

KPRL Paso Robles CA 1230 kHz



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Date: Thu, 19 Jan 2006 09:54:31 -0800  
To: mika@makelainen.com  
From: Joe Benson <oaktree@fix.net>  
Subject: Thank you VERY MUCH

Mika Makelainen  
Keihastie 14 C  
FI-01280 Vantaa  
Finland (Europe)

Dear Mika:

What an exceptional find in the mail this morning ... and not the first we've received from your beautiful country of Finland, but one that I am very pleased to enthusiastically respond with this email QSL of your reception of KPRL Radio - AM 1230 - in Paso Robles, California, USA on January 5, 2006.

It was, in fact, KPRL Radio, on 1230 khz, at 1,000 watts (1kw) that you heard and were kind enough to send a cassette recording of our 2:59 - 3:00 a.m. broadcast of a spot announcement for Pacific Coast Dentistry with our owner/general manager, Kevin Will -- our legal station identification, by nationally known voice-over artist, Charlie Van Dyke, and our top-of-the-hour network news by ABC Radio.

As one who regularly checks DX letters, web sites and one who also participates in various DX tests through more than 30 years across the United States, your find is quite admirable and rare, as our frequency is one of 176 stations in the entire country on this "graveyard" local channel and does not utilize skywave transmission at all, because of the interference to nearby "locals" on or near our frequency and the limitation of power output to solely groundwave from our 179 foot tall tower, located northeast of Paso Robles.

We are located 26 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean, directly halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on California's west coast.

There has been little sunspot activity that I am aware and though this is the time for increased propagation, I have heard it greatly here on other frequencies including 1230, 920 and 780 ... but not like I've heard from your tape, so clearly, in the middle of "our night."

Sunrise and sunset are our best times for this time of "skip" reception. Of course, your time is different during this hour, so, possibly, the propagation effect was just perfect for you in what was daytime. I'd like to know what your local time was at the time of reception of KPRL.

Thank goodness for long wire antennas!

You've inspired me to add longer length to mine so that I might hear your station.

I am also the News Director at KPRL.

Might I direct you to our web site at KPRL.com so that you might get a little impression of who we are and what we do.

We are a "news/talk" station that is very popular here on California's Central Coast. We broadcast in a range non-directionally in a circular pattern about 70 miles from top-to-bottom ... with the signal stronger to the north of us. Possibly you heard some polar "skip" over the North Pole, though there are several stations on our frequency up the west coast and in northern California, as well.

You will be a part of our broadcast tomorrow, as we will play your tape and mention you by name, as we proudly say we are the "1,000 watt blowtorch of the North County," since we serve the population of over 75,000 -- but can't be heard well 20 miles to the south, let alone in Finland on most days!

I am familiar with the JRC NRD-545 - a powerful receiver with great filtering.

I am glad that you have been to Paso Robles and, especially, at that time -- right after our 6.5 earthquake. That was quite a time, here.

The community is recovering well and has rebuilt much of its downtown. Our community will be featured on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS) television station in Los Angeles (KCED) tonight at 10 p.m. to show that recovery.

KPRL has been the voice of this community since 1947 and has a proud legacy of which I am pleased to be a part.

We serve our community (and others) well and are very fortunate to be as popular and well-supported as we are.

I wish I had a bumper sticker or other information that I could send. I may try to get a media kit together for you, though it is what is online at our web site.

It was a great pleasure to hear from you, Mika, and our owner was very pleased to know that the "blowtorch" really gets out!

Please keep in touch with us, even if you can't hear us. We like to know we've made a new friend. We may even call on you from time to time!

Our kindest thoughts and wishes to you, your family and the good people of Finland. We, as Americans, respect you as friends very much.

Warmest regards from the Central Coast of California,

Joe Benson  
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