde 0600

1330 WRCA With WUNB programme

1410 Unid playinmg Big Yellow Taxi through the top of the hour

1470 CJVB Vancouver No real decent audio, but the three pips loud and clear.

See screenshot below for visible pips!!



Listen to todays clip - 091001_0600_1470_cjvb_pips.mp3

Listen to two other clips from last season. One has the pips, one doesn't.

081124_0900_1470_cjvb_vancouver_vg.mp3

081202_1201_1470_cjvb_vancouver.mp3

Back to logs index

580	WTCM	Traverse City, MI	0532 21/9/09
600	WAEL	PUERTO RICO	0600 15/9/09
600	WMT	Cedar Rapids, IA	0532 21/9/09
830	WEEU	Reading, PA	0531 16/9/09
850	KOA	Denver, CO	0505 8/9/09 (Logged at last)
850	WKNR	Cleveland, OH	0600 20/9/09
970	KQAO	Austin, MN	0533 21/9/09 (Almost had this last season)
970	WBGG	Pittsburgh, PA	0600 23/9/09
990	CBW	Winnipeg, MB	26/9/09 0600
1020	WURN	Kendal, FL	23/8/09 0500, 24/8 0400 +0500!!
1070	KNTH	Houston, TX	11/9/09 0530
1200	KFNW	West Fargo, ND	8/9/09 0400 + 05 (Id at 0400) (Paul C had FKR-UK)
1230	WBOK	New Orleans, LA	* FKR-UK - 28/9/09 0600 (not perhaps 100% confident yet in this one)
1350	KCAR	Clarksville, TX	23/9/09 0600 (Tnx DH PC tip)
1620	WDND	South Bend, IN	ESPN STN. 0500 24/8/09

Personal Firsts 2009 - 2010 season

ALL TIMES ARE IN GMT

* FKR-UK = First Known Report in the UK

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER 2009:

LAST ENTRY:

This is the last entry for the month, and here is the judgement of September as a dx

month. Pretty average. The band has not been dead by any means, but every day seemed to have been like the one before in the last few weeks. Yet there were a few surprises creeping in, so I guess I am looking for the same kind of a September as last winter. At any rate, there is quite a reasonable list of personal firsts above, and a couple more to be added possibly. And the firsts from last year are interesting. Many turned out to be common stations nowadays. It is amazing what you miss when monitoring single channels!! So was September above or below average?? I still say average. There has only been a taste of mid west and west coast at these latitudes. I think by this time last winter, I had logged so much more inland stuff.

I have noticed that 920 is certainly not any HOT frequency this season. All I seem to hear is CKNX and the occasional sniff of XELE. I also notice that while last season I could not hear a great deal on 1130 for WBBR, this season so far has brought in regular reception of KWKH. WEGP doesn't seem to be quite as dominant, and 930 has produced WPAT on quite a number of days, yet it was a possible FKR-UK only in June.

AERIALS IN THE DISTANT PAST:

The other day I wrote a little about logs from yester year. Yes, logs from my early days of discovery of the MW band. I realised that I never mentioned anything about the aerials used in those days... The earliest aerial would have been a random wire antenna, strung across running SW from the dx shack. It would have been this which I heard my first TADX with. I did not have a rat's nest of antennas in those days. So the length might have been around 40 metres in length. (To use wavelength terminology)

ENGLISH FROM DEUTSCHELANDFUNK 1268:

Talking of earlier years, I have just remembered one of my early memories of non local MW reception. I was sitting waiting for my father to come out of a house he was doing a job in, when I was about 14 years old. I had just started dxing on the SW bands at this time, but had never given much thought to MW. I was messing around with the car radio, and picked up the evening English broadcast of Deutschlandfunk on 1268. I had never heard this broadcast before!!! So it wasn't long before I found the signal and tuned in at home!! This became 1269 after the November 1978 frequency changes. This night time English language MW broadcast is now sadly long gone.

THE JOKE OF THE 80'S FREQUENCY MANAGEMENT REGIME:

The DLF story above got me thinking back to the disasterous frequency management of the MW band here in the UK. I remember in the 80's after the ignorant radio frequency planning dept allocated many ILR stations an mf frequency either on top of European stations that broadcast to the UK in English at night, or the next channel up or down. Many ILR stations used 1260, and DLF came out with a very unique antenna to assist reception in difficult areas. It was a pretuned MW loop basically, set to 1268 only, and listeners set it up beside their portable radio. I think it was about the size of an LP record, but I never ever saw one myself. Anyone still have this collectable item??

I often wonder why the ILR and BBC stations were never allocated the use of the low power channels across the country on a bigger scale than they were. (eg 1485, 1584, 1602). Mind you this dubious frequency management was conspired by the same morons that deliberately jammed Radio Caroline 558 in 1989 or 1990, so intelligent decisions never played any part of that regime's history. Imagine a so called western government resorting to the deliberate jamming of foreign radio signals!!!! The authorities of the day lied their way through the 80's and yet they probably all still retained their secure pensionable little jobs. I wonder in these days of relatively free and widespread media becoming available on satellite and on the internet, how proud these corrupt political extremists are of their dirty work in the 80's?

One of the most startling abuse of spectrum I can think of, is a station in London which was/ is allocated no less than four (4!!) MW transmitters just to cover London!!! What is that nonsense all about!!!! Was there any reason that a better aerial and transmitter could not be used at one site only???

Or were they really trying to jam the whole band so they could claim that their old propaganda fairy story of no frequencies being available, would at least look marginally more truthful??

UNIDENTIFIED CLIPS FROM YESTERDAY:

Thank you to David Hamilton for listening to my two unids from Monday on 1230 and 1430. I would also like to thank Paul C and Alf A in Norway for checking these out. The general opinion is that the 1230 station is more or less certain to be WBOK Radio in New Orleans. I am not sure if this is an FKR-UK. (First Known Report in the UK). I was not 100% confident because it wasn't an obvious "AM - 12-30" style of ID.

1430 was much more difficult. WEIR was a suggestion, but no definitive result was obtained on this very poor signal. One for the dustbin I suspect.

LOGS FROM THE LAST DAYS:

I don't have too many worthy notes from the last couple of days of recordings.

Last night around 2300 and also 0000 on my recoring, 650 Greenland is hammering in. It was much better than the 570 signal, which is often the better of the two here. On the higher frequencies, I noticed a higher noise level overnight, and discovered that I had not switched in the balun, after messing around with various settings last night. It really does make a substantial difference.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER 2009:

590 SCREENSHOT:

I created the 590 screenshot for the MW carriers page. Accessed via main menu in dx equipment - Perseus MW Screenshots. What an odd carrier to the right. It looks like Chinese text!!!!

YEARBOOK 2007 - 2008:

I have uploaded a pdf of my full year from September 2007 till Summer 2008, taking in the winter season of 2007 - 2008. It is only a 51 pages, 368k, not like the 2008 - 2009 winter, which runs to 3733k, and 243 pages worth!!!! I guess that shows the content of this site is much more than the few scribbled logs it used to be!!!! Before that time, I never really kept an electronic log book. I may still have my older contributions which I used to send most months in winter to MW Circle, which I will reproduce here if I can find them. Technically they should all still be available, as I haven't deleted the files I don't think.

Every month, a new pdf will be produced of the full month's logs and chatter, just like a dx club magazine on line. August is already available, and September will be available in a few days. Come the end of the season, they will all be combined into another "yearbook". The July pages are included in the full yearbook 08-09. All available in the logs main index page.

NB: These mw dxing logs pages are readable and freely downloadable in the public domain, and always will be. They will NEVER EVER be hidden behind silly secret passwords that you have to pay someone for, before being able to read, or treated as though it were some illicit form of secret radio listening. These blog pages are on line for all like minded dxers to read and enjoy.

FREEVIEW ALL CHANGE AGAIN:

Anyone with digital terrestrial television in the UK will seemingly have to retune the set top box tomorrow after lunchtime when some kind of a change is being implemented. I hope it is not like the last time there were major changes, which rendered some set top boxes useless. Some stored the first channels of BBC1 and BBC2 etc up in the hundreds, and the channel numbers were all over the place.. Only certain boxes. Weird.

I don't know how some folks will cope when the analogue will be switched off in late 2010 or 2011. I was at an old wife's house today, who couldn't get a remote control to work. Her batteries were slack. She is working with terrestrial 1-5 and snowy at that. But she wondered how I had adjusted the sound. She had never adjusted the volume before, and said "Scottish" was harder to hear!!!!!! Some folks will have absolutely no chance of working their set top boxes!!!!!!

I wonder when the much promised Irish channel is coming on air. I don't know if it is to be on Freeview or Satellite only. RTE are completely scrambled on Satellite, even though the UK terrestrial channels are free to air. Somehow that doesn't seem right, for a government channel to be scrambled!!

UNIDs FROM YESTERDAY:

I have heard two stations yesterday at 0600, and I am sure one of them at least can be verified as WBOK, though I would very much like a second opinion.

090928_0600_1230_clip_30s_tk_mention_n_orleans_then_poss_id.mp3 (WBOK New Orleans, LA 1230 maybe)

090928_0600_1430_unid_fox_newstalk_wter+poss.mp3 (UNID Newstalk 14-30, poss Fox newstalk like WTER WBER or maybe WEIR?)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2009:

EIOCF 501kHz. (ECHO INDIA ZERO CHARLIE FOXTROT):

A little late perhaps in reporting a beacon on 501.05 more or less, but here goes. I think it signed off around lunchtime today, Monday. Finbar near Malin Head, Eire had his beacon active for a couple of days or so on the experimental area of the ham band. Signals have been reported in Scotland here, as very strong, David Hamilton reports it over the qrn in the evening time, with his indoor loop, and Alfie in Norway reported it last night too. Perhaps later in the week, I will be able to provide some photos and other details of the station.

CUBAN WOBBLE ON 930:

I have to apologise for my misinterpretation of the long detailed response from Curt Deegan in Florida with regards to the warble on 930 which has been heard here for some time now. Curt suggests, as you can read from his e mail published here on 22nd Sept, that the source of the racket was the unstable carrier of Radio Sucro. I had assumed this to somehow be some form of deliberate interference. However Curt suggests it is simply a duff transmitter which drifts around 930 in a fashion not unlike Ukraine TV on Band 1, noted by many European tv dxers in summer months. Apologies if I took the wrong context to the very useful contribution from Curt. (Funny why we assume the worst with Cuba!!)

WHO HAS THE COCKERAL CROWING AT 0300???

Does anyone know which station has a cockeral crowing at 0300?? I heard this the other morning, but couldn't identify the station. It would have been the night 630 was off, but NRK has sadly returned. The clip below has some of the lingo either side of the toth. (885k) (Using the long version of the birds name to save unnecessary hits from various dubious web sites... etc.. lol)

090927_0300_630_toth_1m34_unid_cockeral_crowing.mp3

WELL NEEDED ODD JOBS:

Tonight instead of listening to endless splatter, I decided to be a bit productive for a change. I connected up the MFJ Phaser, and began to experiment. I found that it is really good to work with it in conjunction with the old NRD 515. Enter a problem. The relays on the NRD have been in need of a scoosh of Servisol super 40 for some time. They are a bit old and ropey. There was also a noisy control on the MFJ, and any amount of Servisol wouldn't fix the dicky track. So initially I started to strip the MFJ, to find no value on the volume control which was duff. Luckily it wasn't O/C and was able to measure it. I wonder if MR MFJ rubs the values off his components?? There really is no need, as he uses a lot of little tiny surface mounted components, so it is not that easy to copy!! Anyway, after replacing the control, I also cleaned the relays on the NRD 515. I also cleaned the tuning device on the Lowe HF225E which is also a regular requirement, and soldered a dicky audio lead which was coming from the HF225 into the desk. Whenever the notion is there for doing routine maintenance, it is best not to stop. I am easily distracted.

PHASER:

Although the phasing units work fine with the Persues and the Lowe rx, I always like to use it with the NRD515. With the 515 being an analogue and instant receiver, what you adjust you hear immediately. With the Perseus, there is a delay, and it can be a pest when trying to phase two signals when you turn a knob and wait for something to happen. The Lowe is also not as handy for that use.

I remember last year during the St Helena broadcast, or was it the year before, my best reception with the aerial set up here was the HF225E. The Perseus couldn't match it, and neither could either of the NRD sets. I had the AOR at the time as well, and the Lowe beat it as well. I don't know if thats a big surprise or not, but that was my findings here!!

Of course for convenience of recording the whole MW band during the night while asleep, the Perseus blows anything else clean out the water!! Nothing else I have can possibly come close to the Perseus for just that record feature, which is why I bought it in the first place. Is there even anything else on the market now in the same price bracket that can even come close to matching this MW dxer's dream performance??? If there is, it ain't socking me between the teeth with reviews and publicity...

IT WAS THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY:

Some 30 years have passed now since those distant long forgotten days as a young fella when I was becoming hooked on dxing the MW bands. I was very wet behind the ears as a dxer then of course. I had just left school and my first purchase of any size was a Grundig Satellit 3400, which was a step up from a domestic wooden radio. I still have the old wooden radio as well as the Grundig Satellit.

I have unearthed the old log books from that time, and sifting through them I see I was hearing 1010 WINS, CJYQ 930, Unid SS 1100 (Either Reloj Columbia or Globo. I would not have known the difference between SS and PP then. Do I know now on a bad night?) My first TADX was on the old wooden radio in late 1978. The first logs were CJYQ 930 as Q Radio, CJCH 920, and 710 VOXM. CJCH has only just left AM last year. I also have a log in January 1980 of my first CFRB entry, mixing with WINS. Some things don't change!!

I was making notes in the log book of who was on Caroline 319 at the time, and I see Stuart Russel playing Lily Rosemary and the Jack of Hearts, an old Bob Dylan classic. I guess Stuart would still play Bob Dylan on Caroline to this day. Richard "Busby" Thomson, Martin Fisher, Steven Bishop, Roger Mathews, Mike Stevens all pop up on my logs from these days. These chaps still provide us with great entertainment today, especially when they get together on the Ross Revenge for a weekend special. There's no wonder I became enchanted by the album music of the 70s.

Radio Delmare was on 1611 at nights from the ship off the Dutch coast. They used to even QSO with the landbased Dutch stations. Delmare was once described as a land based pirate with a ship!! The MV Magdelana, home to the ill fated Radio Mi Amigo had just been boarded and towed into Dutch waters by the Dutch government. A note in my log book for 25th September 1979 could not be published here for fear of offending...lol. The Scottish slang word "Polis" was also mentioned!!!

Dutch pirates heard on the old 227m area of the band include Cowboy Jimmy, Santiago, Armada, Skymaster, Orangutang, Houston Radio, White Star, Radio Rodeo, Hawaii, Nolan. The area from 1287 - 1341 or would that be 1286-1340 pre 1978, used to be an active region for Dutch pirates on a Friday and Saturday night. The Euros all signed off for the night in that area of the band, at that time. Literally hundreds of stations were heard over the course of a few years.

The Irish MW stations were in their infancy, and the log book tells me that in the Autumn of 1979 I heard Big D 1116, Boyneside Radio 1305, ARD 1161 with guys like Steven Rhodes and John Clark, Radio Dublin 1188, Southside Radio 999, Capitol Radio 1332 (Note the spelling of CapitOI, don't ask me why), Radio Carousel 1134.

