



Newark News Radio Club— The Very Early Days

by

Jerry Berg
Lexington, MA
jsberg@rcn.com



A number of histories and reminiscences about the Newark News Radio Club have appeared in the club's first publication, *The Dialist* (June 1934-April 35), in the pages of the NNRC Bulletin (which began publication in September 1935), and in a few old radio magazines. They date from the years 1934, 1935, 1937, 1947, 1952, 1965, 1967 and 1977, and are posted at www.ontheshortwaves.com (look under "DX History/Clubs & Publications"). All trace the club's history to an organizational meeting at the headquarters of the *Newark Evening News* on December 8, 1927. These histories, plus the six issues of *The Dialist* and the many issues of the NNRC Bulletin, comprise most of what is known about the club, which closed in 1982.

But what of the pre-1934 years? Before *The Dialist*, the club and its members stayed in contact through a column in the *Newark Evening News*. What was the content of those columns, which are the subject of only brief mention in the club histories? It was with great anticipation that I learned from Reuben Dagold, a long time NNRC member and the key man of the Association of DX Reporters, the club that served former NNRC members from 1982 to 1995, that, according to the website of the [Newark Public Library](http://www.newarkpubliclibrary.com), the library began microfilming the *Newark Evening News* over 20 years ago.

I contacted the library and learned that it does indeed have the newspaper on microfilm for the years 1927-1934 (the paper copies for those years are no longer available), and it loans up to six reels at a time to other libraries through inter-library loan. More or less arbitrarily I chose the year 1931, and through my local library I requested the reels for January-March of that year. They arrived in about 10 days.

During these months of 1931 the club had three columns of interest to radio enthusiasts. Two of them were contained in every issue of the paper, which in those days was published daily except Sundays. One column was typically headed "Radio Club Notes," the other "Broadcasts Winnowed."

"Radio Club Notes" was written by the then-president of the NNRC, Irving Potts. Potts was the club's second president (the first was Lee S. J. Cranse). Potts served for 32 years, from 1930 to

1962, and is the person usually credited with the club's success. The main content of "Radio Club Notes" was letters from members and from other *Evening News* readers, usually with brief replies

from Potts. Other information of interest to DXers was included as well. Shortwave was still new in those days, and the focus was clearly on broadcast band DXing, which was always the heart and soul of the NNRC, even after it became an all-band club.

The letters covered the usual DX topics: stations heard and verified, listening equipment, reception conditions, interference, DX statistics, etc. As might be expected of a newspaper, letters were often introduced with colorful tag lines that emphasized their newswiness: "Montclair Woman Tells of DXing," "Asks About Bait for Station Fishing," "Verwoodt Brothers Report on Catches," "North Carolina Doctor Joins Club," "Glen Ridge DXer Brings Log to 340," and "Wants Application for His Fiancee" ("she is hopelessly ill with DX fever").

Also included were the names of recent club enrollees, notices of scheduled club meetings, news of upcoming courtesy programs, information on available publications, updates on club doings, changes in station call letters, etc.

DXers were already adopting informal radio pseudonyms, and often used them in their correspondence. Thus one would read letters from The Nutley Bug, The Lone DXer, Radio Hawk of the Air, and numerous others.



RADIO CLUB NOTES



The regular monthly meeting of the NNRC will be held tomorrow evening at 8.

* * *

Notice of the following special program comes from a member of the courtesy program committee:

Dear President: Radio Station WSJS, Winston-Salem, N. C., informs me that they will be on Easter Sunday morning starting at around 8 with a special religious program.

According to unofficial statistics early morning DX programs keep 943 members of the Newark News Radio Club from going to church regularly. Perhaps that is why WSJS is dedicating this program to us.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY E. VARRELMAN.

* * *

3 North Cornwall avenue.
 Ventnor, N. J.
 March 28, 1931.

Dear Mr. Potts: Received word from KVOA, Tucson, Ariz. They will broadcast a DX program every second Sunday morning from 1 to 3. (I think this will be 3 to 5 A. M. E. S. T.) My log now stands at 622, verified 605. Sincerely yours,
HERBER J. BLYTHE
 (Jer-FAN-sey).

Thank you, Mr. Blythe.

* * *

Where to Get Government Logs

A communication addressed to Henry G. Pfaff, one of our Montclair members, from James W. Baldwin, secretary, Federal Radio Commission, Washington, D. C., reads as follows: "Your letter requesting a radio station log has been received, and you are advised that the commission does not have this information for distribution. A station log arranged by call letters, state and frequency may be procured from the superintendent of documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a cost of fifteen cents."

* * *

Chatham, N. Y.
 March 16, 1931.

Dear Sirs: Your letter of the 12th received with emblem button, also the stickers, and thank you very much for sending them, for which I am enclosing 30c. Haven't been doing much DXing lately, but on the 7th got WHBQ, thanks to the paper sent me. I enjoy very much reading the letters written in to the club by the various members from different parts of the country. Have now about 438 verifications and stamps. Again thanking you for the paper sent, I am
 Very truly yours, **R. A. MASON.**

You are welcome, Mr. Mason, and we're happy to admit you to membership in the club.

* * *

I would appreciate very much any information pertaining to the above."

* * *

Those members or other readers who have the desired information are requested to communicate with Mr. Crump.

* * *

John L. Verwoordt, one of our Hoboken members, wishes, through the medium of the column, to thank Herbert VanDyne and Ed Moraczewski for writing him.

* * *

Chalk up another possible new member of the club to the credit of the courtesy programs committee. Ronald Scott of Kearny writes: "I have taken advantage of special programs long enough, so it is about right that I should pay dues. I love to DX, and any time I can, I do so. Will you please forward me an application and the dope concerning dues, etc.? A club member, James MacNamara, told me how to build an aerial for best results. Following his instructions about aerial building that night, I logged XED, XETY and my first coaster, KFI." An application blank, with particulars, has been forwarded to Mr. Scott, and in passing we wish to thank James MacNamara for the assistance he rendered our Kearny friend.

* * *

Chatham, N. Y.
 March 16, 1931.

