

DX Corner for August 18 , 2026 ===== W2SRA

Some Mediumwave DX catches

August 11, 2026

20:25 – 1100 WHLI Hemstead LI NY with oldies music on late past local sunset, right over WTAM. Signal abruptly disappeared at 20:30. 10kw daytimer

20:35 – 1260 WSKO Syracuse NY with Syracuse Mets baseball, good signal up over WBIX Boston. Presumed still on daytime non-directional pattern past local sunset. 5kw. Announcer: “....you’re hearing Mets baseball on The Score 1260” 5kw.

August 17, 2026

00:30 – 980 CFPL London Ontario with ‘Canadian Broadcasters Association’ spot, local ads and station promos. With WOFX completely nulled out.

00:40 – 1460 WGMF Tunkhannock, PA with 80’s classic hits, veried via webstream. 86 watts non-directional at night, with 1460 Albany nulled out.

00:50 – 950 WKDN Philadelphia PA with Christian contemporary music “Family Radio” 21,000 watts at night, directional aimed southeast. Mixing with and over WIBX Utica at times.

01:05 – 610 WTVN Columbus OH with “NewsRadio 610” sweeper into start of Coast to Coast AM. 5Kw, aimed due north. Mixing with usual WTEL Philadelphia.

01:20 – 960 WTGM Salisbury MD with sports talk “Fox Sports Radio 960 Delmarva”. Not new, but not often heard here. 5kw, directional away from us. Mixing with WELI New Haven.

01:30 – 1270 WDLR Marysville OH with 80’s pop music, veried via webstream. 500 watts. Not new, but always happy to hear this one. Mixing with WTSN Dover NH and WXYT Detroit MI.

01:45 – 1480 WDAS Philadelphia PA with sports talk, ads and sweeper “Fox Sports 1480 – The Gambler” 1kw aimed SE. Mixing with Korean lang. WZRC New York.

02:30 to 03:15 – 740 unidentified station - broadcasting operatic and classical music, occasionally fading up under CFZM Toronto. Might be Cuba, but too weak and sporadic to get an ID. So a mystery signal. CBC Radio One Edmonton (CBX) Alberta ruled out. WNYH Long Island ruled out, did not match audio on webstream.

Monday evening greyline catch:

20:35 – 1380 WKJG Ft. Wayne IN – ESPN sports talk and highlights, local spots and promo for “1380 The Fan”, signal dropped at 8:45. 5kw directional

All with the M-Lite 880 and YouLoop hung outdoors.

FCC Sunrise and Sunset times for Eastern New York are currently 6 AM and 8 PM, in September they roll back to 6:30AM and 7:15PM. And while we lament the days getting shorter, we must remember the DX conditions on Mediumwave really start improving at this time of year here in the Northern Hemisphere.

Been taking advantage of WXL34, the NOAA WeatherRadio station here in Albany being off the air for an extended period to DX the channel. After a few weeks of listening, I've only been able to hear two other stations on the 162.550 mhz frequency.

Most often heard is a very fringe signal from WXL31 in Syracuse, which I've been able to hear in spots around much of the area.

Also, while leaving work in the City of Albany late at night, I've been able to hear KWO35 a few times when conditions were good. KWO35 broadcasts a full kilowatt off the top of the Empire State Building in New York.

I was surprised I wasn't able to hear transmitters from Worcester or Cape Cod in MA on the frequency. The old Montreal weatherradio station on 162.550, which broadcast from Mount Royal, a signal I did receive down here in the 1980's a couple of times, is now permanently off the air.

In other news:

There was some excitement last week among shortwave enthusiasts regarding the announcement by Voice of America that their Ukrainian service would be returning after a year long hiatus. And while that is certainly true, it is also true that the service will only be provided via digital means via VOA's website. No shortwave or medium-wave service is planned for the time being.

There's a new online resource for shortwave radio listeners. It's called 'The World's Shortwave Radio Search Engine', located at HQ Shortwave Radio dot com. (<https://hqshortwaveradio.com>) This AI assisted database allows you to search for any frequency, any specific station, any language, operating right now anywhere in the world. You can track live propagation and solar activity, and with an account, you can log your catches, post your QSL's, look at station histories, and what makes this database different is the level of interactivity both within the site and with the community of other users. It's a new site, and it's a work in progress but there's lots of features to check out and enjoy. Once again, it's the World Shortwave Radio Search Engine at HQShortwaveRadio dot com.

We thank Jock for presenting this week's DX Corner – W2SRA 73, clear.

A DX Corner Extra:

A few weeks ago, I was asked by a friend and fellow radio enthusiast why AM radio stations from Montreal are either no longer heard at night, or are not heard as well as they used to be in the 1960's & 70's.

The answer is quite simple. Ownership changes and the curse of corporate ownership in Canada has led to many facilities being shuttered entirely, migrated to FM frequencies, or have resulted in changes to transmitter facilities.

Let's start off with a look at the former CBC clear channel stations on 690 and 940, which carried the call signs of CBF and CBM respectively. In the late 1990's, CBC's plan to migrate the majority of their AM signals to new FM facilities was well underway. CBF 690 was moved to 95.1 with a 100kw signal and the English language CBM 940 was moved to 88.5 FM with a much lesser 25kw signal. Since 690 & 940 were no longer needed by the CBC, the licenses were eventually sold to Corus Entertainment. However, the CBC transmitter site in Brossard, Quebec was not part of the deal. CBF on 690 always operated non-directional with a single tower, while CBM 940 used two towers at that same site. It was

sold separately for redevelopment, those tall towers being demolished around 2010.

