

DX Corner for June 23rd, 2026 =====W2SRA

Settled in last Tuesday night around sunset in Oswego County and dialed around the AM band looking for some greyline catches.

June 16th – Oswego County

20:35 - 890 WFKJ Cashtown PA with christian talk programming, 890 watt daytimer near Gettysburg PA

20:40 – 890 WKNV Fairlawn VA with Christian music and local ads “Joy FM” 10kw daytimer, good signal at times.

These using the CC Skywave 2 at Oswego Harbor

21:40 - 720 WHYF Shiremanstown, PA on past local sunset with Catholic programming & the Rosary // webstream. 2200w daytimer near Harrisburg PA. New catch.

Heard using the DP-666 and 100’ longwire

June 22nd – Saratoga County

23:00 – 1160 WYLL Chicago with Christian talk programming “1160 The Word” – 50kw night signal, mixing with WSKW Skowhegan Maine with sports talk, 730 watts at night. Both stations heard with local WSSV Mechanicville off the air... a station that spends more time off the air than on lately.

23:15 – 1150 WWDJ Boston with Christian talk programming “Relevant Radio”, 5kw a night, mixing with CKOC Hamilton Ontario playing classic hits. 20kw at night nulled toward us, and WDEL Wilmington Delaware with Phillies baseball post-game show. 5kw.

23:20 – 1120 WPRX Bristol CT with Spanish contemporary music, 500 watts at night - up way over KMOX St Louis at times.

Heard using the Mlite-880 and the You Loop.

Which brings us to tonight’s radio review:

The LiteMalaDSP radio with the model designation Mlite -880 is a general coverage multi-mode SDR based portable receiver, with reception from 150khz to 30mhz, and from 65-148mhz, featuring LCD display, built in speaker, using Russian developed software.

First the basics – the radio measures roughly 6” wide, 4 ¼” tall and 1 ½” deep. The backlit LCD display measures 2 ¾” x 1 1/8”, and features frequency readout down to 10hz, selectable signal strength display in either bar graph or numerical value in dBm, current receiving mode, clock, volume level, battery indicator, and a fast acting spectrum display. There’s a telescopic antenna measuring 28”, 1/8th inch external antenna jack which works on all bands, 1/8” stereo headphone jack, USB-C charge port, SD card slot, power switch and side mounted rotary knob for tuning, volume control and certain menu functions. The built-in 2” speaker is adequately loud and provides decent audio quality.

The main feature of this SDR based radio is the digital signal processing and noise reduction features. This works on all bands except the FM broadcast band. It analyzes the noise patterns and will reduce that noise, letting only the remaining audio of the signal to pass. This feature to my surprise does in fact work well, but only when given enough base audio to work with. If the signal is far down in the dirt, the noise reduction will not improve things. However, if there's intelligible audio – say for instance a SSB transmission coming thru a high noise floor, the DSP will bring out that audio and make it reasonably listenable. Digital artifacts may not make it comfortable for casual listening, but it does make it easier for a dx'er to identify what they're hearing. The level of noise reduction is also adjustable via the audio menu. On a strong signal, the DSP works well enough to really clean up the audio and reduce any noise to near zero. This feature alone makes this radio very dx'er friendly.

The spectrum display, while fairly basic is functional. I was able to sleuth out many overseas aircraft transmissions on HF by simply watching for peaks that would pop up. Same for listening on the amateur bands. The visual aid really helps to zero in on signals.

There are 9 tuning steps available, from 10hz to 10khz for LW, MW, & HF frequencies. For FM, there are 9 tuning steps from 1khz to 200khz, and for 2m there are 9 tuning steps from 100hz to 25khz. Rotary tuning control has slow and fast slewing, if you know how to finesse it.

Receiver modes are AM, SAM (Synchronous AM), USB, LSB, CW, DSB (Double Sideband), and Narrow FM and Wide FM. There are 3 AM bandwidths from 5khz to 15khz. A bit wide for a radio of this type.

Menus are easily selected by the numeric keypad, and all functions are clearly marked and accessible. Bands are listed by broadcast and shortwave bands, and by amateur bands. Rotate the knob to the band you want, hit enter and you're there. There's also direct frequency tuning. Enter your frequency and select khz or mhz. A nice feature.

This was a radio I was originally going to pass over, but after using it for a week I can generally say I'm quite pleased with its performance overall. Many functions of the radio are user programmable, making this a very versatile and customizable receiver, for radio functions, audio functions and the display. Stereo FM is available via headphones, and FM RDS information is displayed. The radio comes loaded with an EVE branded 21700 3.7volt lithium ion battery rated for 5000mAh.

While being pleasantly surprised with the Mlite 880, there are a few things I don't like. Like many SDR radios, there's processor feedback and internally generated birdies in certain frequency ranges. For example, from 660-680khz there's some feedback generated. Sometimes when you tune around, you'll see peaks on the spectrum display that disappear when you tune the radio, then reappear when you tune back. Every SDR I've used does this to varying degrees. Also, the reception on 2 meters is poor at best, and on my example, the receiver is 6khz off from the displayed frequency. 146.940 can only be heard when tuned to 146.934. Air band AM reception is actually decent, but again the frequency is off. Aircraft using 135.325 are heard on 135.3195. That's just inexcusable for a radio at this price point.

FM broadcast band sensitivity good for a portable, and HF, MW and LW reception is excellent. Do not expect to hear much with the telescopic antenna on MW or HF. This radio likes a good external antenna. And there's a BiasT function that sends 5v DC into the antenna coax to power a signal amplifier on your antenna if so equipped, like the MLA30+ loop.

This radio also has a record function, can play back mp3's from an SD memory card, and has bluetooth connectivity for connecting to a bluetooth speaker – both of which I did not test.

A basic user manual, USB charge cable, and an SMA to 1/8" antenna adapter are supplied with the unit.

This radio is rich with programmable functions, and on most bands it delivers the goods as far as reception, and noise reduction. Russian developed, built in China, but not for a typically Chinese price. This radio is available from online retailers for around \$270-300. So I would place this strictly in the hobbyist category. If you're looking for basic general coverage receiver, there's better radios suited for the casual user. If you're looking to monitor 2 meter radio or the air band, you'll find Chinese HT's can do that job better for a fraction of the cost. But if you like to DX the MW band, monitor HF, listen to SSB, or just want an easy to use higher end portable with recording capability, The Malahit Mlite 880 is well up to the task, and despite it's few drawbacks I find it to be a surprisingly welcome addition to my arsenal of DX portables.

Not a paid review or endorsement, I purchased my radio at full retail price.

That's all for this week from the DX Corner. W2SRA back to Net Control.