DX Corner ========== W2SRA
September 29, 2026

DX catches from Saratoga County:

Sep 16 23:25 to 23:33 – 1400 WICK Scranton PA with Stevie Wonder tune into promo for program on “the Mothership” into Tommy Edward’s ‘It’s All In The Game’ into Freda Payne’s ‘Band of Gold’, faded up out of the DIN for a few minutes, new catch here. 1Kw

Sep 16 23:45 – 1310 WEMG Camden NJ with spanish contemporary music, promo for “La Mega”. Deep fades but making the trip with 250 watts night power ND. Tower about 1 mile from downtown Philadelphia.

Heard with the Malahit Mlite-880 and the Tecsun AN-100 loop directly connected.

Sep 17 00:15 – 4940 AM ‘Estacion 4940’ Bogota, Columbia – spanish ranchero music, female presenter. Domestic service , 1kw. Down in the dirt but copyable.

Heard with the ATS25Ultra and the YouLoop

Sep 17 01:05 – 1200 WUZZ New Castle PA - 80’s classic hits music with sweepers “WUZZ Radio” and “The greatest hits that ever was, WUZZ Radio”, mixing with and sometimes up over Boston and Ottawa. 1Kw night power directional. From far western PA, not new but not often heard.

Sep 17 01:20 – 1490 WMRC Milford MA with Eagles and Prince tunes, sweeper “We are your only local radio station, download the MyFM app…. ” into Peter Gabriel tune. Tough copy but was able to pull it out on a few fade ups. 1Kw

Heard with the ATS25X2 and YouLoop

Sep 28 19:10 - 1110 WMVX Salem NH with 80’s rock music, 5kw daytimer on past sunset. “Valley 98.9”

Sep 28 19:15 – 1110 WPMZ Providence RI with spanish contemporary music and local ads. Gone around 19:30. ‘Poder 102.1 and 1110”

M Lite 880 and You Loop outdoors.

DX Catches from Oswego County NY:

Sep 17 20:26 – 6955 USB **unid** pirate Peter Paul & Mary into Gary Lewis & The Playboys. Just music, no voices. Good S9 signal most of the time.

Sep 17 21:03 – 1390 WBHV State College PA with Top 40 music, legal ID “Pop Music 93.3” 1kw

Sep 17 21:30 – 690 WELD Fisher WV with classic hits music, sweeper “If you’re in downtown Fisher, the Classic Hits are still a hit. WELD AM 690” Listed as 5 watts night power, long fades, but up and over a weak CKGM easily at times. Presumed on 500w critical hours power. New catch.

Sep 18 20:05 – 1530 WJDM Mineola NY spanish music – 10kw daytimer on past local sunset, wrecking WCKY Cincinnati.

Sep 18 20:45 – 6946 USB – Pirate ‘Radio 48’, dance music, occasional recorded IDs – long fades from S0 to S7, gone at 21:00

Sep 18 21:55 – 1070 WKOK Sunbury PA with Williamsport high school football, Legal ID, weak under CHOK Sarnia Ontario. 500 watts at night.

^^ Oswego County: Mlite-880 and 175’ long wire

Sep 19 17:57 – 1410 WLSH Lansford PA with James Ingram tune into Gary Puckett & Union Gap tune, Legal ID “1410 WLSH Lansford Lehighton Hazleton” 5kw daytimer.

Sep 19 19:36 – 1240 WJTN Jamestown NY with Marty Balin tune “101.3 & 1240am WJTN” rare station where day power is 500 watts, night power 1000 watts, ND.

Sep 19 19:50 – 1580 WXGT Columbus OH - sweeper “Cruisin’ Columbus, AM 1580” into Grateful Dead tune. 290 watts listed night power, briefly fading up over CKDO Oshawa ON.

Sep 19 20:05 – 980 CFPL London ON – legal ID “980 CFPL London, a Corus Entertainment station” into Global News. Mixing with sports talk WTEM Washington and oldies WCAP Lowell MA. 5kw night power.

Sep 19 21:10 – 1590 WFBR Glen Burnie MD – automated 50’s, 60’s, 70’s R&B soul music “WFBR” jingles, Baltimore area local ads, 1kw directional

Sep 19 22:20 – 1440 WHKZ Warren OH – ‘Relevant Radio’ Christian talk, 5kw directional

Sep 19 22:47 – 1300 WJZ Baltimore MD – LSU/Ole Miss college football, ID “This is 1300, The Bet” 5kw, in a pileup with spanish WLMZ West Hazelton PA “La Mega” 500w, and Classic Country WXRL Lancaster NY 2.5kw

^^ Oswego County : Malahit MLite-880 and 300’ long wire

Sep 19 23:00 – 580 WCHS Charleston WV – legal ID “The Voice of Charleston, 104.5, 96.5 and 580 AM, WCHS Charleston” into Fox News. 5kw directional

The long wire antenna makes a lousy antenna for general FM reception, but it caught some interesting tropo signals.