Liverpool station Radio Jackie North was also being heard on 1404, and Radio 252 on 1197.

I had also logged a lot of SW international broadcasters. This is something I virtually never log nowadays.

I have even wrestled out some old manky tapes with old vintage ID's to play to you.

Here are a few clips..... including my first ever TADX recorded with a small

microphone. It is amazing the lack of technology then, and the tiny beat up cassette recorder I used in these times had seen better days. By 1979 I had a better recorder, and by mid 1980 I had a decent cassette deck.

781117_0101_710_vocm_1st_tadx_log_night.mp3

781117_0306_920_cjch_1st_tadx_log_night.mp3

781117_0030_930_cjyq_1st_tadx_log_night.mp3

800124_0100_560_chcm.mp3

800124_0000_660_wnbc_new_york.mp3

800123_2339_850_whdh_boston.mp3

800123_0015_940_cbc_montreal.mp3

800126_2338_1010_wins_cfrb_mix.mp3

800123_0034_1080_wtic.mp3

LOGS FOR THE LAST DAYS:

The band has been reasonable, but could be better at this time of year. Again at these latitudes, we had a sniff at west coast dx on Saturday, but not startling as yet. A couple of times I have noticed that there has been powerful sounding audio from various stations just before 0600, yet bang on the ID time when many or even most will ID, there was some kind of a fade. I don't mean the signals vanished. I mean the loud dominant station vanished, and the frequencies were open to whatever could be heard in the mush. Sometimes this will work in a dxer's favour with rarer stations in the fade, other times it simply makes for annoyingly weak and watery top of the hour announcements. Here's what I have for you for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Saturday 26/9

680 CFTR Vy strong and loud 0556

770 CHQR id in the mix with WABC

790 CFCB id on nfld stn 0551

990 CBC 2 separate progs, both same // nx 0600 CBC 990 Winnipeg ID really in dirt 0558. Good CBC R 2 ad. This is a personal first as I have a very very poor local ID. Heard the echo of two feeds before though..

1000 KOMO 0550 IDs etc Mixing ESPN Chicago

1000 Radio Mil, Mexico 0602
1150 WHBY 0600
1430 WNSW I think was the weak ID just after team 1430 id 0600
1470 WLAM Oldies 870 and 1470. CNN Nx 2300
1510 KCKK Gd 0600
1520 KOKC Wx ads and everything but an ID. Paul C had an ID today. 0534
1540 KXEL 0600

Sunday 27/9

570 CKGL 570 News Full call ids etc 0600
620 VOXM V VG 0601
630 CFCO 0604
630 Unid Euro pres with cockerals crowing 0300
1200 WOAI 0600

NOTED REBELDE, CUBA ON THE FOLLOWING CHANNELS WITH THEIR INTERVAL SIGNAL THING AT 0601
550, 560, 600, 610, 620, 650, 670, 710, 770

Very much same old same old today

Monday 28/9

501.05 EIOCF CW Beacon
610 Frenchy had a huge signal 0600. Due off is it not??
1130 KWKH again today at 0600

1230 Unid. It has to be an unid. I convinced myself the news from New Orleans and the quick poss ID was WBOK, But not so sure. May upload an audio clip tomorrow.
0600

1370 WDEA As strong as I have had them 0600
1430 Unid. Another annoyance. Newstalk station, but ID in the dirt. Convinced sounded like WBER, but too weak.
1440 WJAB and WHK ids 0600

Like yesterday Very much same old same old today, except for the two surprises.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2009:

TODAY'S AND YESTERDAY'S LOGS WILL BE UP SHORTLY:

A COUPLE OF RECORDINGS FROM THIS MORNING:

090927_0602_620_vocm_long_powerful_clip.mp3

090927_0605_830_wcrn_vg.mp3

090927_0600_1010_cfrb.mp3

DATES ALL WRONG:

I have just noticed my dates on the entries for this week are all wrong!!! Damn!! I have made so many sound clips too... I wonder if it is the headings for each day that is wrong, or the dates on my clips as well!!! Too much splatter and crackling in my head!!

NEW PAGE FOR SCRENGRABS:

I have just created a new page for Perseus screngrabs. The frequencies which have been done already make for interesting viewing.

[Click here for perseus screngrabs page](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2009:**SCREEN SHOTS OF CARRIERS:**

David Hamilton has also begun adding some screenshots of carriers to his blog pages. So far, 1590 is on line, as will 1070 shortly after this text is written. They make for interesting viewing. The number of signals that are at audio level on many of the channels, really is exceptional. Maybe a few more frequencies will be done here. Maybe we should make a whole band available??? Each zoomed in screen shot takes around 45m to create, so maybe this will be left on some of the dawn recordings while doing other things. Check out Davie's logs and blogs on the link below.

UPDATE 2144UTC: 1070 added below from my own recordings. It will be interesting to see how Davie's compare.

<http://band1tvdx.blogspot.com/>

RECORDINGS OF LAST FEW DAYS:

I have included some recordings below, including CJVA 810, a difficult channel here. There is also a good signal from Cuba on 530 this morning, and UNID SS on 960. Is it PR??

090925_0555_530_encyclopedia_long_strong_clip.mp3 (855k long clip)

090923_0600_540_cbef_windsor_ont.mp3

090924_0530_810_cjva.mp3

090924_0258_0300_920_xele_cknx.mp3

090925_0556_0600_960_unid_ss_pop_stn.mp3

090925_0600_1290_cjbk_inc_bad_toth.mp3

BAND A BIT SPLATTERY AND DOWN ON YESTERDAY:

The band this morning at first check seemed a bit down on yesterday. Yet there were some surprises. I also had the unid SS on 960, which did not have Reloj pips. I also include here a recording of 920 at 0300 when XELE was in, which is what I assume was there in the second half of the recording. There was sports behind KMOX at about 0545 today, and music behind WTAM 1100, but never fading in at the right time.

530 Encyclopedia 0555. Long tk, web address ids. Strong signal

540 CBC FF Windsor Dominant over CBGA, and mixing with CBT and "W" Mex 0600

560 WIND Chicago 0600

650 WSM 0631

920 XELE Mexico mix CKNX 0300

960 Unid SS playing Rod Stewart and Ben E King etc 0555 and 9600

990 CBC and CKGM 0600

1130 KWKH 0600

1210 WPHT Hrd during Virgin silence. The Big Talker 0600 CBS nx

1250 JOY 12-50 0551 ee id

1290 CJBK 0600 Dominant but not booming

1380 CKPC 0600

1470 WBKV West Bend 0600 Classic Country and CNN Radio News

1540 KXEL 0600mix ing, and weaker than CHIN

1660 KRZI Waco, TX ESPN 0600

LOGBOOK A MESS:

I have often stated in these pages from time to time, that my days for detailed logs are well and truly over. Some, or indeed many dxers still manage to find the time to type out the logs in the fashion we have all been used to for many years now. I'm a little envious when I see some well produced log pages, eg John F send me a word document last winter of all the MW stations received. All typed up in the style of MAH. Hats off to John and others who take the time to make their logs neat. John's logs are on these pages, check logs index.

Here all I do is scribble logs in a paper A4 log/ writing pad, and later type up a basic log list as above. No SINPO, no prog details, unless noteworthy. It is faster for me and gets the job over quicker. Perhaps not ideal, but it is just the way it goes.

Maybe if I copied all the rough text logs, which are in freq order, I could sort them into freq order in a per month basis. But then again, I don't tend to date the logs, if it is only for one morning. The date is at the top of today's entry. I suppose the above style logs are taking shortcuts to the extreme. I usually don't include QTH with the common stations, assuming everyone has knowledge of the QTH of the common call signs.

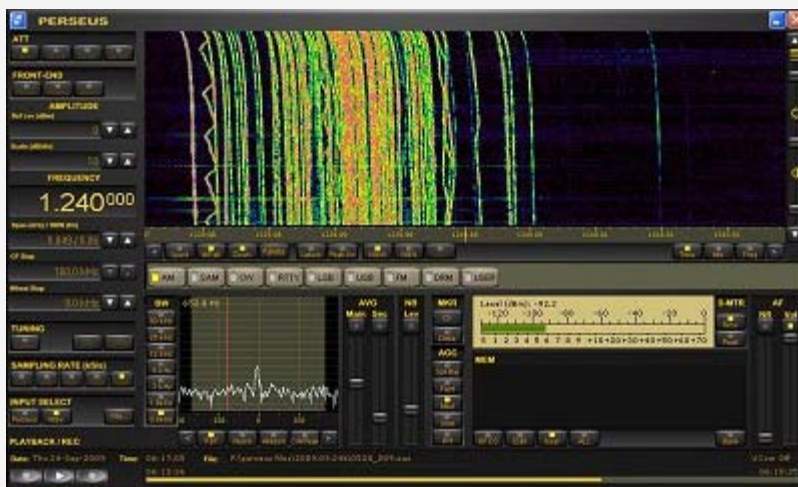
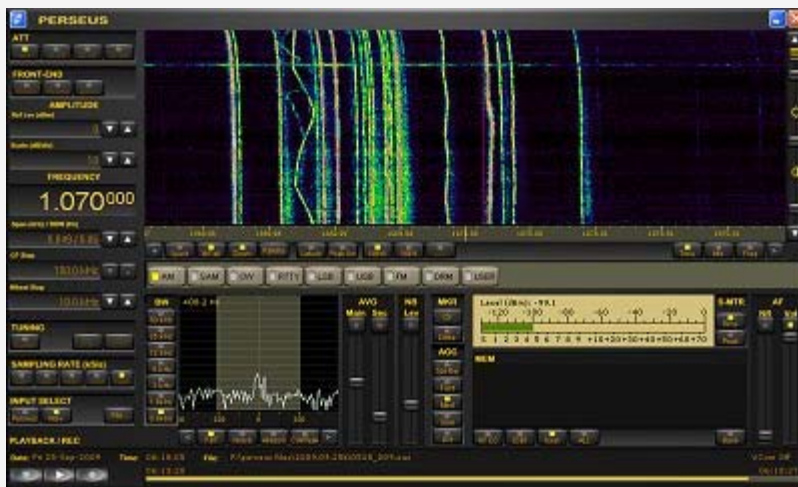
It also may bug some serious logger type dxers, when I don't use call signs with the VOICM network, or CBC stations. I am in the habit of calling them VOICM 620 for example. If I heard a rare local ID which can be heard earlier in the evening, I would then make a note of it. These ID's are sometimes heard from memory around 2000 or 2030 in mid winter (When reception so early is common). In general in these pages however, I will use VOICM and CBC when referring to the whole network. Again, it is just the way it is.

Neither do I make any effort to use call signs with Latins or Mexicans, unless they use the calls. Radio Coro 780 is Radio Coro. I have no interest in looking up their call every time I hear them. They don't use it, the way CFRB for example use their's.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2009:

GRAVEYARD FREQUENCIES:

On the MW band there are low power channels for small local radio stations in the States. They are commonly known as Graveyards. 1230 and 1240 are two which spring to mind, and are often seen with strong signals, but audio is not always heard. In fact it is quite a rarity to have audio on 1230 and 1240. Normally it is a deep growl, caused by the volume of traffic on the frequency. Last season I made a Perseus screenshot of 1400kHz, and was amazed by the carriers seen. With the good band this morning, I recorded a full hour from 0530 - 0630. The screenshots below took maybe 45 minutes to complete. But look at the strong carriers I see, and the distinctive one on 1240!!! Also added is 1070 as well.



THE SHOTS BELOW ARE FROM MY JANUARY PAGE:

PERSEUS SOFTWARE SCREENSHOTS: I was inspired a while back with some screenshots Paul C here in Scotland made of carriers on 1400kHz. But I don't think I was ready for the sheer amount that can be seen.



Two screenshots of 1400kHz. The first one shows a very unique and odd carrier. It is a wanderer, and also includes a solid carrier which seems to follow it. I was extremely surprised at the sheer number of carriers making it across the Atlantic, when you consider that we only ever seem to hear CBC and WOND. I personally have only one other US station from 1400kHz, in NY state. Click to see full size JPEG. The shot below shows the fade out at that time of year.



VIRGIN 1215 CARRIERS MISSING THIS MORNING:

No sooner do I report odd carriers either side of Virgin, than they are gone. see yesterday's article. Maybe there was a station signing on somewhere with carrier and 4kHz tone?? Who knows.

UNID STATION ON 530 MIXING WITH CUBA:

For a couple of days now, I have been hearing an unid language and an unid station mixing with Cuba on 530. Last year about this time I had an unid which ided like radio cultura or similar. Then of course Encyclopedia became dominant there, and Faroes had terrible splatter etc etc. Is it the multicultural Canadian I am hearing?? I must look back at Sylvain's files from Canada, and see if the station is on there.

OFF TOPIC (QUOTE - UNQUOTE):

Stamp collecting and dxers sometimes go together I think. Are there any reading this? ? Is this wrong postmark worth anything, or is it simply a curiosity?? I have kept this for years, but sadly I should probably have kept the envelope as well. For those that are wondering what is wrong. It is postmarked 32nd March!!!

Also would a wrongly labeled CD from an Eagles Box Set be collectable?? Or a wrongly labeled 7" vinyl record which has "Bruce Springstein - Santa Claus is Coming to Town" instead of what the label says?? I think it may be Alison Moyet on the label. Are these of value or just simply of interest?



LOGS FOR THE DAY:

There were a number of good solid signals around today from many of the common stations. So much so, that I have made quite a few audio clips of them, one or two quite long, and loud!!! The sun has again risen in sunspot count. But the K reached zero, so maybe a good couple of nights ahead?? Who knows?

530 UNID mixing with Cuba 0559
 550 WGR Buffalo 0600700 WLW loud 0600
 730 CKAC Former sports stn, loud with music 0600
 750 WSB mix with CBC 0600
 780 WBBM Very Very strong 0611, as well as 0600
 800 CHRC French Talk strong 0530. 70% sure accented ee id 0535 as Quebec's 800 AM (Or was it CKLW)
 810 CJVA, Caraquet, NB 0530 FF tk mixing and below Scotland
 830 WCRN Very loud 0600
 870 WWL Very Loud 0600
 930 WPAT 0600
 930 WBEN 0300
 940 UNID Pres Mexican. Web address, but sounded like an ID R something at the end. 0601
 950 WWJ 0600
 1130 KWKH regular this week 0600
 1250 WSSP Milwaukee 0600
 1350 KCAR TX There again but much weaker 0600
 1360 WDRC / WTAQ 0600

1410 WPOP 0600
 1420 WOC 0600
 1480 WSAR 0600
 1490 ann AM 1400 AND 1490 pres WBAE ME, but in mush. no call
 1600 WUNR Superb signal 0602
 1660 "The Avenue" Florida 1410 and 1660, id and ads 0623

RECORDINGS FROM TODAY AND YESTERDAY:

I have some recordings below, many of the common powerhouses, but they were so powerful today, I made some clips. Also I have a great example of a fast fade in and out on 1570 of Boomer. Small file. Have a listen. Also what is prob, (but of course not def) KOKC behind WWKB 1520. Sometimes the top of the hour gap is at the right time. Today it wasn't. I hear the ID on 940 SS, but just can't seem to match it up with anything. My SS lingo is shocking!!