Dear Sirs: Your letter of the 12th received with emblem button, also the stickers, and thank you very much for sending them, for which I am enclosing 30c. Haven't been doing much DXing lately, but on the 7th got WHBQ, thanks to the paper sent me. I enjoy very much reading the letters written in to the club by the various members from different parts of the country. Have now about 438 verifications and stamps. Again thanking you for the paper sent, I am
 Very truly yours, **R. A. MASON.**

You are welcome, Mr. Mason, and we're happy to admit you to membership in the club.

* * *

James M. Crump, to Ed

I am wondering if you could give me any information regarding a simple earphone hook-up for an Atwater Kent Model No. 55 and a Victor Model No. 15. These sets are owned by two friends of mine, and, although we have done some experimenting, we have not been successful in obtaining very good results.

forty-three states," writes Leon Winchester (Radio Hawk of the Air), 27 North Delaware avenue, Atlantic City. "Since then I have received another state through KFJM, Grand Forks, N. D., which was received March 20. Picked up four new ones on the 19th: KYA, KGCA, KFPY and WPAD. En-

NEWARK NEWS RADIO CLUB NOTES

Wishes of a special broadcast by... C. E. Mather, 104 Madison street, Chicago...

Henry Warner, 402 State street, West Chester, Ohio... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

AIDS RADIO CLUB



JOHN W. MATHER

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Talks on Women's Make-up



Miss Halperin

Nan Halperin on WABC

WABC, WOR, WMBL, WANE, WJON and WJZ... Do you have some good change?

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Wishes of a special broadcast by... Wishes of a special broadcast by...

Broadcasts Winnowed BY THE DIALIST. One of the most remarkable come-backs in radio has been staged by Ray Perkins. Ray used to broadcast, as you may remember, in the old WJZ days when the station was in Forty-second street.

guarantee of entertainment. But she says she always will be afraid of mike. Among the Favorites. How do they do it? The Crumits, of course. Three shows a week and not a trace of tire in their voices or their laughter.

"Radio Club Notes" was a column of considerable size, sometimes the equivalent of several columns of the paper's eight-column page layout. Occasionally it would take up nearly a full page, in which case it would carry a page-wide masthead reading "Newark News Radio Club Notes."

complement to the club column. One satisfied "Broadcasts Winnowed" reader wrote:

I want to write and express my appreciation of your wonderful column. Although we may never see radio announcers or artists, we consider them our personal friends. They become part of our home, a necessity in our daily lives. So it is with you and your column. You are in the press what a favorite announcer is on the air—a dear friend.

Occasionally the paper also ran a third column, this one by Paul F. Godley. The Godley columns tended to be technical or semi-technical in nature. Godley was a well-known engineer and amateur radio operator. (He had a 1:00 a.m. program on Newark station WAAM wherein he rebroadcast his DX listening experiences in real time.)

"Radio Club Notes," "Broadcasts Winnowed," and the Godley column, together with program listings, extensive radio-related advertising and other relevant articles, made the *Newark Evening News* coverage of radio very comprehensive.

Shortwave was starting to get some very limited attention in 1931. On March 7, Godley ran a list of shortwave stations (right). There were also occasional letters from listeners who were experimenting with shortwave (next page). In those days, the distinction between different kinds of shortwave stations was not as pronounced as it would become in later years. Thus while a particular listener might specialize in one kind of station or another, shortwave broadcasters, radiotelephone and maritime stations, amateurs, etc. were usually lumped together under "shortwave." It really was the medium that counted.

5:00 P. M.—Volley Hour.
5:30—Sport Page.
6:00—Time: weather.

5:15—Giles and McInyre, songs.
5:30—Franklin Mar.
6:00—Radio Founders.

World's Short Wave Stations

BY PAUL GODLEY.

General access to the short wave broadcasts from stations throughout the world has been greatly retarded because so little is known by the average listener concerning when and where to listen. The tabulation of a number of stations which broadcast regularly, together with their hours of operation and the days of the week on which they operate, is listed below.

All the stations here listed have been heard with regularity in New Jersey during this season. Many of them perform in a rather delightful manner, week after week, with the result that a considerable bit of enthusiasm for short wave work has been developed in many quarters. It must be borne in mind that the excellence of reception will vary somewhat, depending upon the time of day, the season and the weather. All of these stations make periodic announcements in English, and all of them have been heard using a short wave adapter of the type discussed last week.

Location and Station	Freq. K.C.	Wave Length Meters	Day	E. S. T.
WXXAD—Schenectady, U. S. A.	15,840	19.56	Mon. to Sat.	1:00- 3:00 P.M.
Bucharest, Roumania	13,980	21.60	Wed. and Sat.	2:00- 8:00 P.M.
Rabat Morocco	12,600	23.80	Sunday	7:30- 9:00 A.M.
WXXK—Pittsburgh, U. S. A.	11,814	25.25	Daily	4:00- 8:30 P.M.
WXXAA—Chicago, U. S. A.	11,443	26.34	Daily	2:00-11:00 P.M.
			Daily	7:00- 8:00 A.M.
			Daily	1:00- 2:00 P.M.
			Daily	4:00- 5:00 P.M.
			Daily	6:00- 7:30 P.M.
QSSW—Chelmsford, England	11,751	25.53	Mon. to Fri.	7:30- 8:30 A.M.
			Mon. to Fri.	3:00- 7:00 P.M.
LEP—Buenos Aires, S. A.	10,380	28.83	Mon. to Sat.	8:00-10:00 P.M.
HEPJJ—Bangkok, Siam	10,160	29.50	Monday	8:00-11:00 A.M.
Nairobi, Africa	9,645	31.10	Daily	11:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
PCJ—Kindhoven, Holland	9,590	31.28	Wed. 11:00 A.M.- 3:00 P.M.	
			Thur. & Fri.	2:00-10:00 P.M.
			Satur.	7:00 P.M.- 1:00 A.M.
WIXAZ—Springfield, U. S. A.	9,880	31.35	Daily	7:30 A.M.-11:00 P.M.
WXXAF—Schenectady, U. S. A.	9,829	31.48	Daily	8:00-11:00 P.M.
VK3ME—Melbourne, Australia ...	9,820	31.25	Saturday	3:00- 6:30 A.M.
FLW—Bandoeng, Java	8,180	36.63	Friday	2:00- 7:00 A.M.
Paris, France	8,103	37.00	Sun., Mon., Fr.	3:00- 4:00 P.M.
HBPXD—Zurich, Switzerland	7,230	41.50	Saturday	4:00- 6:00 P.M.
Madrid, Spain	6,977	43.0	Tues. & Sat.	3:30- 6:00 P.M.
DIAFF—Kothem, Germany	6,881	43.5	Sunday	4:00- 6:00 A.M.
			Tues. & Fri.	12:00- 4:00 P.M.
			Thursday	4:00- 5:00 P.M.
VRV—Georgetown, Brit. Guiana .	6,720	44.5	Wednesday	7:15- 9:00 P.M.
			Sunday	6:45- 9:00 P.M.
Moscow, U. S. S. R.	6,480	46.5	Daily	9:00 A.M.- 1:00 P.M.
HKC—Bogota, Colombia, S. A.	6,290	47.81	Daily ex. Sun.	8:30-11:30 P.M.
HRB—Honduras	6,280	48.62	M., W., F., S.	4:30 P.M.-12:00 M.
VRCL—Winnipeg, Canada	6,180	48.7	Daily	5:30-11:00 P.M.
Motala, Sweden	6,130	49.0	Daily	11:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M.
WXXE—New York	6,110	49.22	Daily	5:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
VRGW—Bowmanville, Canada ..	6,090	49.23	Daily	6:45- 8:00 A.M.
WXXF—Chicago, U. S. A.	6,030	49.83	Daily	3:00-12:00 -M.
			Daily	8:30- 7:00 P.M.
			Daily	8:30 P.M.- 1:00 A.M.
Toulouse, France	6,580	46.00	Daily	10:00 P.M. on.
Prague, Czechoslovakia	6,145	48.3	Tues. & Fri.	3:30- 4:30 P.M.
Chaborak, U. S. S. R.	4,290	70.1	Daily	4:00- 7:00 A.M.