Sep 20 00:00 – 98.1 CBOF-FM-6 Cornwall ON – French top hour id ‘Radio Canada Ici Premiere’, 3000 watts, 132 miles. Tropo reception.

Sep 20 00:05 – 98.5 CHMP Longueuil, QC – French newscast, followed by Legal ID ‘Un service de Cogeco Media, CHMP Montreal’ 100kw 193 miles Tropo reception

Sep 20 00:17 – 92.9 WEZF Burlington VT – Hot AC music sweeper ‘Star 92.9’ 46kw, 189 miles Tropo reception.

Sep 20 00:30 – 97.3 CKVV Kemptville, ON – Olivia Newton John song into jingle ‘97.3 Moose FM’ 2260 watts 108 miles

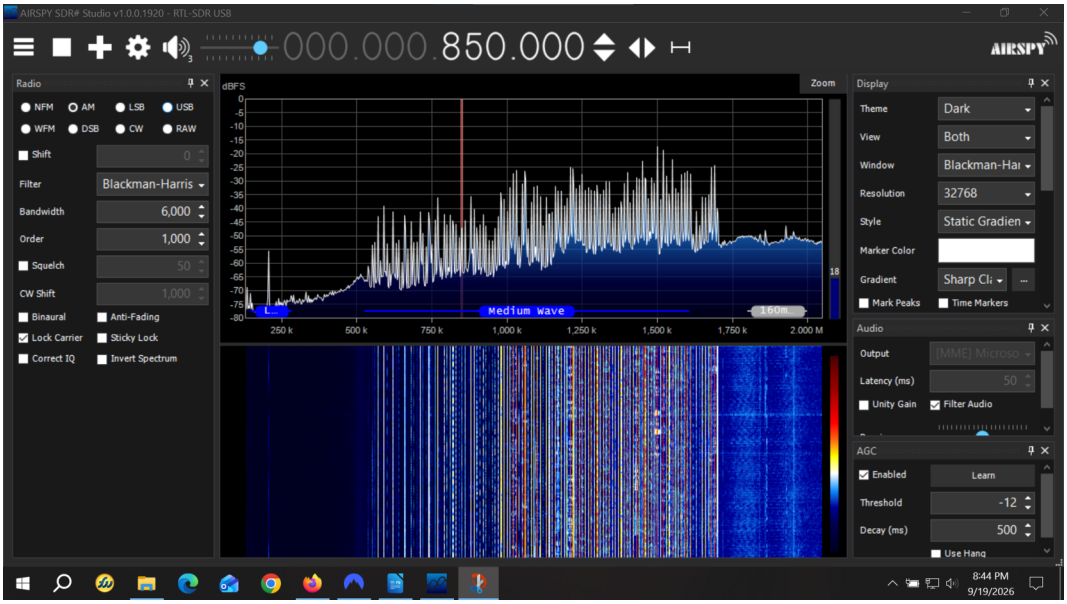
Sep 20 00:43 – 99.7 CJOT Ottawa ON – local ads to sweeper “Boom 99.7” 100kw, 125 miles

Sep 20 00:55 – 104.1 CKTF Gatineau QC – 2 males, 1 female talking in studio in French (sounds like morning show replay) Legal ID at top of the hour “...iHeart Radio, CKTF Gatineau. Energie.” into rock music. 19Kw 141 miles

^^ Oswego County – Deepelec DP-666 with 300’ long wire

Sep 20 01:25 – 96.9 CKOI Montreal contemporary music with French sweeper including “CKOI” (pronounced “See-Qwah”)
Full quieting with CC Skywave with only telescopic antenna 148kw, 193 miles.

We did extend our long wire out at our DX outpost in Oswego County from 175’ to 300’ ft. In comparison the results are roughly the same. Both antennas work well at the upper end of the AM band, but are marginal at the lower end of the band, with gain rolling off below 1100khz. The 300’ wire does have very good gain on HF, pretty much bringing in a multitude of signals on every band, way more than the YouLoop or any indoor antenna I’ve used. But I’m finding that adding length for medium wave is having very little effect over the original 100 footer we put up a year ago. I’m sure getting it higher off the ground would improve it’s performance, as the antenna sits an average of 15 feet off the ground for it’s entire length. I’ve included a nighttime spectrum plot using an RTL-SDR receiver and SDRSharp. You can clearly see the difference in gain from lower frequencies vs higher.