090924_0555_530_unid_mix_encyclopedia.mp3

090923_0604_660_wfan_ny_long_clip_vg_signal.mp3

090924_0600_700_wlw.mp3

090924_0600_770_wabc_qrm_iboc.mp3

090924_0600_780_wbbm_chicago_vg_signal.mp3

090924_0600_830_wcrn_gd_signal.mp3

090924_0600_870_wwl_gd_signal.mp3

090924_0530_880_wcbs_vg.mp3

090924_0605_890_wls_gd.mp3

090924_0534_890_wls_iboc_noise.mp3

090923_0600_930_wpat_paterson_nj.mp3

090924_0601_940_unid_ss_suspect_mexican.mp3

090923_0600_970_wbgg_pittsburgh.mp3

090924_0600_1370_wdea.mp3

090923_0600_1390_wlcm_victory_13_90.mp3

090924_0600_1520_wwkb_inc_unid_other_stn_pres_kokc.mp3

090924_0543_1570_eg_of_fade_in_and_out_amazing_fade_ff_stn.mp3

090924_0601_1600_wunr_vg.mp3

CREATING MP3 AUDIO CLIPS:

I often wonder why some dxers use such a low sample rate to create their MP3 clips. The clips I have on line here are not really particularly large, and unless otherwise stated, and are generally no more than a few hundred k. Sure, maybe an 80k sound clip will download faster, but if it is a good clip, and is of a booming signal, then the clip is wasted if compressed so much that it sounds like a low bit audio web stream from 1999!!

For the sake of a few kb, I use the so called standard Cool Edit CD quality of "44.1k 16 bit mono" when recording to a .wav file to begin with. I use the old tried and tested Audio Catalyst from Xing (old 1999 vs, but works great for compressing .wav files) to convert to MP3. I am able to set the mp3 bit rate to flat out, but variable bit rate. The quality of the recording will determine how the software "takes the data required" from a MW clip. Often the final bit rate is only around 30-40kb/s, but for high quality AM recordings, the bit rate can be around 80kb/s, sometimes higher.

This shows that the people who record their old manky cassettes from the 80's onto their PC at a mere 64k fixed rate, could do with using a much higher bitrate. 64k is far too low, and many recordings of the old offshore stations have obviously been made from good quality recordings, but are spoiled by poor bit rate. The phasey noise heard when played through an audio system is annoying. It may not be noticable on cheap £6 speakers that come free with a PC, but on a pair of 15 inch band speakers, it tells!! For no extra cost and a little bit bigger file, the results could be virtually lossless. Check some of my Radio Nova recordings from mid 1984 on this site as examples of high bit rate AM radio. Some of the Dave Christian recordings were particularly good. (I don't remember which radio recorded these originally) Or listen to 780 WBBM, or 880 and 660 from the clips above, and judge for yourself.

David H uses Audio Recorder Plus 4.0 which is a real time MP3 recorder, though very simple compared to for example Cool Edit, Sound Forge etc. There are many many recorders available, many freebies..

[downloads_radio_nova.html](#)

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2009:

SMALL UPDATE TO PERSEUS LIFE CHANGING RECEIVER:

I have added a paragraph about the Perseus auto hot keys use, in my article, Perseus - A Life Changing Receiver. Apologies for non inclusion in the first instance.

IMPORTANT: *If using the autohotkeys toolbox from this site, and the text files, remember to change the folder name every morning, if you keep your files for any length of time. I add a "b" at the end. Otherwise they might get overwritten the following day. The folder name is created as the time the autohotkeys files are activated, and not at the time of the recording. Therefore a folder named 09.09.24 is not necessary going to be for that day. It may have been set to record at sometime before midnight, resulting in the*

folder name created being for the previous day. I would rename the folder example above simply 09.09.24b. You might have to rename the date as well, depends in when the files were activated. I had to rename them anyway from the original autohotkeys file names, so I could find files by date.

[CLICK FOR FULL ARTICLE](#)

KCAR 1350 CLARKSVILLE, TX:

This novelty was noted thanks to tips from David H and Paul C, after reading of Paul Logan in Northern Ireland hearing the station.... if you get my drift.. Paul L heard KCAR at 0200, which I did not have recorded. But I was surprised to find the station is still there at 0600, although no sign at 0500!! There were other stations coming in from the area. WOAI 1200, and KRLD 1080. But it makes you wonder if they have hiked the power from the 410w days, or 65w nights.

I guarantee a report to the station will tell you, "Yes of course we were running 65 watts at the time of reception..." lol... I had another Texan last winter, the 37 watt station KCOX Jasper, also on 1350. They run 5kw by day. I certainly don't believe either were on their flea power night time output. But of course, I am not complaining. This kind of "accident" gives dxers a chance at different dx stations.

090923_0600_1350_kcar_tx_id_9s_voice_red_river_5s.mp3

AUDIO CLIPS 2009:

I have changed the audio clips page for the 2009 dx clips a little. The list is now simply in freq order. There are also links to all the PDF files I have on this web site. The link is in the logs index, or under audio downloads in the main menu at the top of the page.

[CLICK FOR 2009 AUDIO CLIPS PAGE](#)

VIRGIN RADIO - STRANGE CARRIERS:

Has anyone else noticed the strange carriers either side of Virgin's 1215 signal (Or whatever they call themselves this week). I am seeing a carrier on 1211 and 1219, quite strong as well. This has been noticed since the weekend. Only seen on Virgin's frequency of 1215. I am not seeing it in the middle of the day here in Scotland, so maybe coming from a farther away transmitter??? Anyone any ideas?? The shot below is taken from a time of speech. 1210 and 1220 are TADX carriers.



SUN TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE:

Anyone who has been keeping a close eye on the sun, will know there has been a prolonged spotless period this summer. The sun gave a grunt at the beginning of the month, and quickly returned to being spotless, but reports on the propagation indicators suggest the sunspot count rose to 11 on Monday and to 26 yesterday. Let's hope things calm down again for our beloved MW dx season.

ETHNIC ANSWER FROM 930:

The answer to the ethnic chanting heard on 930 the other day while the warbling noise was coming through from Cuba, is for sure WPAT, Paterson, NJ. It was heard again this morning, with chants either side of the TOTH. There was a good legal ID at the toth. I wonder if this station has made any improvements to it's set up. It has been heard a few times this season, yet never before. Maybe the ex powerhouse CJYQ being a rarity nowadays makes this an easier channel.

TODAY'S LOGS AND

I have a personal first and a couple of rarer stations peeking through this morning.

540 CBEF (CBC) Windsor, ONT FF Dominant over CBGA and CBT

570 WMCA NY 0600

600 CBC / Rebelde 0600

660 WFAN NY Exc 0601

670 Rebelde 0600

900 CHML 0607

920 CKNX 0607 VG

930 WPAT Paterson, NJ Ethnic chants and toth ID 0600

970 WBGG Pittsburgh, PA 0600 Personal First **

1080 KRLD Dallas 0600 in the mix with WTIC

1130 KWKH heard again mixing with WBBR 0600

1200 WOAI 0607
1350 KCAR Clarksville, TX 0600 Tnx Tip DH, PC, and indirectly PL
1380 CKPC 0608
1390 WLCM 0600 Fair pk
1620 WDND, SOUTH BEND, IN and WTAW 0600
1640 WTNI 0600
1660 WQLR 0600

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2009:

A FEW AUDIO CLIPS ADDED FROM THE WEEKEND:

Here are a few clips from the weekend and the last few days.

090922_0545_530_encyclopedia.mp3
090921_0600_550_wsau_gd.mp3
090921_0534_580_wtcm_traverse_city.mp3
090921_0532_600_wmt_cedar_rapids_ia.mp3
090920_0600_850_wknr_cleveland.mp3
090921_0533_970_kqaq.mp3
090922_0600_830_wcrn_double_audio_feed.mp3
090918_0600_880_wcbs_vg.mp3
090922_0600_980_wtem_washington.mp3
090917_0606_1120_kmox.mp3
090919_0600_1130_kwkh_inc_wlw_id.mp3

ISP DOWN AGAIN:

As has happened a couple of times in the past, I was unable to log on to the internet at all over the weekend. It was first noticed on Saturday morning, and efforts to ring the company are in vain at weekends. There are no employees around till the beginning of the week it seems. As also happened before, when the service was tried again on Monday morning, it worked fine. What a pain in the backside however.

GOOD DX OVER THE WEEKEND:

Busy weekend here again, but I still managed to make the recordings to check out when there was more time on hand. I had some good DX Sunday and Monday, and no less than four personal firsts!!! (580, 600, 850, 970) The band I felt was a bit average today, Tuesday and sounded much less exciting.

530 Encyclopedia Cuba 18/9 0604 reg and strong recently, but awful muffled yf presenter

530 UNID 0558 21/9 Def 2 stations mixing here. Encyclopedia and ???

540 CBC French nwk. 2 stns echo 0600 20/9, + 21/9 USB FF - best LSB ee best

550 WGR Buffalo, NY 0600 20/9

560 700 WLW VG 0530 18/9

560 UNID 0600 21/9 News Radio 560 ??KB or KD?? or similar. Must listen again

580 WTCM Traverse City. 0534 21/9 pres hrd mixing 0600 with CFRA, but no ID **

600 WMT Cedar Rapids, IA 0532 21/9. Noted during the time when CBC has low audio**

630 Unid FF poss the Canadian. 0600 20/9

630 CFCO 0600 21/9

670 WSCR Chicago 0603 21/9

720 WGN 0600 18/9

750 WSB Atlanta 0545 22/9

790 Reloj Cuba. Time pips etc 19/9 0532

830 WCCO and WCRN 0600 21/9

830 WCRN Dual audio feed again 0600 22/9

840 WHAS 0534 20/9 (Still had no id on the mex/ SS mx which is suspected to be Cuba here on 840)

850 WKNR Cleveland, OH ESPN full ID. Rare, WEEL fade out 0600 20/9**

890 WLS Chicago vg 0534 21/9

900 Unid. Clear mention of WATERTOWN but no call heard 0600 20/9

900 W Radio "LV De La Americano Latino", Mexico. 0559 20/9

950 WWJ 0600 21/9

970 KQAZ Austin, MN. This was the Classic Country last year, but id eluded me. Got it 0533 21/9**

980 WTEM Washington ESPN 0600 22/9 (Multi call inc WWXN Warrington, WWXT Prince Fredrich, or similar)

980 Unid Almost made an ID, call heard, but presenter mumbled or faded. 0536 18/9

1060 Classic Country AM 10-60 0533 20/9 1st log this season

1080 KRLD 0600 20/9 ID in a mix up with WTIC

1130 KWKH inc WLW ID 0600 19/9 (Obviously taking their audio feed from WLW) Also 22/9 0600

1150 WHBY Gd 0533 20/9

1320 UNID ESPN stn 0600 20/9 No local ID, although YL mumble audible only just with CJMR QRM

1320 WILS 0600 18/9 FOX NEWS RADIO

1330 WFNA, Erie, PA 0600 20/9

1480 WGVU 0534 18/9

1520 WCKY 0500 20/9 ID in the mix.

WARBLE ON 930 SORT OF IDENTIFIED AS CUBAN JAMMING :

It seems the signals we have been hearing here in Europe on 930 are coming from Cuba. It is unclear why they broadcast this jamming signal.

Some US dxers were in touch with David Hamilton after he uploaded his clip to youtube. The same helpful American dxer from FL also got in touch with me, and included the following information.

Ken,

I hope you don't mind me contacting you directly. I sent the response below to David, in response to his email inquiry to me. After seeing your web page which was listed on his blog, I thought you might be interested in my response as well.

Curt

W. Curt Deegan

Boca Raton, (southeast) Florida, USA

David,

The recording on YouTube and the one linked to on your Blog, are both examples of the Wobbler, as I dubbed it in early 2005. I avoided using "warbler" so as to not confuse search engines with stories about the bird.

The fact you're hearing it over other programming is not at all unusual. The affect tends to cut through very well, like the sweep tones that are used in organized DX test broadcasts. It is common to hear the Wobbler with no trace of the source station audio, the Wobbler laying itself atop programming content of the more local station with which it interacts.

At times the severity of the affect grows to considerable levels, which is when it can be heard at great distances, coupling that with atmospheric conditions, of course. Some time back, one Wobbler was heard as far as the northwest US coast and even Hawaii, during an especially vigorous outburst from a Cuban station on 1100, which I regularly monitor.

I believe yours is the first report from across the Atlantic, if I've not forgotten an early one. (!!..KB..lol)

This affect is different from bubble jamming. Those signals do not fluctuate in period and intensity as the Wobbler does. Bubble jammers have a constant swishing or chugging sound that doesn't vary. Also, with careful investigation the bubble jammer signal will be seen to be modulated audio on a steady carrier, while the Wobbler is created by the fluctuations of the carrier itself. If there is no other station on the frequency, the Wobbler can't be heard on the offending station at all, without injecting a local oscillator signal. Bubble jammers can be heard idling on empty channels just in the event an offending broadcast should begin.

For the last several months the number of stations exhibiting this anomaly has dropped to only a few, with 930 being the only one heard daily at my location. During this time Cuban MW broadcast installations have been upgrading their equipment with Chinese assistance, further substantiating them as the source.

In the good old days -- three or four years ago -- the Wobbler on some stations would become violent and then suddenly the station would completely leave the air. After some delay the station would return,

usually along with the Wobbler at reduced level but gradually building back up. This cycle could go on for days.

You can enhance the affect by switching to sideband mode and off-tuning slightly. What you are hearing is a heterodyne produced when the unstable, wobbling carrier wave, beats against a stable carrier. Inserting the BFO produces a more audible result, especially if the only other stations on the channel are very weak. If you have CW mode you'll hear it even better and see the signal on spectrogram software in it's full glory. In USB or LSB you hear and see only half of the wave form, in CW mode you get the full affect.

As I am writing this, the Wobbler on 930 is extremely active and easily heard using the tuning technique I describe, even at 3pm local time. From DFing and other efforts by DXers in Florida, the 930 station producing the Wobbler is presumed to be Radio Surco, Ciego de Avila, in the province of the same name, Cuba.

My web site has several audio samples and pictures of the Wobbler -- link in my signature. Unfortunately I have grown lax in updating the site with my recent receptions, though I've logged one or more Wobblers nearly every day since I first began my investigations nearly five years ago.

Thanks for the report. Nice to know the Wobbler has not stopped creating an occasional stir in the DX community.

Curt

W. Curt Deegan

Boca Raton, (southeast) Florida, USA

<http://ScooterHound.com/WWWR/wobbler>

Check out Davie's daily blogs and logs

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2009:

WARBLE ON 930..FROM WHERE??

Last night on our MW DX Skype chat, both Alf Aardal in Norway and I were discussing the strange wobble on 930 at nights these days. This is assumed to be coming from across the water, as it is on 930, and not a Euro/ Asian channel. Does anyone have any ideas of the source of this odd sounding signal?? It must be somebody's local. Paul C suggested it sounds like Rolf Harris and his wobble board thing!!! I have noticed this for quite some time now?? I have included both a Perseus screen shot, as well as a couple of audio clips.



090917_0529_930_warble.mp3

090917_0301_930_warble_and_cfbc_appearing.mp3

David Hamilton's YOUTUBE log of the same thing at 0528 this morning

My dx neighbour Paul Crankshaw in Troon found this in Hardcore Dx. I wonder if this is what we are hearing.

