

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

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DXer OF THE MONTH



Robert Yajko tunes in HCJB

This month we have chosen a DXer who lives in Western Pennsylvania as our DXer of the Month. Robert A. Yajko does his shortwave listening in his home in Leechburg, a short distance northeast of Pittsburg. He is a teacher who has been interested in the shortwave hobby for more than eleven years. He joined ANDEX late in 1974 and became member # 1162.

Robert uses two Radio Shack receivers in his hobby. Sitting on top of his Realistic DX-160 is a Realistic DX-120. He also uses two longwire antennas. One of these antennas runs east-west and is 95 feet long. The other runs north-south with a length of 46 feet. This combination of receivers and antennas has given good reception from many parts of the world.

In addition to the above mentioned equipment Robert also finds some other items very helpful. A Heathkit 100 kHz crystal calibrator, model HD-20, makes it much easier to measure the exact frequency of the station being heard. A Lafayette antenna tuner helps him get the optimum results from each antenna. He also uses a Panasonic cassette recorder when he wants to preserve any program for later use.

The first time Robert heard HCJB was back in 1963 and he has listened many times since then. He sends many reception reports and no doubt has most of the QSL cards we have offered in recent years. He is very active as a DXer and finds time to spend between two and four hours each day with his receivers. Most of his DXing is done between the hours of 0000 and 0400 GMT. He has set a good example during this World DX-Club Year. Robert is not only a member of ANDEX, but has also joined several other clubs, including the American Shortwave Listeners Club, SPEEDX, the North American Shortwave Association, the Radio Japan Club, and the Radio Australia Listener's Club. He must write a good number of letters and reception reports to radio stations as can be seen by the large supply of pens and pencils handy at his listening post. He listens regularly to the DX Party Line and we appreciate his frequent letters.

Other interests that find a place in Robert's life include astronomy, photography, hunting and fishing. All of these activities keep him occupied in a varied and interesting way when he has free time from his teaching career.

Our congratulations to Robert A. Yajko, the ANDEX DXer of the Month for March, 1976.

ARTICLE CONTEST

Have you always wanted to see your name in print? Would you like to be a writer? We think other members of ANDEX would like to read your contributions! We would like to include at least one article each month written by an ANDEX member.

This is our invitation to all members of ANDEX to send in one or more articles for possible use in ANDEX International. Each article must deal with some phase of the DXing or SWL hobby and be an original composition of the person submitting it. Articles will be accepted only from active members

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LITTLE THINGS COUNT

"I'm very sorry, Mr. McCormick," said the young barber. "Sorry for what?" asked Cyrus McCormick, the inventor. "Sorry for cutting the skin behind your ear. It was a slip, I assure you. My boss tells me I'm rather awkward in using these clippers." With a smile pulling at the corners of his mouth, McCormick replied, "Well, young man, you'll be reading about this incident in the newspapers soon." "Oh, don't let the press get hold of it. I'll lose my job for sure if my boss finds out," pleaded the apprentice. "You don't need to worry, young man. You'll be famous in an honorable way. You've made a fortune for me." With the glow of inspiration on his face, the inspired inventor left the bewildered barber. Soon the press was using its boldest type to announce to the world the invention of McCormick's reaper. Working on the principle of the barber's clipper, which had cut his skin, McCormick had invented a machine which would cut grain. LITTLE THINGS COUNT!

Scratching his head, "where the wool used to grow," the sound effects man of a large radio company gave a weary sigh. For months he had tried to get a sound which would resemble a gentle spring rain. Everything he had used so far sounded like hail stones on concrete roads. Feeling that a bit of fresh air and a lunch might help him think, he entered a café down the street. "A glass of milk and a lettuce sandwich; and make it snappy," he called. When the sandwich arrived, he lifted the top piece of bread and shook some salt on the lettuce. He listened. That was the sound he wanted! His problem was solved! LITTLE THINGS COUNT!

While discussing the rubber business with his neighbors, Charles Goodyear thoughtlessly threw a piece of rubber which had some sulphur on it into the fireplace. When the fire had gone out he found that the piece of rubber would stretch and then return to its original length. Using this principle of adding certain chemicals to rubber, subjected to intense heat, Goodyear gave the world the process of vulcanizing rubber. Goodyear knew that LITTLE THINGS COUNT!

Would you think that such a simple step as believing in and receiving Christ would make much difference for eternity -- the eternity you are daily nearing? A look at the Bible clearly reveals: "Whoever puts his faith in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see that life, for

God's wrath remains on him" (John 3:36). Such a step, then, as receiving Christ makes the difference between an eternity of glory in Heaven or an eternity of grief in Hell. Your future in the next world depends upon your simple decision in this world. The simplicity of salvation need not be a stumbling block to you, but rather a stepping stone to eternal life.

