

WRAX Bedford PA 1600 kHz

25.11.2023 2201 UTC



WRAX 106.5 FM & 1600 AM

Date: Sun, 17 Dec 2023 23:19:37 +0000 (UTC)
From: Lloyd <k3qnt@aol.com>
To: "mika@makelainen.com" <mika@makelainen.com>
Cc: John Hogenmiller <john@hogenmiller.net>, "3cessnas3cessnas@comcast.net" <3cessnas3cessnas@comcast.net>
Message-ID: <187645371.2402505.1702855177623@mail.yahoo.com>
Subject: QSL FOR WRAX 1600 & WBFD 1310 BEDFORD PA USA

Mika-

I received the "relay" of your report from John KB3DFZ -
Sorry things have taken so long to respond.

We confirm your reception from Finland of both **WBFD-1310 & WRAX-1600** of 25 November 2023 of around 5:00 PM EST (2200Z). We also confirm that your listening programming report is correct.

WBFD-1310 AM is Bedford's oldest radio station. It went on the air in 1954 as a Class III day timer. It has been on the air ever since with these call letters. Some years ago, our FCC changed the designation of these stations. They are now known as Class "D" for day timer. WRAX was first licensed as WAYC-AM. Both WBFD-1310 and WRAX-1600

operate with 1KW of output power non-directional during the day time hours. They stay on overnight with some nominal night authority but very little. The fact that you heard us at this hour confirms you took advantage of the grey line propagation. All broadcasting here is analog.

Both stations are non-directional sharing a 90 degree tower with 120 1/4 wave radials into a antenna combiner called a diplexer. The tower is located on a small hill just outside of Bedford. This area is surrounded by 600 meter mountains.

This practice of combing two or more AM stations has become quite common in the US because of the high cost of land for AM sites. Both stations use computer software programming control.

WBFD is a News/Talk station that relies heavily on network programming provided by nation providers such as Westwood One , Premier and others. WRAX is programmed locally. The stations have been owned and operated by family company, Cessna Communications, Inc. since 1974. This is highly unusual as most American facilities are now operated by large multi-station operators such as Audacy, iHeart and Cumulus.

Both of these stations do an excellent job of local programming which has included local news broadcasts every morning. local community bulletin boards, high school sports broadcasts and regularly scheduled long-form local programming such as "Music & Medicine with Dr. Carl Werne" and a local public affairs show called, "Bedford County Speaks."

A few years ago, both stations acquired FM 'translators' which duplicate the AM programming. WBFD is now 1310 AM & 98.7 FM- WRAX is 1600 AM and 106.5 FM. FM station here use odd numbered splits. Cessna operates two other FM stations: B-ROCK-107.5 FM (WBVE) and STAR 100.9 FM (WAYC)

I am pretty sure we have never received an International signal report from Finland before so for that, we say, Kiitos!

You will be receiving a QSL card in the mail along with some station material that may interest you. I was particularly interested in your report because after 58 years in radio broadcasting, these AM QSL requests still fascinate me.

For me, this is the first I have seen one from Finland. It was all the more interesting as I am of Swedish descent.

I don't know what mail is like but I will get these items off to you tomorrow. I would appreciate knowing if they arrived.

If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me here. Thanks for writing and Good DX!

<http://www.bedfordcountyradio.com>

73,

Lloyd -:)

Local News Producer Cessna Communications, Inc.

Lloyd Bankson (Bengtsson) Roach K3QNT

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"The Most Deadly Poison of our Times is Indifference."

"Saint Maximilian Kolbe - SP3RN Circa 1938

The Radio Stations of Bedford County



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