Message: 11

Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 05:39:42 +0430

From: "Albert Muick" <>

Subject: [HCDX] Logs for Al Muick 06 December

To: <hard-core-dx@hard-core-dx.com>

Message-ID: <>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="US-ASCII"

QTH: Kabul, Afghanistan

RX: WinRadio G303e

ANT: 200m Longwire/Randomwire

ACC: Palstar MW-550P Mediumwave Preselector

930 UNID, heard in AR with Koran talks and singing at 0110 on 06 Dec. OK signals but a lot of noise and this is where no station should be in this region of 9 kHz spacing. Wondering if this is Saudi Holy Koran program shifted down from normal 936 or Pakistan shifted up from 927? Station still there after daylight here at 0214 but declining rapidly. Any help would be appreciated! Not there when I checked this evening at 1755.

I have to say that at 0530 the Euros are almost gone, and certainly the Eastern stations are gone by this time, which still makes me think it could be from across the water.

CJYQ 930 AND BEACON:

I was also talking in general about CJYQ and about the beacon that used to come in and out with CJYQ, which was dominant on 930 at one time. Here is an old dx recording from 1980, almost 30 years ago!! It is 2.9meg in size, but the beacon is

coming in and out with this longish clip. I still must dig out my old dx audio archives some day.

801017_cjq_930_2351utc_c90_120.mp3 (2,973k)

AUDIO CLIP PAGE FOR 2009 SEASON:

I have just created an audio clips page for 2009, which includes links to the clips I have put on line so far this season. It is not easy trying to find a clip again if you have to look through a months worth of DX. The page can be accessed by clicking below.

[2009 - 2010 SEASON AUDIO CLIPS PAGE](#)

PERSEUS USER SETTINGS:

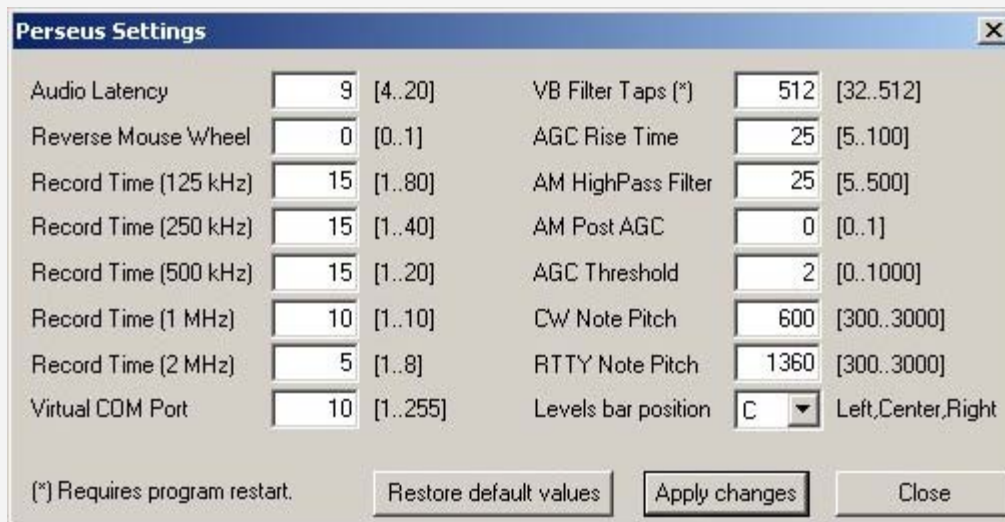
I was reading the Perseus Yahoo group yesterday when I saw some questions asked about the user settings on the Persus, and in particular the AM high pass filter. It seems not all users are aware of the difference this makes to the audio.

This can be set to suit the speaker set up used and the listeners ear. A high setting of 500 gives extremely tinny, cheap nasty sounding audio. The setting of 100 is the default setting, and is OK, but try reducing the setting to 50, or 25, and see the results. AM sounding as AM should sound. It has a nice LF response, like the "Orban Optimod" sound. Try it. If you have the Perseus plugged into a decent set of hi fi speakers, it will sound awesome. If you use the tinny little speakers you get for a tenner with a PC, you may well set them on fire though ...lol... I personally use 15 inch woofers in the old band / disco speakers I have, so the lf response is nice!!

Click the blue icon on the top left of the Perseus screen to open the dialogue box.



Once this box is opened, click settings



AM high pass filter is on the right column

WUNR DOMINATING 1600:

Both myself and Paul C here in Ayrshire were discussing this station on our Skype chat recently. This season so far, the freq of 1600 has been dominated entirely by WUNR. Have they increased power?? I feel that I did read this a while back but can't be 100% sure. Their signal with the SS and sometimes FF format lacks regular IDs, but they do have the legal ID somewhere near the top of the hour. Like most of these ethnic stations though, the ann is rarely bang on the hour, and they will often play through.

OFF CHANNEL STATIONS:

I think I asked the same questions at some point last season. Who are the villains operating off channel? I don't mean the stations operating within tolerance, but the

ones operating well off channel, causing dxers grief. I have noticed a couple badly off this season on 600 and 940. To a lesser extent, 570 has an off channel station sometimes too, which I suspect to be Greenland.

ON THE BAND TODAY:

As ever, I have not listed powerful regular stations here, unless of exceptional signal strength. There were however some exceptional signals around at 0530 these last few mornings, as there are at 0600 now. It has gradually become useful, though the peak seems to be still sometime before 0600.

620 VOXM gap in audio 0531, others heard below, but no IDs
 570 CFCB 0531 Also VOXM ids last night
 570 WMCA NY 0502
 630 Radio Tropic?? SS Poss just WUNO 0500
 680 CFTR 680 Nx exceptional levels 0530
 680 WRKO Boston well dominant 0600
 750 WSB 0531 in audio gap from CBC
 790 Reloj 0531 Time pips etc (Had Cubans mixed up initially here..)
 870 Reloj Pips etc below/ mix WWL 0530
 910 Easy Listening music 0534. No id. Difficult Channel.
 970 WZAN VG level 0534
 980 WTEM Washington ESPN stn 0600
 1070 CHOK good levels 0600
 1130 KWKH again 0600
 1290 WJNO FL 0400
 1350 WOYK VG Level 0600
 1380 CKPC 0600
 1510 WLAC 0606
 1580 CKDO VG levels 0600

Still have a lot of listening to do. Been busy making the shack tidy again, after months of it being a slum!!

Below I have a few recordings from today, including some of the powerful signals.

090917_1900_1521_peking.mp3

090917_0530_680_cftr_vg_signal.mp3

090917_0600_680_wrko_gd.mp3

090917_0600_880_wcbs_vg_signal.mp3

090917_0534_970_wzan_vg.mp3

090917_0600_1350_woyk_gd.mp3

090917_0600_1580_ckdo_vg.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2009:**MAKING USE OF TECHNICAL BLUNDERS:**

Again this morning I noticed 830 WCRN had no audio. It has been known to have two audio feeds at the same time, but today it had none. They again had carrier only, except that this time around there was something interesting coming through!! WEEU Reading PA was heard at 0531. Long may this continue!!

They might be better using WINAMP and throwing a load of songs in a playlist rather than using their very unreliable and probably expensive automated system. Let's hope for mw dxing sake they don't think of that!!! hi. As I said before on these pages, this has been going on since last season, and I am so surprised that a 50kW AM station has so few listeners overnight that no one has reported this to the station, or none of the station staff even check!! Maybe the engineer is a MW dxer!!!

Oddly I have never seen these technical blunders reported elsewhere either. The other one to watch is CBC on 600kHz. Now that transmitter has virtually no audio, allowing other dx to come through as well.

090916_0531_830_weeu_reading_pa.mp3 (640k)

FARMER PLOO'IN THE FIELD:

My farmer neighbour has begun to plough his field across the way from me. I guess that is the beverage across the open field hit in the head this winter. O well, not to worry. It's not as though a 500m beverage in the woods beyond is anything to be sniffed at..lol

SKYPE AND FIREFOX UNWANTED PARACITE:

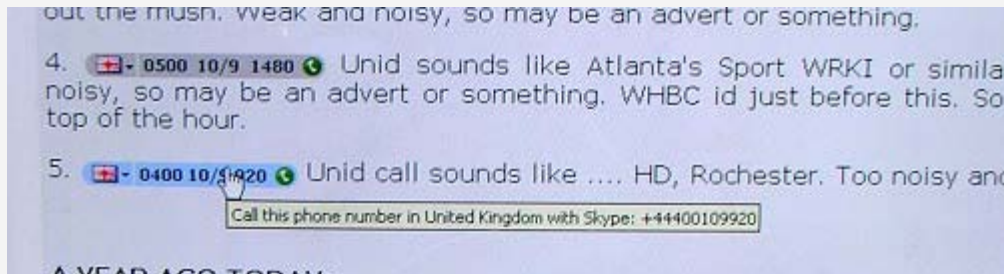
I mentioned yesterday on these blog pages that I detest silly clutter in a software package. I appreciate MANUAL functions that I can switch on and off, as well as no clutter and silly pop up boxes.

Now I had a weird anomaly last night and have only found the answer this morning. I was looking at the on line version of the entry from yesterday from this site, checking for typos and errors etc. I noticed some kind of a silly link, which I never put on the page, to a non existant telephone number in the UK. This was seen in place of a time on my logs. There were a few others down the page a bit. I checked another web page with a lot of times, (David Hamilton's blog page), but never saw anything. I then tried the archive site, AZANORAK (a sad anorak..) and it was also full of unwanted and undesired pop up links, due to Skype somehow latching on to the digits within the

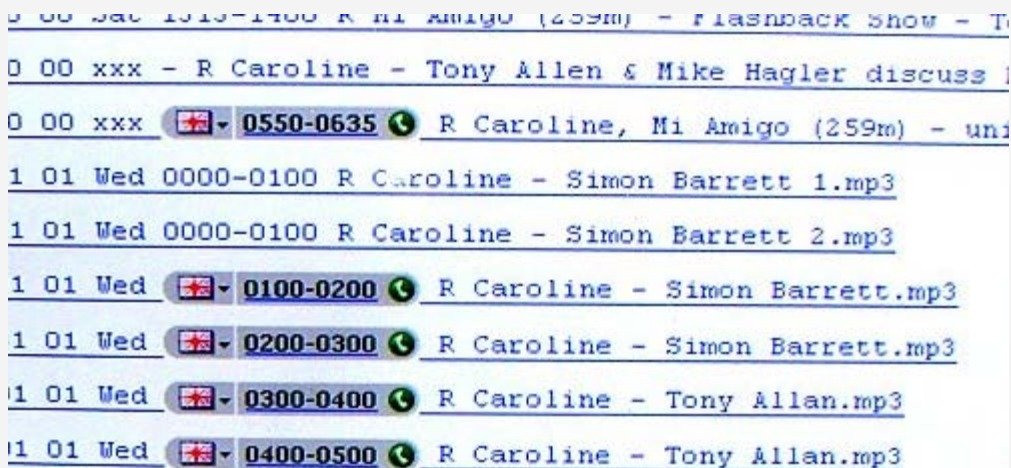
text.

I noticed this morning there is a new and unwanted silly toolbar, or button at the top right of firefox. It has a drop down box allowing the so called "Skype Extension for Firefox" to be removed. I never noticed any options in the first place for NOT having it there to start with when installing Skype. I wonder if it went in with the new version of Skype?? A few screen shots are given below. What is it with software companies that they have to have their wares install pointless and annoying pop ups like that. I thought that was the idea behind firefox in the first place, that it didn't have the silly annoyances IE has had for years.

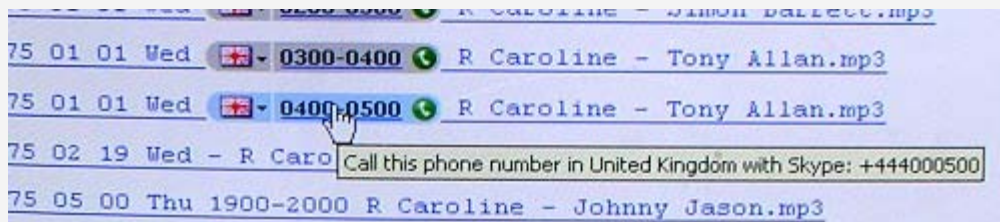
Am I really the only one that can't abide with pop ups and clutter??



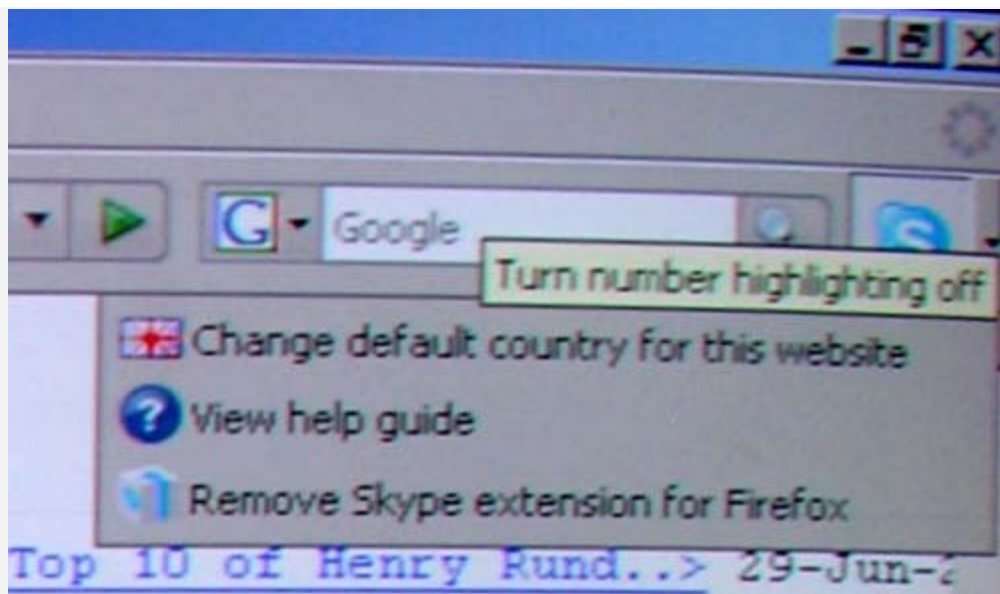
From my entry yesterday on this web site



From AZ Anorak



From AZ Anorak



The unnoticed button on the top right of Firefox

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2009:

NOTES AND IDOL CHATTER:

After a very hectic weekend here, including an all day funeral on Friday, things have settled down again. I have still been able to record every morning though at 0500 and 0600. I have also been recording 10m around the bottom of the hour at 0530, and was rewarded on Friday morning with **KNTH Houston, TX** on 1070, a personal first. I feel that this past week, the peak time is certainly around 0530 - 0545, but beginning to fade by 0600. However this morning, Tuesday, 0600 was rather good, and maybe by the end of the week, 0600 will be the peak for a time. The band seems to be very much the same every morning this last few days, and the hint of mid west stations from last week seems to have gone. KCKK was regular for a few days on 1510, but WWZN has returned as the dominant station. I suppose I am looking for the same volume of personal firsts and exciting new stations as last year. Yet this year's list includes many of the firsts heard at this time last year, which turned out to be common place over the course of the winter. Last season was the first real dx season with the Perseus being used in anger. The season before, conditions crashed just before I bought the Perseus SDR, and stayed very average for the rest of the season.

I have been watching my farmer neighbour across the way, harvesting the barley in this great spell of weather this back end. It has been a long time coming. I haven't caught up with him to see if he will plant his winter barley, or like last year, leave it until spring. I obviously hope for the latter, and keep my fingers crossed. The beverage from last year is sitting ready to set up!!!