**Provides List
Of Short Wavers**

40 Mill street,
Newton, N. J.
February 6, 1931.

Dear Mr. Potts: It is seldom that I see any short wave news in the Club Notes I am taking the liberty of giving a few tips to members who may be interested. All these stations are at present on the air at times given and generally come in with ample volume to operate my loud speaker. Here is the schedule to shoot at:

- XDA—Mexico City, 20.5 meters, 2:30-3 P. M.
- W8XK—Pittsburgh, 25.25 meters, afternoons.
- W9XAA—Chicago, 25.34 meters, afternoons.
- 12RO—Rome, Italy, 25.4 meters, 11 A. M. to 5 P. M.
- G5SW—Chelmsford, England, 25.53 meters, 7:30-8:30 A. M. and 2 P. M. to 7 P. M. except Saturday and Sunday.
- KEZ—Bolinas, Cal., 28.8 meters, testing after 5 P. M. Irregular.
- LSX—Buenos, Aires, 28.98, meters, 7 to 9 P. M.
- W1XAZ—Springfield, Mass., 31.35 meters, afternoons.
- W2XAF—Schenectady, N. Y., 31.48 meters, after 5:30 P. M.
- HKC—Bogota, Col., 47.81 meters, around 9 P. M.
- HRB—Tegucigalpa, Honduras, 45.62 meters, after 9 P. M., Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday.
- VE9CL—Winnipeg, Canada, 48.7 meters, after 5:30 P. M.
- W8XK—Pittsburgh, Pa., 48.86 meters, occasionally after 6 P. M.
- W2XE—New York, 49.02 meters, any time.
- W3XAL—New York, 49.18 meters, 5 to 6 P. M.
- VE9GW—Bowmanville, Ontario, 49.22 meters, after 5 P. M.
- W3XAV—Philadelphia, 49.5 meters, after 4 P. M.
- W9XF—Chicago, 49.83 meters, afternoons and after 8:30 P. M.

These are all broadcasting stations and the list does not include many trans-Atlantic and amateur stations which can be heard also. These stations are not copied from a list, but are heard by the writer at the times mentioned. If space permits I should also like to give a few other tips on experience I have gained during three years of short wave listening. During the morning hours try for stations from fifteen to twenty-five meters. Afternoons listen for stations from twenty to fifty meters. Don't try to get below twenty meters after dark—it just don't pay. The best time to get Australia VK2ME (28.5 meters) is around 6 A. M. European stations on or about twenty-five meters come in best around 3 P. M.

At the present time, up to February 11, the new station at the Vatican City is running tests with New York and London. They are received with terrific volume on 19.84 meters around 11 A. M. and not so good on 50.26 meters in the afternoon.

Station, NRH in Costa Rica, PCJ in Holland and Zeesen, Germany, don't come in good at present, although they may be received around thirty-one meters if weather conditions are perfect.

I hope this may help somebody. Anybody can get these stations if they have a set and patience and time. I have. Sincerely yours.

EDWIN A. LANTZ
(Chair Warmer).

In his column of January 29, 1931, President Potts presented the club's by-laws, which give a glimpse of how the club was organized. (The by-laws were written by Charlotte Geer's husband, Olin Peter Geer, a DXer in his own right. In "Broadcasts Winnowed" he was known as The Wiser Half.) There was a president, various vice-presidents, a treasurer, an executive secretary and other officers, and an executive committee. Dues were \$1 a year, plus an additional \$1 "initiation fee" for the first year (principally to cover the cost of a club pin or button). Various committees were devoted to membership, entertainment (for meetings and events, see below), finance, elections, welfare, courtesy programs, technical advice for members, special broadcasts, shortwave, and changes in frequency and power of stations. There was a Committee on DX Qualifications and Records that issued awards in several categories: "Junior" for 100 stations logged; "Master" for 200 stations logged and one verified at 2,000 miles distance; "Past Master" for 300 logged and five verified at 2,000 miles; and "DX Ace" for 400 logged and ten verified at 2,000 miles.

Club meetings were on the first Thursday of the month. There was also an annual meeting on the first Thursday of December, plus other meetings from time to time. Monthly meetings were normally held at the *Newark Evening News*. The reminiscences of member Henry Bowe of Newark in January 1931 indicate that at least some of these club gatherings were no small affairs.