Today, AM 690 (now CKGM) operates from the transmitter site of the former 850 CKVL near Mercier, Quebec using two towers directional with a wide pattern during the day, and two tower directional in a tight pattern at night, sending most of their 50kw toward the Northeast, away from the USA.

These days, 940 (now CFNV) is diplexed at the transmitter facility of AM 600 CFQR near Chateauguay, southwest of Montreal, using 2 of the four towers at that site for a wide east-to-west pattern, not favoring transmission toward to the south and this area.

850, the old CKVL fell silent in 2000, never to be revived. It was owned at the time by Corus Entertainment, which shifted the news-talk format to it's newly acquired 690 facility.

990 in Montreal was a station that started life on 980, and in an attempt to overcome some significant signal issues in the west end of Montreal, they were granted a move to 990 and an upgrade to 50kw with a new pattern. That station subsequently was sold off to another owner that changed the frequency back to 980 in 2014 with a standards-based music format in French that never really caught on with listeners. That station, with the call sign CHRF, was silenced permanently in 2020.

Another station heard for a short while from the region was 1040 CJMS. Not the first station in Montreal to use those calls, this latecomer to the AM dial in 1999, licensed to Saint-Constant, Quebec with 5kw days, and 1100 watts at night, could be heard easily in upstate New York after dark with it's french language country music format. Following repeated regulatory non-compliance issues, the CRTC ordered the station to permanently shut down the transmitter on August 31, 2020, never to return to the air.

The original CJMS, which operated on 1280 with 50,000 watts under owner Radiomutuel airing a french language Top 40 music format, ultimately switched to a news-talk format before being sold off in 1994. The new owner, CFMB which operated at 1410 with 10kw, moved that station and call sign to 1280 – where it remains today, while the 1410 signal was shuttered for good.

Another signal in Montreal was the old CFFX, known locally as C-FOX with a very popular top-40 rock n roll format in the 60's and 70's, and eventually became the Montreal outlet of Canada's nationwide CKO News Radio network in 1977. When CKO 's owners decided to pull the plug after losing \$55 million in operating costs, all of their licenses nation-wide were turned in to the CTRC in 1989. AM 1470 never returned to the air.

Another signal in Montreal we'll look at was on 1570. The old CKLM was a french language pop music station licensed to Laval, Quebec, operating with 50,000 watts, and was easily heard all over Eastern Canada and the northeastern United States at night. It first came on the air in 1962, enjoying good ratings and financial performance up until the mid 1980's, where revenues fell off, listener numbers dropped, and the station ownership was transferred to a 'numbered' company, which drew the attention of the CRTC. The commission felt the financial dealings were a little too shady for their liking, and in July of 1994 CKLM was ordered off the air. The station ignored that order, and kept broadcasting for a few more days, until – as if a message were sent from the almighty himself – the towers took a direct lightning strike, knocking the station off the air permanently. A new station has since come on the air on 1570, from two towers in a farm field running a directional 10kw signal sent mostly eastward over Montreal and toward the eastern townships. Other smaller signals have since populated 1610, 1650 and 1690.

So in review, Montreal's main AM signals are all directional these days, many of them pointed away from the United States at night, making them more difficult to hear than in decades past. There were two unchanged facilities over all those years, one being CKAC on 730, which has always utilized a two tower directional array, and was once the most listened to radio station in all of Quebec. Today, it's relegated to broadcasting rolling traffic and weather reports. And CKAC is still the easiest Montreal signal to hear at night on the skywave. The other is Montreal's long time anglophone News Talk station CJAD on 800 AM, running 50kw during the day, and 10kw at night with a very directional pattern

that's nearly impossible to hear after dark. This station was notable for having all four of its towers toppled during the North American Ice Storm of 1998 which affected a wide area of Ontario, Quebec, as well as Northern NY and Northern New England. CJAD rebuilt that site to its original specifications.

Montreal's nighttime skywave targets:

FREQ CALL - KW day/night PATTERN

600 CFQR - 10/5 directional – (English music) very hard to hear as they shoot their signal northbound away from us.

690 CKGM - 50 directional – (English sports) alone on the channel most nights, making them an easy catch

730 CKAC - 50 directional – (French travel info) also alone on the channel, heard most nights

800 CJAD - 50/10 directional – (English NewsTalk) Good greyline target, esp in winter. Very difficult to hear in New York at night, better in New England.

940 CFNV - 50 directional – (French music) much weaker than it was in years past, but can be heard on a decent radio.

1280 CFMB - 50 directional – (French multicultural & music) should be easily heard on a good radio in Eastern NY at night.

1610 CHRN - 1 non-directional – (Ethnic) tough to hear over Toronto, but they can be heard.

1650 CKZW - 1 non-directional – (Ethnic) also tough to hear on a crowded frequency, broadcasts in HD

1690 CJLO - 1 non-directional – Concordia Univ.'s college station, again tough to hear in the mix.

Signals no longer on the air: 850, 1040, 1410, 1470.