UNID STATIONS:

I listed a few UNID's at the end of the week. Thanks to Arild in Norway for listening and suggesting the Cuban for the 840 Mexican music station. I just lack the proper ID, as signals have been quite strong this past week on and off, but never at the right times!!! The programme I have heard is their night time programme. My 630 station was WUNO PR. Tnx again to those who took the time to listen to the audio clips, and also thanks to Arild for his kind comments on this web site.

UNID 1370 0400 13th Sept:

David H called me about the station heard on 1370 at 0400 Saturday past. On the first play, the ID sounded like the daytimer heard last season, WGIV, but listening to the recording again and again, I am convinced it is nothing more than an ad on WDEA. I just can't make out what is being said as there was a bit of Euro splatter, but it sounds like some kind of a comment at the end of an ad or promo, rather than an ID. I would like a second opinion on this one too. Either side of the toth at this time, was a Boston Redsox game, which WDEA carry, but WGIV are exclusively gospel, judging by their web site.

AUDIO CLIPS:

Here are a few audio clips from the last days, including 1370. A few more may find their way here before too long.

090915_0500_1130_kwkh_vg_peak_over_wbbr.mp3

090913_0400_wdea_odd_toth_inc_redsox.mp3

090912_0530_1170_wwva_vg.mp3

090911_0533_630_cfco.mp3

LOGS OVER THE WEEKEND OF NOTE:

530 Encyclopedia Cuba 0600 13/9

540 CBC FF Windsor, Ont. 15/9 0600 (Not usual FF CBC stn)

550 WSAU 11/9 0600

550 ESPN 0531 11/9 no local ID.

560 WGAN 0534 11/9 GD

560 WIND 0531 11/9

570 CKGL 14/9 0600 Gd ID

590 WEZE Boston 15/9 0500

600 WAEL PR 15/9 0600 Personal First

610 WIOD FL 0500 13/9

630 CFCO 15/9 0557. (11/9 0533 GD)

650 WSM 15/9 0500

680 CFTR 15/9 0600 some great signals

720 WGN 0530 11/9

760 WJR 0600 12/9 Booming in

810 CJVA 0527 12/9 Hrd mixing with Radio Scotland. Difficult channel here

840 WHAS 0534 11/9 SS again mixing. Poss Cuba

850 WEEI 0500 12/9

870 WWL 15/9 0605 vg

900 CHML 15/9 0600

980 WCUB 0500 13/9 Vy poor id

1070 KNTH Tx 11/9 0530

1090 WBAL 0505 12/9 Id in the mud, but hrd

1130 KWKH 15/9 0500 0600 (also 0600 13/9)

1150 WHBY 0500 13/9

1170 WWVA VG 11/9 0500 vvg 0530

1280 WNAM 0532 11/9

1290 SS 0500 13/9 Should be identifiable

1310 CIWW 0500 15/9

1320 WILS 0400 13/9

1330 WRCA VG signal 0500 12/9 (0530 15/9 Out of a **WUNB px**, so beware of this call here)

1370 UNID / Disputed station. I suspect WDEA 0400 13/9

1380 CKPC 15/9 0530

1390 WLCM 0534 15/9

1400 WOND 0500 12/9

1430 WHK 0500 12/9

1440 SS 0557ish 12/9 David H has a rarity here, but I can't pull ID out yet. need to try again.

1510 KCKK 0500 11/9 Really dominant over WWZN today

1590 WAKR 0533 15/9 Rare ID heard through the German jamming.

Rebelde Cuba hrd 0600 13/9 on 550, 560, 600, 670, 710, 770

SKYPE NOT WORKING:

I have not been able to log on to Skype since last week. I feel it is not a fault with my PC as such. Even with firewalls disabled and Skype reinstalled etc, it still won't log on. I have come to the conclusion that Skype have pulled the plug on old operating systems. I was using windows M.E. for the web PC. I have been for many years now. The operating system was always a trusted reliable system on my main machine, up until larger hard drives were required a few years back. (Limit was 120 gig drives, or official limit of 137 or whatever the figure is). If it were not for the hard drive limitations, I would probably have still been using WIN M.E. The operating system had far less clutter, and despite the on line forums, for my uses it was always fast, reliable, and never crashed any more than any other windows based system. Anyway, I had to move on, but kept the web PC using an old operating system, mainly for checking that these web pages still looked OK on old browsers. But now all over the web, I am constantly finding silly messages about older browsers, as webmasters add clutter to their sites. Even Radio Caroline have a large unfriendly screen now on their pages. Exactly why they require these changes I have no idea. I have been told that the

simple design of these mw dxing pages make it a very fast loading web site. I shall continue to use this simple format for as long as possible. Many web pages on line remind me of dial up days, when the pages take such an age to load.

So anyhow, looks like I will have to spend some time on the web PC later, to get back on Skype. I can't really get enthusiastic at spending the time just at this moment, but needs must. I find it odd that I can't find reference to this on line anywhere, but maybe I am the only one left using a 98 based system!!!! I have never been a fan of imposed upgrades.

Update: I have just reinstalled XP on a drive as a web PC, and Skype is working fine. I first installed the cluttery new version, but was much happier after I uninstalled the mess, and installed the older version. Boy there are so many software designers who seem to think everyone wants clutter and pop up boxes and meaningless changes for the sake of change, rather than for any useful purpose.

PERSEUS AND MACAFEE:

I have also been following the on line discussions within the Perseus Yahoo group about Macafee Antivirus picking up on the Perseus.exe file of the latest version. Whatever it picks up, it has been deleting and sending the files to virus vaults. A similar thing happened with Spysweeper, which seen the mem.dat files created by Perseus memory files, as some kind of a dicky file called "backdoor hackdoor"!! Not very confidence building!!

I can say that I only run Perseus on a dedicated DX machine, and really don't have any other resource eating software running on it. Because it is never on line, I don't need any AV or anything running the background. The Perseus PC is only just running the full 1600kHz. If I open an html file, eg all time list, while the Perseus is running, the stuttering starts. But in general the old single core 2.8g is fine for the full band. (Perhaps this is because I don't have endless software running in the background, I don't know). I have had experience with both Norton and Macafee in the past and find them quite annoying for slowing up machines. I have used AVG free version 7 for a number of years as well, till they stopped supporting old versions of Windows. But my point is, there are any amounts of antivirus freebies out there. There is no real need to be stuck with one which is not suitable. I noticed some of the replies to the questions of Macafee were similar to my own ideas. (eg ditch it). AVG free has worked well now for a number of years. Avast is another, one of many. Some folks already do what I do. When they upgrade to a new PC, they use the old banger on line as a dedicated web machine. But of course this can not possibly suit everyone's situation!! It may be some people need their fastest PC on line for work, and this would be the best bet for Perseus too. The imaginary situations are endless.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2009:

YESTERDAY'S LOGS UPDATED, AND UNID STUFF:

I have added a few more logs to yesterday's list, after listening to the files again last night.

I also have a few UNID signals from yesterday, and also from today. Will put up recordings at some point. SS stn is surely identifiable. The rest could be the weak signal syndrom.

1. 0500 9/9 I have a difficult call on 1390.

2. 0534 9/9 SS 840 with Mexican Regional jingle, which sounds like the format of a 50kW station WCEO COLUMBIA SC. But it is listed as a daytimer, although as seen from last years log's, it doesnt matter sometimes!!!

090909_0532_840_unid_ss_mexico_poss.mp3

3. 0500 9/9 Unid call on 1320, like a slow and deliberate WPZO or similar, popping out the mush. Weak and noisy, so may be an advert or something.

4. 0500 10/9 1480 Unid sounds like Atlanta's Sport WRKI or similar. Weak and noisy, so may be an advert or something. WHBC id just before this. So maybe their top of the hour.

5. 0400 10/9 920 Unid call sounds like HD, Rochester. Too noisy and mushy.

A YEAR AGO TODAY:

I don't know yet how I would describe the band conditions at this moment in time compared to last year. I think it is too early to decide if the conditions are up or down on last season. If I was to have a guess I would say they are about the same so far. There are many stations being heard that last year I would have classed as good DX, and many were personal firsts, yet they turned out to be regulars last winter. Stations like WSAU 550 is one, WRIG 1390 is another. There are many examples. I have made a new column in my all time list, of stations heard in 2009. They are coloured a horrible yellow, so it is easy to see what has been heard so far this season. I look back at the personal firsts and FKR-UK logs in September, and see most of them were being heard towards the end of the month. So we have plenty time for the September DX season to really move up a gear. As it stands, I have heard CJOB this past three mornings on 680, but always below 6-80 NEWS. There was a hint of classical music this morning on 950, and CFRY was heard again on 920, today minus the ID. (Straight into news after the music stopped).

FIRST WEST COAST LOGS OF THE SEASON:

JF and BD both report Vancouver on 1470 at 0400 or 0500, but nothing heard here. The distinctive three pips were heard by both DXers, and I guess this is the first West Coast logs of the season. Well done chaps. Incidentally these three pips must be played on the stations studio equipment, whatever they use for jingles these days. They are certainly not top of the hour pips like the BBC. They are often more than a minute out!! MAH up in the frozen north has also began his dx season in earnest with

west coast logs now coming in.

DO YOU COUNT THIS KIND OF LOG AS 100%..?

Some DXers have been watching the CFRW web site, when they hear a piece of music on 1290kHz, and if the music heard corresponds to the tune on the web site, voila - then they have heard CFRW. Is this classed as a full proper ID? Is it OK for a station which may be heard on a semi regular basis, but not for an FKR-UK?? (First Known Report in the UK) This is a similar approach to comparing what is being heard, with a web stream. Fair enough it does give 100% certainty of what is coming through on the air, but does not provide the elusive ID. How satisfied is a DXer who hears only parallel web streams? For me, I really desire the elusive ID's. For many however, this approach may be enough to satisfy themselves. But is it good enough to qualify for the FKR-UK listings?? I had classical music on 1220 last winter, during the opening to the Mid West, and it could really only be the MB station, but I lacked the ID, and it doesn't appear in my all time lists as identified.

So how about hearing the above pips for Vancouver 1470, or as I did last year, the CBC News jingle on 1010. There is nothing else on the frequency that the above two examples could possibly be. Like all things in life, there are grey areas and exceptions. How about Greenland. Who had a decent recording of a station ID from this station. Has everyone assumed when they log the station in the dx publications every month, there will never be anyone asking to hear their IDs, or don't they have ids. Is it right to list Greenland month after month without the prefix "pres", for presumed? The same can be said for 555. As stated further down this page, it is the only station on 555, and the only possibility, even if all that is heard is a BBC relay.

ON THE BANDS TODAY: The whole band seemed to be like a graveyard channel at 0500 today. There were strong signals every 10kHz, but often only mush. 0600 is not great yet, and the peak seems to be around 0530 somewhere. A couple of weeks will make 0600 a useful TOTH.

560 WQAM FL 0600

680 CJOB Barely heard 0500

700 WLW VG 0600

760 WJR 0503 Like a local, stronger than groundwave 755 + Euros

950 WWJ 0600

1170 WWVA 0500

1320 CJMR 0500

1480 Unid Snads like Atlanta's Sport, but maybe just an ad on WHBC

1480 WGVU with ann 850 and 1480 oldies now. The multi calls threw me to start with.

1510 KCKK 0500 Not as good as yesterday's log though

1540 KXEL 0500

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2009:**UPDATE FROM YESTERDAY:**

Last night I was listening to yesterday's files and managed to hear the rare Fargo station on 1200 that Paul C first reported yesterday. I also had country music again on 970 around 0500, with a possible mention of 96 at one point. This must be FM, assuming the ann did say 96, because if it related to MW it would of course be 97. I also heard this last winter, but failed to get a decent ID. At 0505 on 920 I had the elusive station carrying IRN USA radio news. I still have not heard a satisfactory ID on that one. There was some speculation last winter, but I would prefer to hear a full ID before the station goes into news, or for that matter after it comes out the news. At 0500 it was the Canadian pest, CKNX which was dominant. Also WOYK had a loud and clear ID at 0503 on 1350.

TODAY'S LOGS:

Another morning of conditions picking up and opening towards the West. 920 and 1290 were both good, while 680 was behind Toronto.

550 WSAU 0500
 630 WUNO PR 0601 Lists of associate stations
 680 CJOB 0500
 840 UNID Mex mx, wih Mexico Regional mentioned. 0532
 900 W Radio Mexico Screechy YL in SS vg at 0532
 920 CFRY 0500
 940 WINZ 0535 Sports Animal
 960 Exc Zone WEAV ID 0500
 1150 WHBY 0400
 1160 WYLL 0300
 1240 VOXM 0532. Surprisingly good peak
 1260 WMKI Boston 0500
 1280 WFAU 0400 ann 1280 1450
 1290 CFRW 0500
 1310 WLOB 0400
 1320 UNID slow deliberate ann like WPZO 0400
 1360 WTAQ 0534
 1480 WHBC Canton 0535
 1510 KCKK Mile High Sports Radio 0500
 1510 SPORTING NEWS RADIO Pres WLAC / KCKK Amazing echo 0534(out of sync)
 1650 KCNZ 0500

TODAY'S RECORDINGS:

Below are a few recordings, some made today, some other recent days. Listen to the Greenland 570 signal compared to the other two, 1st 720, then 650. CHML is booming

as is WEAV.

090908_0458_570_greenland_also_0459_570_720_650.mp3

090909_0601_630_unid_ss_multi_calls.mp3

090828_0500_650_wsm.mp3

090904_0500_900_chml_vvg.mp3

090909_0500_920_c fry.mp3

090909_0500_960_weav_vg_new_id.mp3

090908_0400_1200_kfnw_fargo_moorhead_weak.mp3 (Call at 5s)

090909_0500_1290_cfrw.mp3

090909_0500_1510_kckk_gd.mp3

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2009:

MW LOGS FOR THE LAST FEW DAYS:

This morning there were a few rarer stations peeking through. I even managed a personal first!!! I know a lot of DXers who have logged KOA Denver on 850, but it is one of those stations that has always eluded me, until this morning. I seem to be receiving strong enough signals, but most mornings recently, I have only had more regular stations, with the following exceptions.... DX neighbour Paul C in Troon has had a string of rarities already this season. But like before, we are both on very different fades. It is not that there are no signals, we are both receiving different stations. David H only 100 yards away had no sign of CJOB this morning, but had good 680 news. It really is a lot to do with luck!!!! Paul had 1200 KFNW at 0500. I could hear the West Fargo / Fargo Moorhead part, but nothing else. But after checking my 0400 recording, I found a call ID there.. Tnx to Paul for the tip. He was the first to report it though, and thus takes that claim, of being first known in the UK to report it.

570 Greenland Hammering in 0500 0456 mumbling and short jingle type tune. // 650 and 720

570 WSYR 0505 5/9

630 CFCO 0500 7/9 0502 4/9, 0528 4/9

670 WSCR 0500 8/9

680 CJOB Winnipeg 0500 8/9 1st log this season

680 WRKO 0500 5/9

740 AM 740 Toronto VG 0501 8/9

820 TALK 820 (CHAM) 0500 5/9

830 WCCO 0500 8/9

850 KOA DENVER 0505 8/9

900 CHML VG 0500 4/9

960 KMA 0500 8/9

1070 poss W station in mush 0300. 8/9 Too weak.