The Malahit Mlite-880 experiences the same roll off in sensitivity below 900khz. It still hears signals, just with not much gusto.

However, the Deepelec DP-666 seems to be particularly happy with this antenna, even at lower frequencies. The radio could clearly bring out signals like 550 WGR and 560 WFIL where the Malahit and the SDR struggled. The Mlite-880 could hear local 570 WSYR ok enough, but the DP-666 could not only hear WSYR, but was able to pull out WMCA under it at night.

On HF, the DP-666 could pull out WWV on 2500khz, while the Mlite-880 simply couldn't hear it. This is why the DP-666 is still my radio of choice for just plain guts on both AM and FM, while the Mlite-880 gets points for it's refinement, ergonomics, spectrum display and SSB capability.

It's been awhile since we've done a pocket radio review, so now is as good a time as any to take a look at the latest offering from XHDATA. If you were a fan of the D-220 or D-221 radios that got some extensive reviewing here on the Radio Monitoring Net in 2025, then you'll probably like this similar sized radio, offering AM, FM, and SW reception for around $25. The new model is simply known as the D-226. It is a DSP radio with analog-style tuning with traditional AM, international FM reception in two bandspreads: 64-108mhz and 87-108mhz. Shortwave reception broken down into 8 bands ranging from 5.6 to 22mhz, non-continuous. It offers coverage of the popular shortwave broadcast bands including the 49, 41, 31, 25, 22, 19, 16, and 13 meter bands, with a bit of extra coverage on each.

The fixed mount telescopic antenna measures 10 ½" inches fully extended (12 ¾" inches total length), and offers reasonable reception of stronger shortwave stations across the dial, and offers very good reception on the FM band. I was able to sit in my easy chair and listen to Vermont Public Radio out of Rutland with no trouble at all, about 55 miles away.

The radio's DSP tuning is reminiscent of the D-220/D-221 series, where a deft touch on the tuning control and a bit of hunting is required to zero in on signals. The DSP tuner does have (just) enough resolution so that it doesn't skip over certain frequencies and stations like the D-220 was noted for. This also holds true for the AM band, in that while this radio is no DX machine by any means, it can comfortably tune stronger nighttime skywave signals with not much difficulty. Daytime reception is on par with most pocket portables, whereas local stations can generally be heard without issue.

One feature that would've made this radio even better would be a center-tune indicator, letting you know when you're tuned right on the station. The D-226 could certainly use one, especially on Shortwave. Also, dial markings are small and a bit difficult to read for those of us whose eyesight isn't the greatest.

The sound quality is similar to the D-220/D-221 series, with nice clear audio from the 1 ¾" speaker. But the biggest upgrade in the D-226 would be the built in rechargeable 1200mAh lithium battery, as well as the ability to run from two AA cells. That feature alone makes this an attractive portable to keep in an EDC or bugout bag, or just to have in the drawer in case the lights go out. And to that regard, the radio also features a little LED flashlight on top to help find your way in the dark.

Controls include side mounted rotary tuning, and rotary on/off volume thumbwheels, side mounted slide switch for band selection, a top mounted slide switch for the flashlight, and rear mounted slide switch for selecting the internal or AA batteries. There's a 1/8" headphone jack, and a USB-C port for recharging the radio. There's also a little flip-out stand in the back to prop up the radio toward you.

Bottom line: if you liked the D-220 or D-221, you'll like the D-226. Fit and finish is always excellent with XHData products, and this radio follows suit. It feels good in hand, and is easy for right-handers to operate with one hand.

To compare: the D-226 is nearly identical in size to the older D-328, offers the same AM and FM coverage, however the D-328 adds reception of the 60 meter band, slightly better audio quality, a replaceable BL-5C rechargeable battery, a longer 19" telescopic antenna that swivels, and the ability to play audio files from a micro SD card, and all for under $20. The only advantage the D-226 has is the

ability to run from two standard AA batteries as well as it’s non-serviceable internal lithium battery.



XHDATA D-220 (left) , D-226 (center) , D-328 (right)

The XHDATA D-226 is currently running around $25 from most major online retailers.

That’s all from the DX Corner for this week, this is W2SRA thanking Jock for bringing it to you this week!