While we DX individually and collectively we enjoy our meetings and for that reason we changed our name to Radio Club [the club was originally called the Newark News DX Club], and how many wonderful programs have we enjoyed the last three years. One of our first was Louis Witten and Jack Poppele of WOR, who gave us an interesting talk on the methods of broadcasting. Who can remember Paul Godley rigging up a set to get the big fight? A lecture by Mr. Peters of the Telephone Company on the history and accomplishment of trans-Atlantic telephoning was a masterpiece. He illustrated it with views from a small lantern and topped it off with an invitation to visit their experimental station in Whippany some Saturday afternoon,

which was accepted by about fifty and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Then there was an evening with Roxy (himself and some of his gang). We put on the dawg by meeting in the Washington restaurant, plus refreshments.

“Wentworth announcing” gave us a talk [see page 11]; Henry Burbig recited some of his funny stories. Joe White, the silver masked tenor, sang for us. Then there was the whole cast of Main Street with Luke and Sary and the rest of the town, and while we often read of television we never saw it till we had a demonstration at a club meeting, a broadcasting [sic] and with a receiving station and we knew more by seeing it than reading a book on it.

One of the mixed quartets from WLWL rendered twenty-four selections at one meeting. The Moonbeams with George Shackley at the piano were another outstanding feature, as was the male quartet at the December meeting.

Our last June meeting capped the climax. With Phil Carlin as master of ceremonies and a galaxy of radio stars it was one long, unforgettable night with the thermometer at 90 and many unable to get in. Refreshments were served at this radio feast.

And last but not least our two banquets and dance. The first was a chicken dinner, with eighteen radio artists as guests, and the second was even a greater success. Now here is our third coming off next month [February]. Come in and have a good time with us and bring your friends with you. For this affair a ticket is sold and you get your money's worth.

That February 1931 banquet was attended by 250 people.



I returned the 1931 microfilms, and, seeking the roots of the club, I requested the films for late 1927 and early 1928. Soon I had six more reels, these covering the period from October 21, 1927 to April 12, 1928.

Charlotte Geer's "Broadcasts Winnowed" column was in full swing in October 1927, by which time the occasional articles by Paul Godley were also appearing, along with program listings and much radio advertising. "Broadcasts Winnowed" had the same chatty feel as it had in 1931, but a major difference was that in 1927-28 the column included both DX news and the program-related material that later became its exclusive content. The DX news was generally in the form of letters from listeners who recounted their DX experiences, discussed particular catches, related how many

stations they had heard, etc. Some of these letters contained detailed reviews of listeners' DX sessions, often described as "trips" or "journeys."

I was surprised to see a daily table called "DX Programs-Tonight" which gave the times and wavelengths of such programs over various standard broadcast stations nationwide (see below). Since there was no Sunday paper, the Saturday edition contained two tables, one for Saturday and one for Sunday. It is unclear exactly what these "DX programs" were. Were they programs about DXing? Special programs transmitted by stations at times more conducive to DX reception (what would later be called courtesy programs)? DX targets? Just programs or times when the stations hoped DX listeners would tune in? In many instances the programs are shown as being on the air for long periods, in some cases from 6 p.m. through midnight. Or were those simply the times the stations were on the air? Many of the stations appeared in the table day after day, but the asterisks

Stations		EASTERN STANDARD TIME							After Mid- night	Wave- lengths Meters
		Location	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12		
WBAL	Baltimore				*	*	*		285	
WBZ	Springfield		*	*	*	*	*	*	333.1	
WCCO	St. Paul		*	*	*	*	*	*	405.2	
WDAF	Kansas City				*	*	*	*	370.2	
WFAA	Dallas				*	*	*	*	499.7	
WFHL	Syracuse		*	*	*	*	*	*	258.5	
WFL	Philadelphia		*	*	*	*	*	*	405.2	
WGHP	Detroit		*	*	*	*	*	*	319	
WGR	Buffalo		*	*	*	*	*	*	302.8	
WGN	Chicago		*	*	*	*	*	*	305.9	
WGY	Schenectady		*	*	*	*	*	*	379.5	
WHAM	Rochester		*	*	*	*	*	*	277.6	
WHAR	Atlantic City		*	*	*	*	*	*	272.6	
WHAS	Louisville		*	*	*	*	*	*	461.3	
WHO	Des Moines		*	*	*	*	*	*	535.4	
WIP	Philadelphia		*	*	*	*	*	*	508.2	
WJR	Pontiac, Mich.		*	*	*	*	*	*	440.9	
WKBW	Buffalo		*	*	*	*	*	*	217.3	
WLS	Chicago		*	*	*	*	*	*	344.6	
WLW	Cincinnati		*	*	*	*	*	*	428.3	
WMAQ	Chicago		*	*	*	*	*	*	447.5	
WMC	Memphis		*	*	*	*	*	*	516.9	
WNAC	Boston		*	*	*	*	*	*	461.3	
WOC	Davenport		*	*	*	*	*	*	374.8	
WOKO	Peekskill		*	*	*	*	*	*	215.7	
WOP	Philadelphia		*	*	*	*	*	*	508.2	
WPG	Atlantic City		*	*	*	*	*	*	272.6	
WRC	Washington		*	*	*	*	*	*	468.5	
WRVA	Richmond		*	*	*	*	*	*	254.1	
WSB	Atlanta, Ga.		*	*	*	*	*	*	475.9	
WSM	Nashville		*	*	*	*	*	*	340.7	
WTAO	Worcester		*	*	*	*	*	*	516.9	
WTAM	Cleveland		*	*	*	*	*	*	399.8	
WTIC	Hartford		*	*	*	*	*	*	535.4	
WWJ	Detroit		*	*	*	*	*	*	452.7	
WWNC	Asheville		*	*	*	*	*	*	296.9	
KDKA	Pittsburgh		*	*	*	*	*	*	315.8	
KFI	Los Angeles		*	*	*	*	*	*	468.5	
KFUO	St. Louis		*	*	*	*	*	*	545.1	
KGQ	Oakland		*	*	*	*	*	*	384.4	
KGW	Portland, Ore.		*	*	*	*	*	*	491.5	
KHJ	Los Angeles		*	*	*	*	*	*	405.2	
KNX	Hollywood		*	*	*	*	*	*	336.0	
KPO	San Francisco		*	*	*	*	*	*	422.3	
KTHS	Hot Springs, Ark.		*	*	*	*	*	*	384.4	
KYW	Chicago		*	*	*	*	*	*	526	

* Indicates active periods.

in the time columns ("Indicates active periods") would sometimes vary for a given station. Most tables would contain a few new stations, or a few would be deleted. No doubt an explanation of the tables had been published at some point.