1130 KFAN ID 0457 8/9

1150 WHBY Kimberly 0300 8/9

1200 KFNW Fargo 0400 + 0500 8/9

1310 WLOB 0500 5/9

1350 WOYK Gd ID 0503 8/9

1220 WHK 0500 7/9

1280 WNAM 0505 8/9

1470 WNYX 0500 7/9

1470 WLAM OLDIES CHANNEL 870 and 1470 AM 6/9 0301

1500 WLQV 0300 Good id mix Washington. 8/9

1510 KCKK Denver best in USB. 0300 8/9 0300 6/9

1540 KXEL 0505 4/9

1620 WBND South Bend 0300 6/9

1640 WTNI 0505 4/9

WEAV 960 - TOTTH ID CHANGED AGAIN

Another call to watch out for again on 960 is WTSJ from WEAV the Zone. They ann again at the toth 1320 WTSJ Randolf. Worth remembering for reference.

TVDX IN SEPTEMBER:

It may be that I am not as thorough as some TV dxers, but I can't remember such an intense opening in September like we had today. I took some shots of NOVA that would have looked great amongst mid summer photographs of sporadic e. I have to admit, that I don't check very often at this time of year. It was Davie H who alerted me to the opening. Logs were as follows:

SPAIN E2

Nova R1 and R2

SLOVAKIA R2

LATVIA R2

RTL R2

HRT E4

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2009:

PERSEUS AGAIN:

I have written a few lines about the Perseus SDR after having used the set for almost

two years. I have also made new autohotkeys files for every hour for use with Perseus 2.1f. This is different from previous versions, since the zoom buttons, and frequency panel are different. I have below a complete autohotkeys toolbox for downloading, file format is .rar, so winrar is needed. Anyone who creates their Perseus folder in the same manner as I have, will be able to use the text files included. All the contents of the zipped rar file are in the public domain, but if there are any issues, do let me know.

THE PERSUES TIMER / AUTOHOTKEYS TOOLBOX FOR PERSEUS 2.1F (4,158k RAR)

PERSEUS SDR, A LIFE CHANGING RECEIVER

A FEW LOGS FROM DAWN:

Today the band seems quite average, with lowish signals at 0500. But a few interesting ones crept in. 0530 may be a better peak, but not so many ID at the bottom of the hour. I find often around 0533-0535 is good before the next programme starts, for the ids.

560 WGAN 0500

570 CKGL 0500

580 CFRA 0500

650 VOXM / WSM 0500

750 WSB/ CBC 0500

770 WABC / La Habana. WABC claiming to come from Land of the Free. (new qth?? lol)

800 VOWR 0458 No ID during long muffled bassy speech. Why Why Why don't they buy a new mic??

820 WBAP 0500

830 WCCO in WCRN silence 0500

840 Mx mix WHAS 0500

920 CKNX vg 0505 (in the mush at 0500)

950 WWJ 0500

960 Pips and pops mix zone - Reloj? 0530

1180 LA HABANA mix WHAM 0500

1280 WFAU 0500

1320 WILS 0500

1330 WRCA 0500

I had station (s) on 1470, but never managed to id them. 1470 has not given any other ids than WLAM this season. And even at that, the WLAM ids were earlier in the summer.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER 2009:

WBAE THE BAY ON 1490:

Yesterday's log of a 1400 and 1490 ann (on 1490) is I think The Bay, WBAE in Maine. Earlier in the year I mentioned that some web sites of American stations make it difficult to see what the frequency or location or call really is. Often their sites are simply clutter. Try this one out and see if you think it is clear where they broadcast from.

<http://www.ilovethebay.com/>

950 WWJ ADDED:

Just found a WWJ ID at 0505 25/8. so that's another one made it this season.

920 - NOT SO HOT??

Are the HOT channels this winter going to be the same as last winter?? Well this season, 920 has produced only CKNX, and XELE. Of course there is plenty time yet, but it was a very HOT channel last season. 1380 was another hot channel despite the Euro splatter usually present. There is the remarkable period just after dawn, when the tadx stations are often stronger than the Euros. This period is highlighted by the Persues wideband recordings, when it shows up all over the band.

A FEW LOGS FROM THIS MORNING AMONGST THE COMMON STUFF:

890 WLS Gd 0534
 900 W RADIO 0500 Mex
 990 CKGM Gd ID 0500
 1170 WWVA Best this season 0500
 1250 WSSP ID TOTH 0500
 1320 WILS Lansing, MI 0500
 1420 WOC

RARER OPPORTUNITIES IN DXING:

There are two, maybe three rarer opportunities on the MW band for a little extra dx at no extra cost at this moment in time. What am I talking about? I refer to broadcast stations with faulty transmitters or studio feeds. Three common stations here in Europe are broadcasting with signals which are other than perfect. Here are the ones I have noticed this last few weeks:

600 CBC SYDNEY, NS. Is this being closed by stealth?? I don't know, but audio is barely audible at the minute, and this gives us a chance to possibly dig out some other DX from below the strong carrier. The thing is, it has been like this since I started back

at mw dxing in mid August. If the CBC really cared about this transmitter, it would have been repaired weeks ago. Maybe it will finally be switched off?? One problem with the freq is that there is something quite off channel, causing a bit of a growl.

830 WCRN BOSTON: This 50 kW station has had audio problems with their overnight attempts at automation since last year. Often, like this morning, they broadcast carrier only for long periods, allowing other DX to be heard, but I have to say, I have not managed to ID the SS station beneath as yet. Last season they were often broadcasting two feeds of these fill in programmes like coast to coast at the same time! Double audio feeds!!!

What I fail to understand is how a 50kW station can have so few listeners overnight, that no one has told the station. They may as well sign off at a sensible time, and save electricity!! Does the station staff not even have their radios on?? They surely must be aware?? Mind you, their talk output is hardly what you may call gripping. If it ain't some decent classic rock, I have no use for it!!

Being a selfish dxer hoping to dig out rarer dx below their carrier, I ain't gonna let on to the station.

950 CKNB: 95 - CKNB in NB has also had audio problems in the past. Their audio is traditionally low, including at present, but it has been heard much much lower earlier in the year. Watch for other dx behind this common oldies station on 950 as well.

1390 WEGP: I have spoken to at least one other DXer who agrees that so far this season WEGP seems to be down a bit on last season. Maybe they have found that the price of electricity is too much to run full power?? Last year it seemed much more dominant than it has been so far this season, giving already WFBL, WRIG, and maybe others a much better chance to crackle through. They often have a few seconds silence at the top of the hour as well, which is good for dxers, between "The Dennis Miller show, on Westwood 1" and "Fox News Radio".

555 - THE FORGOTTEN CHANNEL:

So often do I forget to check the frequency of 555. In fact it was Davie from "Davie's blog's and logs" that first mentioned it this season, a couple of weeks ago. Because of the cosmetics of the Perseus SDR, a turn of the mouse wheel moves the frequency by 10kHz (with the setting I always use for TADX anyway). The split frequency as it is known, of 555 St Kitts, is rarely checked/ remembered. But while checking the band at the LF end this morning, I noticed the strong carrier, and there it was - a thumping signal from a BBC relay. Sadly, there were no local programmes at this time. Local IDs are heard earlier on in the night, so mid winter is a better time for this unique station. Unique in the fact that it is the only station in the world on that frequency, so there is no doubt even if a dxers hears the BBC. But as a dxer, it is always desirable to have a local ID from ZIZ Radio. Check my audio clips page for ID's a couple of years ago. The

other split frequency of 895 is not so well heard, and was only at carrier level at 0535 this morning.

I always wondered what the point was of a station in the West Indies carrying BBC news from England which has absolutely no relevance whatsoever over in the Western Hemisphere??

From years gone by, there were many other split freq's. From memory here are some former splits that made it to Europe. I think 555 and 895 are the only two left.

535 Radio Vision Christianas
 535 Grenada
 555 St Kitts
 705 St Vincent
 725 Surinam
 825 St Kitts (now TBN 920)
 834 Beleize
 895 Nevis
 1165 Caribbean Radio Lighthouse

ELVIS COSTELLO AND THE ATTRACTIONS:

I have just picked up on a little piece of useless information. The Manx Grand Prix was on Manx Radio 1368 today. (Road racing, not unlike the TT) It was reported that the wife and younger brother of Elvis Costello of "Oliver's Army" fame was racing on the Island. I can understand his "Attractions" to the sport, but hope that the lyrics from one of his other well known tracks "I can't stand up for falling down" doesn't apply in this case.

PERSEUS ARTICLE: I am in the process of writing an article about use of the Perseus SDR for the past almost two years. A true revolutionary piece of DX kit. It will be incorporated either in receivers, or in the personal observations pages of Perseus eventually. Watch this space. It is not any 200 page article or anything, but only a few thoughts and comments that are not quite proof read.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2009:

Well another new month, and it looks like the summer is well and truly over. Sad really to think of the long light nights gradually disappearing, and returning to blackness which is hardly desirable, but for the mw dxing opportunities. The sun is still spotless, and has been since mid July. For MW dxers, this is a good sign. I wonder if it will beat last years long spotless period from mid July to mid September. I guess if it does, the scientists who are guessing about the sunspot minimum, may have to edit their own journals a little too..

UPDATE: Sunspot count of 12 today (For yesterday's data). The sun has woken up!!

920 XELE ID AGAIN:

AB confirms my unid on 920 some days back, was indeed XELE again. I take my hats off to AB and PC for their SS skills, which are so much better than my own. Tnx also to Alf Aardal for listening as well.

RADIO CAROLINE 531:

Radio Caroline has been on 531 all weekend from the Ross Revenge, but nothing heard here. Even with the Faroos on fades, I heard no trace of their signals, which was a pity. The shows were great though with a number of the presenters from the 70's again on the radio ship, and bringing some life back to the station and the ship.

LOGS FOR TUESDAY MORNING:

0500

560 WGAN 0505

940 WINZ FL THE SPORTS ANIMAL 9-40 WINZ (said as a word, like WINS) 0505

960 Unid mix WEAV. Just too much in the mud to ID. (Paul C had VA stn ID)

970 WZAN Maine's Talk Radio id, not the RADIO FOR MEN jingle

990 CBC

1060 WBIX. Boston Herald ad plays thru toth

1110 WBT VG today

1190 WLIB NY

1200 WKOX EE id 0502 in fade as usual. Music loud either side of that time! SS jin 0505

1270 WTSN 0505

1310 WLOB 0505

1360 WDRC

1420 WBEC Pittsfield, MA

1430 WNSW Newark

1440 WRED The Big Jab

1490 Unid Ann AM 1400 and 1490 - 5 day forecast - 0505

(Thought to be WBAE Maine)

Not a great deal around today other than common stuff, and not very powerful at that, but then on 1420 and 1430 there are rarer stations heard on each channel. How odd the MW band can be. The recording at 0505 out of the news did produce a few extra ones, as seen above. 1230 had something at audio level for once, but nothing audible at the top of the hour. (TOTH). And quiet easy listening music heard on 1340, 0504. or maybe hymns.

OLD LOGS:

I found another personal first on 550 from old files waiting to be deleted. Rebelde, Cuba on 550 0700 10/3/09.

[Back to logs index](#)**KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 2009:****A FEW LOGS FOR SATURDAY MORNING:****0500**

530 Pres Cuba Encyclopedia, but no ID
 570 CKGL
 580 CFRA
 610 Long FF ann TOTH, not // today to 730
 670 WSCR again pres. SPORTS but no IDs.
 710 WOR
 720 WGN
 770 WABC Mumbling ID's
 1010 WINS
 1310 WCCW
 1330 WRCA (0300)
 1350 WOYK
 1380 CKPC
 1420 WOC
 1630 KCJJ
 1650 KCNZ

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - FRIDAY 28th AUGUST 2009:**LOGS FOR FRIDAY MORNING:**

The band seemed well down on the last couple of days, especially the higher end. Don't get me wrong, there were stations to be heard, but perhaps below average sounding conditions, and a bit more euro splatter on some channels. But on the lf end, I had a few firsts for this season.

0500 (Lots more common stuff omitted here)

570 WSYR (News Radio 5-70)
 580 CFRA

600 CBC still awfully low audio
 640 CFMJ Toronto
 650 WSM Booming in !!
 710 WOR CNN Radio Nx
 720 WGN
 830 SS again with WCRN
 900 CHML
 970 SS with WZAN. Radio Voz something.....
 1270 Sporting Nx Radio jin, pres Detroit again
 1400 WOND
 1420 WHK
 1600 WUNR
 1660 KRZI

0400

1270 CJCJ (0432)
 1650 KCNZ
 1670 WFSM GA

By the way, anyone who read the tale of the trapped coax yesterday, I added today's photo of the spate. The tree is well washed away!!

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 27th AUGUST 2009:

TODAY'S MW DX :

Conditions this morning at first glance at the 0500 recording, seemed a little down on yesterday's strong signals. On closer inspection, many of the same stations were logged as yesterday, less the gem on 930. WHAM was quite loud this morning on 1180. Adding to yesterday's list, I heard the following stations for the first time this season. It is about time to make up the new table for 2009.

560 WGAN / REBELDE mixing 0500
 570 CKGL 0500
 580 CFRA Weak 0505
 600 REBELDE CUBA 0504 Same shouting over music on 560, and 670
 660 WFAN 0503 Very Strong at this time
 670 WSCR Chicago. fair before the hour. Weak Chicago id TOTH. Call just in mush 0500
 720 WGN 0400
 1170 WWVA 0500
 1300 WOOD 0300
 1310 CIWW 0502

1390 WRIG But again call sounded different. Also 2nd stn, poss WFBL, but requires other ears. 0300
 1410 WPOP 0500 weak
 1480 WGVU 0500
 1490 Unid 0500 not quite strong enough
 1650 KCNZ The Fan 0500

FRENCH NETWORK:

I heard Rick Ashley or was it Astley (tacky late 80's singer) being played on 800kHz around 0502, and noticed it was in // on 610, 690, 730, 800 and 1150. I never realised there was some kind of a night network in French Quebec. I have not been hearing much in the way of ID's from 610, or indeed CKAC sport of late. That would explain why.

BEVERAGE CHECKED LAST NIGHT:

I went for a walk yesterday evening to free one of my aerial feeders from a tree that has almost fallen into the river at the back. It doesn't look like much from this side, but from the other side it is a fair sized little thing. I don't know what will happen when the river rises again, as it is at the time of writing, touching the surface of the water now. It is also raining tonight at 1815, so I will keep an eye on it. It is also near the main beverage feeder too you see, but I think it will go under it quite nicely if and when it gets washed away. The feeder to the 200m beverage running west has been moved higher out of the way now.

UPDATE 28th AUG: By luck I rescued the entangled feeder when I did as more heavy rain overnight again turned the river into a torrent. See photo on right taken 28th. The fallen tree is well away!!!



In the process I decided to have a walk along the beverage. Boy is the woodlands thick with growth at this time of year. Kids have been playing at nights over in the woods, but not in the rough part where my aerial is thankfully. They have been in a nicer flatter higher part. But I made the error of leaving a handful of sticks close by, which were scattered over the area they have been playing on their tree swing. Luckily

there were only half a dozen or so. The other pile is just across from me here, and in the bushes. This was the planning stage of running another beverage through the woods on higher sticks, and comparing the difference. But the weather this summer since July has been so wet, the enthusiasm to run new antennas has never arisen yet. It may soon though with the start of MW dxing again..