It appears that it was the fall of 1927 when a number of readers of "Broadcasts Winnowed" suggested the formation of a club for DXers. On Monday, December 5, 1927, Mrs. Geer included this short announcement in her column:

one Werrenrath in all the serried ranks of radio barytones.

* * *

DXers' Meeting.

Before we forget it, we want to say in answer to many inquiries that any reader of the column, regardless of age or sex, who is interested in DXing is welcome to come to the first meeting of the DX Club Thursday of this week at 8 P. M. in the News office.

* * *

We have a score to settle with the writer of that note signed "The Fifth Decade." We followed his advice and

Here was the Source of the Nile! A reminder of the meeting was included in "Broadcasts Winnowed" of December 8, the day of the meeting.

On December 9, the morning after the meeting, the *Newark Evening News* ran an article about the gathering (below). It appeared on page 4, as opposed to the radio section, which was usually deeper inside the paper.

News DXers Are Organized

Contributors to Broadcasts Winnowed Column Start Radio Club

Summit Man President

The Newark News DXers, a club of men and women radio fans whose hobby is picking up distant stations, was organized last night at a meeting at the News home office. The club



L. S. J. Cranse.

has an initial membership of fifty-five persons.

Organization of the club was brought about through suggestions by DX "hounds" who have from time to time related their catches in the Broadcasts Winnowed radio column in the News conducted by Charlotte Geer. Mrs. Geer served as temporary chairman of the meeting.

Objects of the club are to promote DXing, to afford members opportunity to swap yarns concerning their successes as dial twisters, to interest others in DXing and to exert influence toward improving broadcasting conditions on behalf of distance seekers, who are now unrepresented by formal organizations.

Officers elected were L. S. J. Cranse of 22 South street, Summit, president; Mrs. Geer, first vice president; Paul F. Godley, radio engineer, second vice president; Irving R. Potts of 154 Chadwick avenue, Newark, secretary, and Hubert R. Ede, radio editor of the News, treasurer.

Mr. Cranse is known to readers of Broadcasts Winnowed as "The Knob Twister." He has picked up the greatest number of radio stations—556—of any contributor to the column. He brought to the meeting the log book he has been keeping for several years, which contains verifications from the stations he has heard in every state in the union except Nevada, which has no station, and in all the provinces of Canada except Newfoundland, which has no station.

Other DXers who have become known through DX letters in the column and who were present at the meeting were Howard Kain of East Orange, "Honest Injun;" Eugene Battaille of Hilton, "Rider of the Air Waves;" Warren D. Carpenter of this city, "W. D. C.—The Dial Twister;" Olin Potter Geer, Montclair, "The Wiser Half;" Clinton D. Myer, Arlington, "DX Ambassador;" Frederick Orner, Maplewood, "DX Jr.;" Edwin Bruno of this city, "Loop Twister;" Guy M. Chase, Elizabeth, "G. M. C.;" Thomas McDonald of this city, "Mac;" Edward Boylan of this city, "The Young Hopeful;" Lester Kraemer of this city, "Roamer;" Fred Bauer, Montclair, "DX Pup;" N. E. Willcox, Newark, "Radio Fan," and Mr. Potts, "The Wave Trapper."

Mr. Cranse appointed an executive committee consisting of the president, the treasurer and Mr. Kraemer and N. E. Willcox of this city; William C. Soutar of East Orange and Mr. Kain and Mr. Geer.

It was decided that the club should meet Thursday nights, whether once or twice a month to be settled later, at The Newark News office. Dues will be \$1 a year. The next meeting will be January 5.

Membership in the club is open to any one interested in DXing.

At first referred to informally as the Newark News DXers, the club became the Newark News DX Club. The name Newark News *Radio Club* came later. L. S. J. Cranse was elected president, and Irving Potts secretary. Mrs. Geer and Paul Godley were first and second vice presidents respectively. On Monday, December 12, Charlotte Geer gave a brief mention of the meeting (right).

Birth of News DX Club Related in Talk on WOR

How The Newark News DX Club came into being and something of his own record as a DXer were told by the president of the club, L. S. J. Cranse of Summit, in a talk over WOR Saturday night.

"At the time of my novitiate as a DXer," said Mr. Cranse, "the radio page of The Newark Evening News carried an account one night of a DX trip made by the writer of the radio review column. This aroused the competitive spirit among the News radio fans, and we began writing in about our own experiences under such nom-de-plumes as 'Night Traveler,' 'The Guy from Warrumboola,' 'DX Pup,' 'Knob Twister,' etc., the latter being my own title. These letters appeared in the column from time to time and the number of contributors gradually increased until finally in the fall of 1927 some one suggested the formation of a DX club. Immediately there was an insistent demand for such an organization from all readers of the column, and December 8 fifty-six of us met in the editorial rooms of the News and organized the Newark News DX Club.

"As outlined in the by-laws the objects of this association shall be 'to promote DXing, to afford members an opportunity to compare their experiences in that direction, to interest others in DX and to exert influence toward improving broadcast reception conditions on behalf of distance seekers.' All meetings of the club are held in the home offices of The Newark Evening News at 8 P. M. on the first Thursday of each month, and after the business of the club has been transacted we have some prominent figure in the radio world address us. These talks have proven most interesting and instructive, and our membership had climbed to 133 at the February meeting, with applications still coming in. Our speaker at the meeting March 1 will be from the Bell Telephone Company, and he will talk on 'Transatlantic Radio Telephony.'

"While the only qualification necessary for membership in the club is an interest in DX reception, we have four classes or ratings for which certificates or diplomas have been provided, and which members may qualify for in the following manner: Junior DXer degree, for hearing 100 stations and having one verification from the Pacific Coast; Master DXer, for hearing 200 stations and having two verifications from the Pacific Coast; Pastmaster DXer, for hearing 300 stations and having five verifications from the Pacific Coast; and DX Ace, for hearing 400 stations and having ten verifications from the Pacific Coast.

"People frequently ask me, 'What is the sense of DXing when it is a well-known fact that all of the best programs originate in New York City?'

The best answer I have ever read to this remark was written by Charlotte Geer, radio columnist of The Newark Evening News, who said: 'We cannot describe the lure of the open road, the glamour of the still, small voice across the stormy battlefield of the midnight sky. It certainly isn't love of beauty that drive you forth an aerial nomad. But we don't suppose the bird men flew over the North Pole for the sake of the view. There is a lure in this free winging over the face of the globe, particularly as it takes skill and patience and faith to bring in any station over 1,000 miles away.'

"Never were truer words spoken, for it takes a mighty sharp ear to detect these distant carrier waves and then build them up until you can distinguish music and announcements. As for the thrill that comes with hearing your first Pacific Coast station or your first or even tenth from the other side of the Atlantic, no one can possibly describe it; you've got to hear it yourself to understand. How to detect a carrier wave is one of the first things you learn as a member of the Newark News DX Club.

"My first radio set was a three-tube neodyne and was purchased in the spring of 1925. After considerable trouble and the assistance of my neighbors, I finally got it working and picked up KDKA at Pittsburgh as my first station. That night I brought in twenty-nine stations—about half of them being locals. And so I went along adding a station now and then until one morning about a month later I got my first real thrill from radio when I heard Station 5KW at Tunucu, Cuba. When I told my friends about it they gave me the well-known horse laugh, so in self-defense I sat down, wrote for and obtained a verification of this reception. Needless to say I became a real DX fan from that time on.

"By the middle of May I had verified the reception of nearly 150 stations and decided I must have a more powerful receiver, so I bought a five-tube neodyne of the same manufacture and by carefully combing the broadcast band, I increased my log to 300 stations in the following year and a half. The time came, however, when I seemed unable to add any more stations, so in November, 1926, I began looking around for the ideal DX receiver, and after trying out a number of the best known sets on the market I found one to my liking. After it was installed it proved even better than I had anticipated, and my log began to climb with leaps and bounds until at the present time it numbers 582 stations in this country and abroad, all of which have been verified, and includes at least one station from every state in the Union except Nevada, while more than fifty of these stations are on the Pacific Coast."

...quartet sang with lovely effect, especially in that favorite number, "Little Boy Blue."

The column's DX Club, known as The Newark News DXERS, got off to a fine start with 55 signed memberships of fifty-five. Subsequent meetings will be announced in the column. Knob Twister, as you probably read, is the president of the new organization, which means that the DX standards will be high. The Dialist had a big thrill meeting face to face these readers from which she had heard so often. We wish that we could meet all our readers in the same pleasant and informal manner.

* * *

Dear Dialist: As conditions have been good for DXing in the past couple of

As time went on, Charlotte Geer often responded to DX-related questions by urging the writer to come to the next club meeting so the matter could be discussed. Meeting reminders were not sent to members by mail, but were given in "Broadcasts Winnowed," wherein Mrs. Geer often voiced support for the club and occasionally included brief news items about club activities. For example, on Monday, January 30, 1928, The Dialist relayed word from President Cranse that all those joining the club at its meeting on Thursday, February 2, would be considered charter members. Geer's column did not contain detailed, ongoing information about the club, which was clearly intended to have its own identity, notwithstanding the role of the newspaper and Mrs. Geer's role as vice president and godmother. However, her column provided an important print vehicle that otherwise the club would have lacked.

All those who were interested in DX were eligible to join the club. Dues were the same as they would be in 1931—\$1 a

year plus a \$1 initiation fee. There were “four different grades of DXers,” by which was meant four certificates of accomplishment available to members. (The qualifications were similar to those extant in 1931 and described above.) Members could join by mail as well as in person. By early February 1928 the club had 135 members. By the end of the month the number was 175. Membership in the Newark club took off after President Cranse gave a talk about the club over WOR on February 25 (see page 9). Seeing the success of the *Newark News* venture, the *Chicago Daily News* also started a club and had 200 members in three days.

“Broadcasts Winnowed” was a meeting place of newcomers and experienced DXers alike. A number of characteristics of the DX culture that would become common in later years were in early evidence in “Broadcasts Winnowed.” One was the questioning of others’ loggings, or a general wonderment of “how they did it.” On January 19, 1928 there appeared a long, detailed contribution by Cranse (known as Knob Twister) describing a DX session that started around 5:00 p.m. and lasted past 2:00 a.m. Cranse reported hearing a total of 114 stations, including 85 “distant” stations and ten on the Pacific Coast.

This prompted several responses. One was a letter noting that a number of Cranse’s DX loggings “were on low power and working on the same wave and a number were not operating at the time.” Said Mrs. Geer, who “resented” the unsigned letter:

It takes a brave man indeed to make a statement like that in these days, when even the most up-to-date logs are not up to the minute, and it never has been safe to say that any station was off the air at any specific time. Those of us who have DXed for a number of years know how many times we have found a station supposed to be silent operating merrily.

There are skillful DXers and there are others less skillful and there are good sets and poor sets and good nights and bad nights, but we think this business of insulting those of us who do a thing that we can’t do is pretty poor stuff. We are sure that Knob Twister would be glad to give a demonstration.

Other complaints followed. A.A.K. asked how Cranse could have heard 50 watt CKOC while 5 kw. WSM was on the same channel? How could he have identified so many stations carrying network (“chain”) programs that give local IDs only every 15 minutes?

Charlotte Geer again came to Knob Twister’s defense. “In a previous column [see above] we endeavored to explain how Mr. Cranse logged the number of stations he did. No one who knows Mr. Cranse or who has seen his log could possibly doubt his statements. Why not come to the next meeting of the DX club and talk it over.” Another reader, N.E.P., also expressed skepticism as to Cranse’s results over such a short period, suggesting that many stations must have been identified “on the assumption basis,” rather than as a result of hearing a station call letters. (N.E.P. later retracted his comments.)