A FEW RECORDINGS :

Below, are some recordings from this morning and yesterday mornings dxing. I would like a second opinion of the WRIG recording. It probably is WRIG, but I had convinced myself it was saying something else. Two mornings on the trot I have thought the call something else. Also on the WRIG recording is something else, which I am taking to be WFBL, whose call also throws me quite often, the way it is said. I am open to suggestions of these two ids during WEGP silence. WPAT id is included, as are some powerhouse signals received in the last days.

090827_0503_660_wfan_vg_inc_xxx_ad.mp3

090826_0500_680_cftr_vg.mp3

090826_0500_750_cbc_vg.mp3

090826_0503_780_radio_coro_venez_id_only.mp3

090826_0500_930_wpat_paterson.mp3

090826_0500_1020_kdka_vg.mp3

090826_0500_1160_wyll_chicago_gd_peak.mp3

090827_0300_1390_tent_wrig_unid_wegp_usb_then_lsb.mp3

DAVIE'S AERIALS:

It was brought to our attention on the Skype chat the other day, that I have not put any photos of David Hamilton's aerial up here on the site. Someone was asking the other day, and we couldn't show them. Here are a few shots taken in winter. There are some of the village, and the image looking North really shows what a deep river valley we lie in. In image four, you can see the antenna pointing directly at my own shack. Photo one is a more general view of the village.



KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 26th AUGUST 2009:

TVDX IN LATE AUGUST:

David H up the street alerted me to a TVDX opening around 1700GMT tonight. RTP (E3), M1 (R1) and briefly HRT (E4) came through. Not bad for so late in the TVDX season.

NOVICE MW DXERS:

I don't know if such a thing exists, but maybe there are still the odd ones who fancy giving MW a go, and making the best of the prolonged sunspot minimum.

All times referred to in these pages refer to GMT, or called by some UTC, or ZULU.

When is the best time to listen for MWDX? Right now, in late August at these latitudes, there is a definite peak around 0500 GMT. This is the hour or so around dawn when the band is at it's best for reception from the west. I was up briefly at 0500 GMT the other morning and a nice bright morning it was as well. I should have taken a photo to include here of how daylight it really was at that time, but I was up chasing noisy geese away from the bedroom window, and returned to the land of nod. The perseus was doing the work for me at that time. Darkness falls here just around 1945 - 2000 at this time of the year, but the fade in doesn't take place till about 0000UTC I think it is, as darkness comes first to Newfoundland, and spreads west. I will check closer later tonight and report back.

MID WEEK MW DXING:

Today's MW dx was best at 0500 here. There were very loud signals from 1160 WYLL, and 1200 WOAI. These two are not what you would call like WBBR or VOXM, and heard at these strengths regularly, but today was nice. Also peaking well a few minutes after 0500 was 780 Radio Coro Venezuela. WPAT was heard on 930 as well. I think this was possibly a first known reported in the UK in June when I heard it for the first time. MAH also reports another one of the rarer stations on 930, other than CFBC and WBEN.

Aint it amazing to think that 930 was always dominated by CJYQ St John's and now they claim to want to reduce power to 25kW. Well, if they are running anything like 25kW, I should be very surprised. More like a couple of kW. Maybe they have put up a very directional aerial with a good null in this direction, as they are only a shadow of their former self.

Odd station heard on 1190 at 0400 GMT on 25th Aug. WOWO was heard with ads and usual id after toth, but there was a station with CBS news at the top of the hour. WLIB doesn't have this does it??

LOGS FROM THIS MORNING: - Not so much exotic, but strong in signal strength!! Will maybe add some recordings tomorrow, but a few bits and pieces to do tonight..

540 CBC EE 0500

550 SS No ids 0500

580 SS No ids 0500

610 FF. 0500 What does this ID as nowadays?? Is // 1150 still on??

620 VOXM Loud 0500 (710 and 740 not loud)

650 VOXM Loud 0500

660 WFAN 0500

680 CFTR exc levels 0500

700 WLW 0500

730 tent Columbia SS No ID though 0500

750 CBC Vy loud 0500

760 WJR 0500 Stn below, but unknown if even ee or ss

770 WABC 0500

780 WBBM 0500

780 Radio Coro Venezuela. This was what I used to hear Latins like. Strong 0503

790 WAXY FL 0500

820 WBAP Gd at 0500

830 WCRN Carrier only gave SS as well as anthem stn 0500 (common with WCRN's auto playout)

840 WHAS 0500 Good levels

860 SS mix CBC FF stn 0500

930 WPAT Paterson, NJ 0500

990 CKGM 0500

1000 WMVP CHICAGO 0500

1010 WINS / CFRB about equal 0500

1020 KDKA 0500 very loud at this time. multi call id

1050 WEPN NY mix CP24 0400

1070 SS here but IBOC from pres WTIC causing grief 0500

1160 WYLL Booming in at 0500 and 0503

1190 WOWO 0500

1200 WOAI booming at 0458

1250 Joy 12-50 full id 0500

1270 WXYT Detroit Mi 0459 decent id from this for a change

1310 WCCW 0459 20s

1360 WDRC 0500

1390 WRIG 0400 Sounded like a different call, but towns the same. Web check revealed no call change. 0400

1400 WOND 0503

1470 Radio Formula Mex 0457

1540 CHIN 0500

1590 WAKR 0504

1630 KKGM Poor at id time. Gospel peaks. 0500

1650 WHKT / Disney 0500 0300

1650 KCNZ 0400

1660 The Fan WQLR 0500

1660 KRZI TX 0400

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - TUESDAY 25th AUGUST 2009:

WABI 910 AGAIN AFTER MANY YEARS:

I had to get rid of some perseus files as I was running out of space. One of the dx tests from a qrp stn on 1400 ran for an hour or two in March (29th) and I recorded the full whack. Listened again to TOTH before deleting, and found a low audio spot from QRO local on 909. WABI Bangor, Maine was there. I have not had this since Five went 24 hours, before which it was once a common station!! I kept the toth and deleted the other 50 gig or so!!

New log, WABI 0400 910kHz 29/3/09

DX CLUSTER BACK ON LINE:

Our Skype MWDX tips only chatbox, otherwise known as a dx cluster is back in action again since the season is beginning to roll out. Any links that appeared in the past are now defunct, and dxers must get in touch to be invited in.

MW DX THIS MORNING:

This morning I had some strong signals on the band.

At 0500 WJR 760 was exceptional. There were some rarer catches, as well as strong common stations. The whole 5 VOXM channels were loud and clear. CBC 600 still has an awful fault on the audio, and hopefully other dx stations may sneak through. CKGM

was on 990, dominant, rather than CBC. WLIB was on 1190. Other stations 1290 CJBK, 970 WZAN, 1010 WINS, 1140 WQBA, 1300 WOOD, 1580 CKDO, 1600 WUNR, 1630 KCJJ, 1650 CINA, 1650 KCNZ, 1660 WBCN, 1700 KVNS, 890 WAMG, 830 WCRN Also with the same automated audio trouble as last season, 660 WFAN. 680 TORONTO NEWS. **0505 950 WWJ**. There were many others.

At 0400 add 1190 WOWO, 1610 Like FF CPAM or something?? Seem to remember one of the Canadians id as this, 1650 KCNZ, **1660 KRZI WACO, TX**, 1670 WFSM (New Call GA stn), 890 WLS

0430 Unid SS 920, 1060 WBIX, 820 WBAP, 780 WBBM.

Recordings from this morning:

Unid SS 0430 920. Sure there is an id in here

WJR was just so powerful at 0500, I made this long clip

WJR with a ridiculous disclaimer at 0434

CP24 1050 AT 0434, TORONTO

WBAP 820 Texas 0432

E-BOOK - KEN'S MW DX YEARBOOK NOW AVAILABLE:

The previous years complete DX 12 months of reports and chatter which are to be found on this web site are now available as a single 243 page pdf download. The file runs from June 2008 - July 2009, and is bookmarked on a per month basis. There is no general index of contents. The most recent dx is placed at the start of the document, in the same way these pages are designed, so that the latest updates will be seen first on page opening.

The 3,733k file includes all the low res images as seen on line. The high res images which are a click away on line, are not included. The full 243 page pdf is available by clicking below. A newish version of Adobe Reader is required. Version 7 works OK.

If anyone wonders why the file runs from summer to summer, it is due to the MW DX season, which this pdf features in depth. This runs from August or September until March or April roughly. This allows the e book to cover the complete season. Please forgive me if the mid winter entries contain spelling errors. Many entries were written up in a hurry.

Ken's DX Yearbook - 2008 / 2009

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - MONDAY 24th AUGUST 2009:

A FEW RECORDINGS FROM YESTERDAY AND TODAY:

090823_0501_740_am_740.mp3

090823_0500_1010_cfrb.mp3

090824_0500_1620_wdnd_southbend_espn.mp3

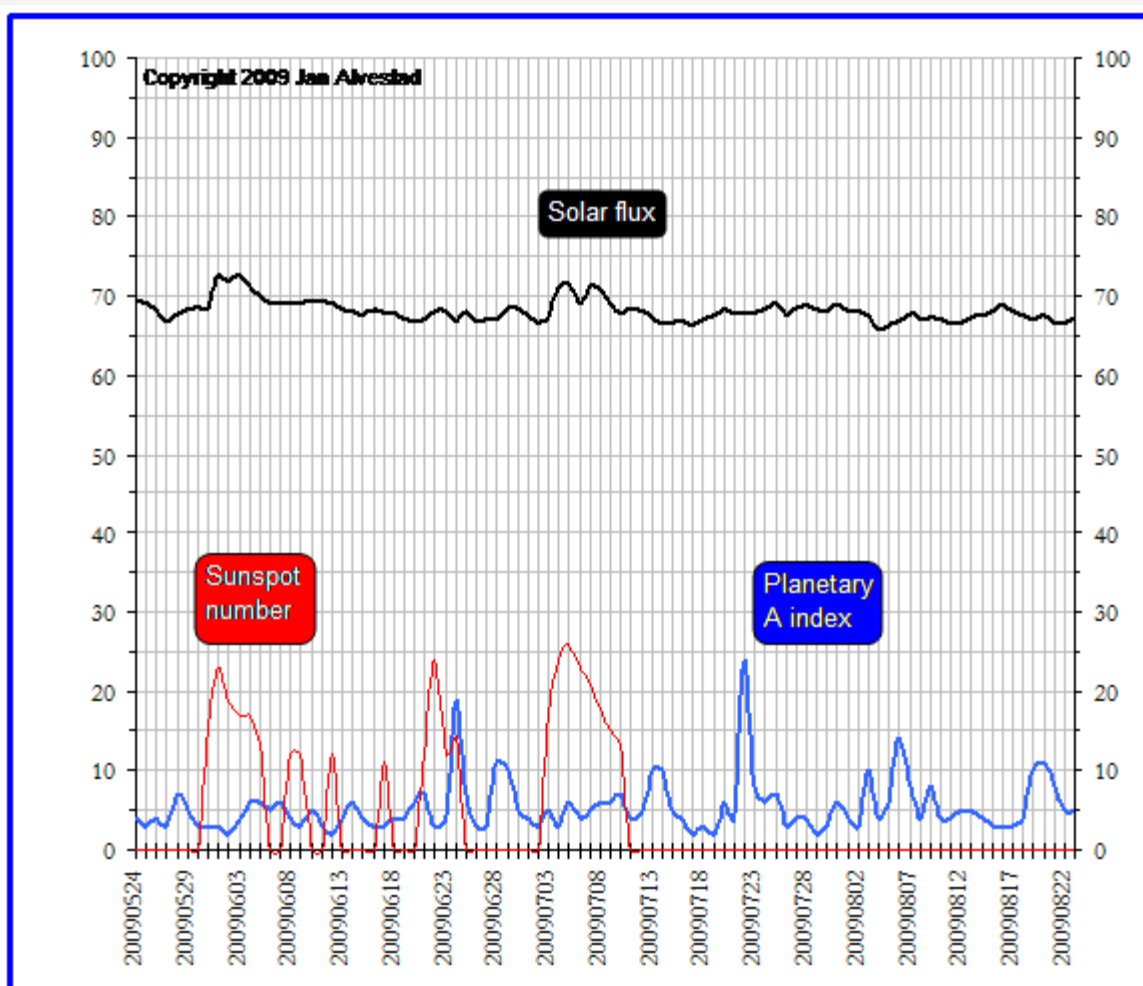
090824_0500_1520_wwkb_50kw_jin.mp3

090824_0500_1020_wurn_kdka.mp3

090823_0500_1270_unid_tent_ff_long_clip_inc_mx.mp3(587k)

SPOTLESS SUN STILL:

The sun is still spotless. Look at the prolonged period with zero sunspots on <http://www.solen.info/solar/> from Jan Alvestad. Last summer the spotless period ran from mid July to mid September!! Check back the historical data on Jan's excellent web resource.



Jan's graph shows in red the spotless count. If you look back at the following two pages in Jan's data history, it is easy to spot the indices around 2nd December and 25th January.

http://www.solen.info/solar/old_reports/2009/january/indices.html

http://www.solen.info/solar/old_reports/2008/december/indices.html

MONDAY 24th - TADX DX THIS MORNING:

That's two new stations in two days. Looking good. I have never heard the station in South Bend on 1620, but that was a first for me this morning, WDND 1620, and also hearing at both 0500 and 0400, WURN, Kendal FL 1020, new to me Sunday 23rd at 0500.. The rest of the scribbles below on the freq list are the more common stations, which are heard regularly. Some more so than others.

FRIDAY MORNING - 21st:

The band was pretty interesting here this morning. I was a little surprised to have **WSM 650 at 0500** with quite good signal. First this season. Also at 0500, the If part of the band was littered with SS speakers. I don't think I have many (if any) IDs, or at least not as yet. 550, 570, 600, 610, 620, 710, 770, 970, 1180. The RUMBOS SS ann on 1200 could have been the US stn that has now been authorised to use 50kW there, WKOX - Newton, MA.

0300 and 0400 were not as exciting today. I had a local ID from CBC 1550 at 0259, also heard quietly on 600 with their terrible low audio. Even 950 CKNB has better audio.