Wentworth Talks to News DX Club

Radio from a point close to the microphone, by a man who has put on the air the Bremen fliers, Lindbergh, speakers of national prominence and many of the sponsored features of the National Broadcasting Company, was discussed last night at the May meeting of the Newark News DX Club, held at the home office of the News. The speaker was Ralph Wentworth, familiar to listeners by his slogan "Wentworth announcing."

Fresh from having announced the transatlantic fliers yesterday afternoon at the luncheon of the Merchants Association at the Astor, Mr. Wentworth said he had found them greatly impressed by the prominence radio has attained in this country. Especially was this true of Major Fitzmaurice, who had told him that radio programs are seldom heard in Ireland. The German aviators, unable to speak English when

prominent speakers were found by his company to attract large audiences throughout the country. He said his own preference was a dinner with good speakers as against a musical feature.

Among the questions asked at the conclusion of Mr. Wentworth's talk was whether announcers are coached in the pronunciation of foreign languages. He answered that announcers, besides being students of music and musicians, must be able to speak fairly well in French, German and Italian. For the other languages, he said, they do the best they can. He told of having adopted a certain newspaper man's pronunciation of Major Fitzmaurice's name, making it "Fitzmauricee," and of receiving a letter the next day from a woman listener, saying she had always thought him a good announcer until he made that mistake.

The speaker told of the large number of features which are put on the air at the expense of the broadcasting company and said that any one with a real philanthropic project of benefit to everyone could always get time on the air.

Answering still other questions Mr. Wentworth said the identity of the Silver Masked Tenor was known to a good many persons despite the fact that his personal appearances are always made in disguise, but that Cheerio, on the other hand, had managed to keep his identity secret. Vaughn de Leath, he said, croons her songs into the microphone at a distance of two inches, so that a person standing a few feet away in the studio cannot hear her.

After telling many of his own experiences in announcing, Mr. Wentworth was made an honorary member of the club.

L. S. J. Cranse, president of the club, announced that the club membership was increasing rapidly and that a resident of Savannah and a man living in Elmwood, Conn. who had heard him talk about the club over WOK, had joined its ranks.

The next meeting of the club, June 7, will be Ladies' Night, when members will bring their wives.

"N. E. P.," Nick E. Papeas, who through the Broadcasts Winnowed column of the News, recently agreed to send members of the club copies of the book up of a radio set he built, brought the set to the meeting and demonstrated it.



Ralph Wentworth.

they left Ireland, were rapidly picking up words in that tongue, Mr. Wentworth said.

Asked about popular radio features, Mr. Wentworth said that dinners with

But Peanuts wrote in to explain why A.A.K.'s criticism of Cranse was "unjust." The Two-Tube DXer thought Knob Twister was "a mighty DXer." Towaco felt that Knob Twister's report "was in every respect true," and that he too had heard CKOC in what was "purely a trick of the air waves" (probably meaning normal broadcast band fade-ins and fade-outs). And as to chain programs, "what old-timer of radio reception could fail to recognize the voices of our most prominent announcers and in this way identify the different stations even without call letters? I do not condemn A.A.K. or the previous 'doubter' which appeared in the column a short time ago, but merely say that they should make allowances for all things, known and unknown, in this wonderful age of radio. I would have called it an impossibility to log KFXF at Denver, a 250-watt station, but I did it last night."

"You are quite right about Knob Twister, Towaco," noted Charlotte. "No one could meet him, as we all do each month, without realizing that his statements are authentic. He is a DX genius, that is all, and those who are not so successful find it hard to believe. They should come to the club and meet him."

However enlightening the discussion, the newspaper was probably not a good place for it, and on February 24 The Dialist announced as follows:

We are quite sure that there isn't a single member of the DX Club who is consciously misstating any aerial experience. We all make mistakes sometimes, but since that is universal, it is not wise to be too quick on the pick-up lest you be the next one to stumble. In the future we are going to refrain from publishing personal criticism of the DX fisherman in the column, but if any reader has anything he wants to get off his chest we shall be glad to forward, upon his request, the name of the DXer whose statement he questions and he can write directly and state his grouch. . . .

The distinction between DXers and program listeners also arose early. The Dialist was trying to satisfy both. When some readers complained that too much space was being devoted to DX, Mrs. Geer said she would try to divide things 50-50. The emphasis was usually on the program side, however. "Have you ever thought," she said, "how few listeners-in are all around fans? They are either program fiends or DX fiends and seldom the twain shall meet. Very few DXers take real satisfaction in a program that comes from within a hundred miles from home and the WEAf, WJZ and WOR addicts seldom go fifty miles away from the home town. A little reciprocity would help both sides to a better understanding of each other."

Then there was the perennial question of what was needed for a verification, and the answers were not always consistent. "DX Jr." wrote: "In writing to a station for verification, if they just send a form postcard thanking you for your comment on the program, is this considered satisfactory proof? I just received one of these cards from WFAN, exactly 48 hours from the time I sent to them." The Dialist's answer: "A postcard should be sufficient provided it verifies your reception." Perth Amboy DXer asked: "Some stations send me letters or cards thanking me for commenting on the program but do not say anything about verifying it. Do these letters count as verifications?" Said The Dialist: "Surely such letters or cards are verifications."

Changes in propagation made serious DXing largely a seasonal undertaking. On April 25, 1928 the Dialist observed that the DX season was waning, and that her DX mail had dropped to "negligible proportions." Indeed, interest in DXing was not what it used to be, and not just because of the season. An article in the May 7 paper (below) noted that the elimination of the 7:30-8:00 p.m. silent period for San Francisco stations, introduced long ago to facilitate DX reception, had brought no complaints.

**End of DX Period on Coast
Brings Forth No Complaints**

Special to the NEWARK NEWS.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—A step taken by radio broadcasting stations in the San Francisco Bay district without unfavorable reaction, may indicate that the majority of 1928 radio listeners are not distance fans, but place most of their reliance for radio enjoyment upon good, dependable local programs. The step taken was discontinuance of the local DX period from 7:30 to 8 o'clock, during which stations here and across the bay by informal agree-

ment have remained off the air nightly almost since broadcasting had its inception. This half hour of silence had become so traditional locally that it was feared that distance fans would arise with a chorus of protests, but broadcasting station managers, as well as the local headquarters of the Federal Radio Commission report there have been virtually no complaints. During winter months especially this half hour of local quietude has enabled listeners within a hundred miles of

so of San Francisco to fill their log books with the call letters of stations in other parts of the nation.