THE LAST WEEK OR SO LOGS:

540 CBC E and FF mix 0400 18/8
 570 Greenland 0400 18/8
 570 CUBA 0400 21/8
 590 VOXM 0500 20/8 ETC
 600 CBC VERY low audio 0400 18/8 Local ID 0259 21/8
 610 Frenchy 0400 16/8 (Due off soon??)
 620 VOXM 0500 20/8 ETC
 640 CBC
 640 France Inter I think it was ID. 0500 20/8 Reputed to be Guadeloupe, but no local IDs
 650 VOXM 23/9 0500
650 WSM Nashville, Good signal for this early in the season, 0500 21/8
 680 6-80 News 0400 14/8
 700 WLW 0400 16/8, 21/8 0500
 710 WOR 21/8 0500
 710 SS La Revolution Habana etc. 21/8 0500
 730 CKAC 0400 14/8
 740 Toronto AM 740 ZOOMER RADIO (Or similar) 0300 14/8, VG 0501 23/8
 740 VOXM 0500 20/8
 750 CBC 0400 14/8, 18/8
 760 WJR 0400 14/8, 21/8 0500

770 WABC 0500 21/8 0500 unid ss stn dominant at this time.
 780 WBBM 0300 14/8 mx mixing, 0400 18/8, 21/8 0500
 790 WAXY 0500 23/8
 800 CKLW 0400 16/8, 0500 21/8
 820 WBAP 0400 16/8
 820 TBN 0500 20/8
 830 WCRN 0400 16/8
 840 WHAS 0400 14/8
 850 WEEI 0500 21/8
 860 CBC FF SCE
 870 WWL 21/8 0400
 880 WCBS 0500 16/8
 890 WAMG / ESPN 0500 21/8
 920 CKNX 0300 18/8, 23/8 0500
 930 WBEN 0300 18/8
 930 CFBC 0300 21/8
 940 MONTREAL 05 20/8
 950 CKNB 21/8 0400
 960 WEAV THE ZONE 0400 16/8, 0500 21/8
 970 WZAN hrd a few times
 990 CBC 0500 20/8
 1000 ESPN Chicago 0400 16/8
 1010 CFRB 0400 19/8, AND Exc 0500 23/8
1020 WURN Kendal, FL New one on me. 23/8 0500, 24/8 0400 +0500!!
 1050 CP24 0300 18/8 Good id on this weird named station
 1050 WEPN 0500 16/8
 1060 WBIX 0500 24/8
 1060 R Education, MEXICO . No ID 0300 21/8, ID 23/8 0502
 1070 CHOK 0300 16/8
 1080 WTIC 0500 20/8
 1100 WTAM 0300 16/8
 1110 WBT 0500 20/8 CBS
 1120 KMOX 0400 16/8
 1130 UNID country music, mixing WBBR 0400 14/8, 0400 16/8
 1130 UNID sports along with WBBR 0400 19/8
 1140 WQBA Miami mix CBC 0400 16/6, 0500 24/8
 1160 WYLL 0400 16/8 REGULAR
 1180 WHAM 0400 19/8
 1200 TEAM 12-00 Ottawa ESPN SPORTS 0400 16/8
 1200 SS 0500 21/8 Poss 50kw WKOX
 1250 CJYE Joy 1250 0400 14/8 id
 1260 R Disney WMLK Boston 0500 21/8
1270 UNID like FF tk 0500 23/8
 1290 CJBK 0400 23/9
 1300 WOOD 0300 20/8 FOX
 1310 CIWW 0500 21/8
 1320 CJMR 1250/ 1320 IDs. 0500 + 0400 23/8
 1330 WRCA 0500 21/8
 1350 WOYK 0500 24/8
 1370 WDEA 0400 16/8, 0500 21/8
 1390 WEGP REG 0500 24/8

1390 OLDIES 1390 WFBL. 0500 21/8. Often caught with this id thinking the letters are something else.

1400 CBC 0300 16/8

1420 WOC 0400 16/8

1430 WENE The Team mix Toronto ethnic 0500 21/8

1450 WENJ Still ee id toth even though ss px 0500 21/8, 0500 24/8

1500 WFED 0500 21/8

1510 WWZN 0500 21/8

1520 WWKB booming in most times I tune

1550 CBC Local id 0259 21/8

1560 DISNEY 0500 21/8

1570 FF Pres Boomer. no id at 05 24/8

1600 WUNR 0458 20/8

1600 UNID FF 0500 23/8 (WUNR??)

1620 WDND South Bend, IN. ESPN STN. 0500 24/8 New one on me

1650 KCNZ 0300 18/8, 0400 16/8

1650 RADIO SHALOM 21/8 0400

1660 WBCN Charlotte 0300 20/8 new call since 12/8 seemingly

1700 KVNS 0400 18/8, 21/8 0400,

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - THURSDAY 20th AUGUST 2009:

WFNA AM 1660 CHARLOTTE NOW WBCN:

New call noted this morning on 1660. Seems this call has been used since 12th August. A few logs included in the freq list for yesterday, just a little farther down the page.

20 YEARS SINCE THE ILLEGAL AND BRUTAL RAID ON THE ROSS REVENGE:

It is difficult to believe that it is now 20 years since the illegal boarding in International waters in 1989 by the Dutch and English governments. The gun slinging Dutch even made a video of the event, and treated their action, comparative perhaps with 1940s Berlin, as though it was some kind of a joke. It is also an amazing 26 years since the Ross sailed into the Knock Deep off Essex and began broadcasting on 963kHz. Anyone who can remember these days as vividly as I can, would have had similar youthfulness on their side. Many years have passed, and at the end of this month, Radio Caroline will have the crew on board the Ross again, and will be broadcasting live via the web and satellite for the bank holiday weekend. The 70's Caroline family got together a year past at Easter and made some very memorable broadcasts from the Ross. The Amsterdam radio day last November was in commemoration of those days. A very enjoyable day.

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - WEDNESDAY 19th AUGUST 2009:

SPOTLESS SUN:

If anyone follows the propagation and the activity of our sun on a regular basis, you will notice again that the sun has been spotless for over a month now. If this was happening in mid winter, we would surely be in the middle of another amazing season of great DX. Look at <http://www.solen.info/solar/> from Jan Alvestad. The graph shows nicely what has not been happening on the sun. It looked as though the sun was gradually coming back to life a little earlier in the year, but if it just stays at this remarkably low level for another few months, we may well have another great winter of MW dx ahead. The truth I believe is that we just do not know, and will have to wait and see.

GOODBYE SUMMER:

Sometimes I can be very negative, especially when it comes to the unpredictable Scottish weather. What a wonderfully unusual warm spell we had in June, to be followed since then by rain, rain and more rain. There have been the odd good days, but no decent prolonged spell of a mid summer in either July or August. The nights are beginning to become very dark, and it is a kind of depressing thought to have to return to the long dark nights of winter, with the feeling of having had no summer, for the third year in a row. I type this at 1900GMT on 19th Aug, and looking out the old shack window I see rain, and darkness slowly but surely beginning to fall. I have just seen someone walk past on the street with a parka on. I think that says it all for a mid August!!

GOODBYE TVDX 2009:

Well it seems the FM and TVDX season here for me at any rate, is as good as gone. For the last miserable few weeks, any openings have taken place when I have been away for the day or out for the night. So I may as well say the season is over. There may be the odd burst that a real enthusiast that sits on the bands all day every day may hear, but I don't have the enthusiasm to sit on an inactive band just in case something happens. I have not had a chance to use the D100 in proper anger as yet. This I guess will have to wait until next May!!! If the season was summed up here, I would jump up and say it has been awful. Yet there was the transatlantic opening in June, with verified Canadian transmissions, as well as UNID US stations. Then there was the rare 7 GOLD from Italy, and Belgium, for the first time ever. I am usually too close for sporadic e, too distant for tropo. But in general, I never saw I decent long intense opening. There have been a few I think, but again, when I have been away from the radios for the day. I have reproduced a few photos of old band 1 tv instalations which are still up, in the local area. I have also taken a few photos of some locally, but they were taken from a moving car, so will have to retake them!! They will be also reproduced here.

HELLO MW DX SEASON :

In theory, the start of the MW dx season is upon us. Last season I never really started

looking for DX until the end of August. The year before I was into September before I began checking. After lacking any enthusiasm for a time, I have begun to record the couple of top of the hours at dawn. Now 0400 GMT is giving a good peak, with David Hamilton reporting that during his live dxing, 0430 was a great peak this last couple of mornings. I have been hearing strong country music on top on WBBR 1130 over the weekend, as well as sports this morning, though ids on none of them. I have nothing worthy of logging so far, though after last years intense dx season, stations like WBBM 780, and 1160 WYLL are classed as common. With the closure of KIX 780, the chance for DX to filter through on 780 is I guess promising, although Chicago has been good on that channel already!! Greenland has also been heard on it's 570 channel.

What concerns me is this. What will happen if the sun does burst into life and mw dxing becomes WBBR, and KDKA on a good night? I doubt it will hold my interest. Time will tell.

I have recorded Friday at 0400 and 0300, as well as Sunday. Here are the freqs and stations heard so far this season.

Against my better judgement, I was going to include a table again for the next few weeks, as I don't expect to hear any new and exciting dx just yet. But I have decided in the end to list them in the entry below for now, adding new stations to the all time list, if any come in. I also will not be logging day after day what I have found to be my common stations here in Scotland. See my common, and all time tables in the logs index listings. I will probably add to this rough but simple list over the coming days.

NB: LOG LIST MOVED TO THE TOP OF THE PAGE

There was a whole lot more common stuff coming in. Davie noticed SS on 1070, 0400 14/8 (From my rec). Possibly identifiable. Isn't it funny how common pests call signs get forgotton after a summer break??

73s and good dx

Ken

KEN'S DX DIARY AND LOGS - SATURDAY 1st AUGUST 2009:

NO DXING THIS PAST WEEK:

I have been away again for a few days, which was a good and enjoyable break over in Kintyre. We managed to get a nice day in between the rain here in Scotland. Quite a miserable July all things considered, weather wise and VHF DX wise.

I have little or no DX to report this last week or two really. The TVDX season has died of death here at this location, with only the odd weak fluttery opening. I can not become enthusiastic towards TVDX when there is nothing to see. Weak carriers just don't hold my interest long. Just like when MW is poor, and signals noisy, I would

rather forget the dx and do something else.

AMUSING NEW RADIO CAROLINE T SHIRT - THE LAST OUTLAW:

I had a smirk to myself the other day when I saw Caroline have a new AUGUST design T shirt. I just might treat myself. Their web site explains.

'The Last Outlaw' T shirt to celebrate Caroline surviving all her August's to boast worldwide broadcasts this August Bank holiday, live from The Radio Ship Ross Revenge.

Declared 'The Last Outlaw' in 1967

"Radio Caroline has become the last outlaw. It may survive for a short while, but anyone who watches westerns at the cinema will know how even the last outlaw gets captured by the sheriff in the end" (Edward Short MP 1967)

Still waiting for 'The Sheriff' in 2009



Click on the link for details

<http://rcsocietysales.co.uk/printedshirts.html>



I remember the sheriff almost got his way in August 89, during an illegal boarding in international waters by the British and gun slinging Dutch morons.

D-100 DX TV CONVERTER - NO SUPPORT FROM MANUFACTURER:

I saw on the Skywaves web pages a few weeks ago that John F was flogging a pair of D100's for the very reasonable price of £40. I bought one, having read the very very favourable comments from other dxers about these converters. Output is at UHF, and freq coverage includes Bands 1, 2, 3, and UHF. The unit is quite easy to suss out, but I have noticed a few oddities.

1) There are three identical coax outlets on the back. None are marked!!!! I know this is difficult to believe, but if you buy a gadget at £160 ish new, you would expect at least a simple in / out sticker or even a rough old felt pen!!!

2) All the various models seem to be called simply D100. There seems to be no on line list of various upgrades etc. I find it odd that they are not called D100 - MK5 etc, or even D100 - 1999 for example, which would be the date of that particular model.

3) Tried to obtain an instruction booklet/ leaflet on line, but there are none to be had. The manufacturers web pages do not even have these basic requirements. E mailed Garry S, at HS PUBLICATIONS, who would not supply a simple scan or pdf or whatever of the leaflet. I was sent his sales pdf though!! How weird it that. What is that all about?? Is that because I bought the unit second hand?? Who can understand people's oddities.

Thanks to Mike Evans however for supplying a decent res scanned copy of his particular model of D-100. I suppose I would get grief if I reproduced it here for dxers. For such a superb piece of kit, it is hard to believe that on line support and basic technical data is almost non existent. OK as I said, it is pretty self explanatory, once you get the right outlet at the back.

More fuss seems to be made of tuning the UHF output to a TV. That is really very simple, just like tuning a VCR in the VCR days.



My own D100 front

Performance: Boy is it sensitive compared to the televisions I have. I'm sure if you look at my dxtv screen shots, you would agree the old telly's are by no means rubbish, but the D100 certainly gives a weak locked picture sometimes before there are even sync lines on the old Pye TV. But I have been unable to test it properly in anger so far. Surely but surely we will have a decent opening on band one before the final end to the traditional summer sporadic e season.

BAND 1 VHF AERIAL:

As I have often stated here in these pages, there are quite a large and surprising number of band 1 and band 3 aerials still on the rooftops of my general area. I have always looked at one which is about 8 miles over the moors in the town of Darvel, the same name as the local main station TV transmitter. It is a folded dipole cross for band 1.

Most of the antennas around here were either the single cross, or the so called "H" for band 1. This was because the transmitter at Kirk O' Shotts was vertically polarised. The H antennas sometimes had a band 3 antenna as well, a dual band thing. Anyway, I had the camera when I was passing the folded dipole cross the other day. One leg is beginning to sag, but it has lasted 30 odd years on a roof in Western Scotland. Can't be bad. The last VHF transmissions in Scotland were around 1984/ 5, but the UHF saturation was much before that, prob in the mid 70's. By the mid 80's, there couldn't have been more than a handful of folks using the 405 line service.



My local pub in the next village also has a nice unbroken band 1 cross on it's roof. Not quite as old as the pub however, with it's Burn's connections.

I don't know of any of the H aerials left. There are a number of "BBC1" band 1

crosses, but many more "STV" band aerials



The old flagpole has also been on the building at least since 1910!! Yet another good installation. I have a few old images of the building on my local historical pages. Click on the link below.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see old images of the pub

(Use back button, as there are no return links to here)

DAVID HAMILTON'S BLOG SITE:

DX Neighbour David Hamilton has added a BLOG site to his empire!! There are entries from the start of the sporadic e season, and stills and video clips. Check out Davie's blog spot at the following link.

<http://band1tvdx.blogspot.com/>

SKYWAVES OFF LINE AGAIN:

Not sure why there are always problems with Skywaves. I suppose it is the same with many dx groups the world over. Always fall outs and disagreements. Skywaves has sadly fallen foul yet again of internal trouble. John F again seized the web domain, leaving the youth that was running the show with the FM YAHOO group. Whatever the reason, the said spiteful youth seems to have deleted about 10 years worth of DX logs, and the Skywaves group!!! Charming. He has went on to start up a breakaway group called something like Elite DX. I fail to see what is Elite about deleting 10 years of DX logs mind you.

[Click here](#) to view the new SKYWAVES board

Sometimes these boards and newsgroups become tiresomely bitter. There is a horrible yellow coloured thing which sort of took over from Chris Cary's offshore/ Irish bulletin board, but it is so full of bitter and twisted entries, it is pointless even making an entry. I rarely look at that board, but sometimes there used to be the odd person uploading rare recordings etc, which of course you don't get since the group turned

into a snake pit.

I am glad I have no connections with any DX groups. I am quite happy to produce my own logs pages for all to read and toil away without any silly complications.

MW DXING:

The main focus of this web site during the dark months is MW dxing, but the season began in earnest last year towards the end of August. Let's hope this very page will begin to show some good logs. Like FM and TV, if there are only the common stations being heard every night, my interest is difficult to get stimulated. Last year was exceptional. What if this year this is not so?? Will I still have the same enthusiasm after being "spoiled" last season?? Time will tell.

RARE DX:

Radio Newfoundland, CJYQ was logged here again the other night. This is now very rare here. The station has been reported to have applied to reduce power from 50kw to 25kw or something along these lines. I suspect the real power is much much less. It doesn't even come in much in mid winter any more, where as in years gone by, it was a beacon, strong and first signal heard most nights. (At least among the first). The only other explanation I can think of is a directional antenna, with a great lobe towards Europe of flea power.