The silent period was discontinued because the half hour between 7:30 and 8 was considered too valuable to waste. Stations having good advertising accounts did not wish to lose time, and those in chain hook-ups did not want longer to lose good programs.

Not only have fans failed to register protests against the change, but stations report they have received favorable comments, indicating that the novelty of fishing for distance has been worn off with the majority of listeners.

From the viewpoint of federal regulation of radio broadcasting two comments are heard locally regarding this demonstrated lack of interest in distance dialing. One is that there are so many stations on the air now that distance reception is very unsatisfactory, the other, that there is no necessity of clearing channels throughout the country when fans want only good local programs.

From the viewpoint of manufacturers the fading of interest in distance would seem to open a big field for the exploitation of sets designed for excellent performance as to selectivity and tone, but making no claims to distance getting ability.

On May 2, Mrs. Geer printed a long letter from President Cranse, who summarized some 16 letters he had received since his February talk over WOR. Much of the DX news was now being directed toward the club rather than "Broadcasts Winnowed." A few of the items in his letter:

B. D. Kash, 2825 Boudinot Street, Philadelphia, informs me that he has heard and verified reception from 654 stations. . . .

Mrs. Clara J. Cohoe, 59 Burger Street, North Welland, Ontario, Dominion of Canada, is an invalid and is unable to sleep well. It was because of this that she became interested in DX. She has heard 188 stations since November No doubt she would be glad to hear from other DX enthusiasts and by writing her a friendly note you will have done your part to make her shut-in life a trifle happier.

Chandler Stewart, Jr., Pacific Grove, Cal., writes he has logged the following stations located east of the west coast stations since January 1. . . . Mr. Stewart is but fifteen years of age

J. F. Reilly, Sea Bright, N.J. has had the following to say: "My wife was listening to your talk over WOR and she said, 'Well, if there are any nuts worse than me she would like to see them.' I am sixty-one years old If I were ten years younger I would build a new set every month until I got what I wanted."

W. Clifford, 30 Grand Street, Oneonta, N.Y.: "Heard you over WOR. Am I eligible for membership? Heard KUSD's announcer mention the Newark, New Jersey DX Club this morning at 3 A.M., E.S.T. He wanted members to write in. . . ."

And from Oxnard, California comes this: ". . . . A week ago last night I listened to WFBM, Indianapolis, when they were having a prime program, the Babe Ruth Underwear Hour. I sent them a card. Last night I got an air mail letter at 6 o'clock to tune them in between 6:30 and 7:30 and I would hear something of interest to me. Now the wave 275.1 meters was being used by a 500 watt Los Angeles station last evening. That is the wave of WFBM. I decided to make the grandest try of my life and from 6:30 I worked until 7:10 before I finally brought WFBM through KTBI to hear one song, 'Moonlight On the Ganges,' and then of all the good luck I heard them announce Mrs. Blank at Oxnard, Cal., had won the box of underwear, winning by eighteen miles over a lady in Los Angeles. . . . Hope they know back there that the winters are very mild in California. . . ."

Such was the world of DX in 1928.

DX was almost entirely broadcast bad. Shortwave was still in the future, although on May 3, 1928 the paper did make reference to shortwave as the medium by which 2LO in London and PCJJ in Eindhoven, Holland transmitted their programs across the Atlantic for pickup and rebroadcast by CFCA in Toronto (next page).

Radio "Trans-Oceanics."

We understand that CPCA of Toronto, is rebroadcasting the programs of 2LO London, every day with the exception of Saturday and Sunday. This has been a regular feature of the station since February 9. Lately they have added PCJJ of Eindhoven, Holland, and rebroadcast their programs several times a week. These foreign stations use a short wave transmitter in addition to their regular wave and these short waves are picked up by a ten-tube superhet in Canada and put on over the station's wave of 356.9. The hour of these broadcasts is not given, but as the station is usually on the air between 6 and 8 P. M. they probably take place during those two hours. Have any of our DXers heard them and if so will they write us about it? It would be of interest to all of us who have never succeeded in getting across the Atlantic, radioly speaking.

Poems sometimes appeared in "Broadcasts Winnowed." Presumably they were written by Charlotte Geer herself. On February 18, 1928, she offered one that should resonate, even today, with DXers of any band. It was called "To the New DXers."

A little bit of heaven, that
 Is all we ask tonight.
 A little patch of cloudless sky
 With moonlight shining bright.
 A little room, a little peace
 When trolley cars and motors cease
 Their endless rumble up the street
 A wife whose dreams are deep and sweet,
 Who never paces overhead
 Or shrieks, "Why don't you come to bed?"
 A little luck, a bit of skill,
 The strength to keep awake until
 A small still voice cajoles our ear
 And KFI is logged, old dear.

~~~~~

I think it is fascinating that this early public record of the NNRC still exists. The rest of the microfilms from 1927 to 1934 must contain many interesting things about the club's early years. What were the circumstances under which Irving Potts took over from Lee Cranse? What prompted the club to begin publishing *The Dialist* in 1934? Did it replace the newspaper column entirely? (Irving Potts's 1962 obituary said that he was writing a weekly column, "Doings of DXers," for the *Newark News* right up until his death.) Perhaps someone who is interested in the history of the club and lives close enough to the Newark Public Library to have ready access to the microfilms will take

this on as a research project. If anyone is interested, please let me know. ("Radio" is one of the topics listed in the paper's front page index, so the radio columns are easily located without searching through the whole paper.)



**CHARLOTTE GEER**

wife of Olin Potter Geer, a New York lawyer, Mrs. Geer has been radio columnist of *The Newark Evening News* for ten years. Her career has been combined with social and journalistic activities. She was born in Flushing, Long Island, later moved to New York City and then to a small farm in Westchester County. Mrs. Geer was formerly a theatrical interviewer and has been featured in programs over NBC and WOR. Her Broadcast Winnowed column in the News was the medium through which *The Newark News Radio Club* was organized.

(From *The Dialist*, June 1934)