Yes, little things count in relation to eternity. You may say it doesn't matter what a person believes as long as he is sincere. But it does matter. Sincerity is not enough! Sincerity must be based on security. "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

Such a seemingly insignificant thing it is to believe God's message, but it means either eternal life or eternal death for you. Let us invite you to receive him by faith right now. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

HCJB SPRING SCHEDULE

On March 7, 1976, HCJB, along with many other international shortwave broadcasters, will be making some changes in its broadcasting schedule. Here are the times and frequencies that will be used for English language programs beginning on that date. This schedule will be in effect until May 2nd.

To North America:

0100-0500 GMT 11.915, 9.560, 6.095 MHz
0500-0700 GMT 9.560, 6.095 MHz
1215-1230 GMT 11.745 MHz
1230-1630 GMT 15.115, 11.745 MHz

To South America:

1230-1630 GMT 15.160 MHz

To Europe:

0700-0830 GMT 9.625, 6.130 MHz
1730-1800 GMT 17.755, 15.310 MHz
1900-2030 GMT 17.755, 15.300, 11.745 MHz

To South Pacific:

0500-0700 GMT 11.915 MHz
0700-0830 GMT 11.915, 9.745 MHz
0830-1045 GMT 9.745, 6.130 MHz

(Frequencies are subject to change as conditions indicate.)

BASIC PROPAGATION

Part 2

As we continue this series on basic radio propagation we are going to consider the effects of geomagnetic storms as they affect shortwave reception. For listeners in many parts of the world geomagnetic storms present a problem to good reception. Some listeners may feel that when a storm does occur they do not have any hope of catching good DX. On the contrary, good DX is often available since normal patterns of reception become random making it possible to hear stations which are usually difficult to receive due to interference.

When a geomagnetic storm does occur it weakens reception of stations in areas around the poles, namely North America, Asia, and Europe. However, stations near the equator are only moderately affected. For the Northern Hemisphere, the best place to look for DX catches during a storm will be from the southeast, south, or southwest of your location. Since the storm cuts down on reception of stations from Asia, North America, and Europe, you may ask how it makes good reception possible. If you listen to the 41, 49, or 75-meter bands, depending on where you live, you will generally hear many high-powered European, Asian, or North American stations. The low-powered Latin American and African stations are hard to hear due to interference from the stronger ones. If these interfering stations can in some way be removed we can see where the potential for rare DX will be located. These stations are partially removed by listening for rare Latin American and African countries during geomagnetic storms when transmissions from Europe, Asia, and North America become much weaker than normal. The opposite is also true. North American, Asian, and European broadcasters are easier to log when the geomagnetic field is quiet.

ANDEX International --

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By the way, WWV in Colorado, WWVH in Hawaii, as well as JJY in Japan, broadcast propagation forecasts daily. It is helpful to check one of these stations before you start to listen and do your DX-ing.

If you listen frequently to your shortwave radio and collect QSL cards, you may notice that one particular area of the world is very hard to hear. For example, in North America, the region around South Asia is poor most of the time. In Europe, the South Pacific is tricky to hear. Another effect of a geomagnetic storm makes these areas improve markedly.

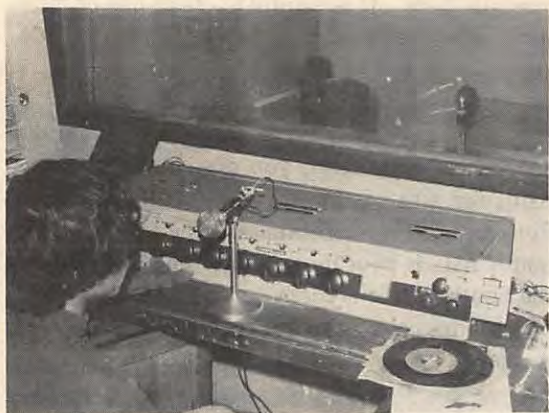
The best conditions for these countries will be present for a short period of time at the beginning of the storm and may last for about six hours. During this time, stations which have been hard to hear from Asia, Europe, and the Pacific area, will come in with surprisingly good strength. Unfortunately, after about six hours, the full effects of the storm are felt, and reception from these areas will be impossible or very poor for several days. So by knowing that a geomagnetic storm is going to occur, it is possible to predict where the best chances for good DX lie. As a general rule, stations located in Asia, Europe, and North America will be heard with better than normal reception for a few hours after a storm begins, while stations in Africa and Latin America will be good possibilities from that time until the storm ends.

It may be of interest to know when a geomagnetic storm will occur. On the average, storms reoccur in 27 days. So, if you know that a storm has occurred you can determine when the conditions will again be similar by adding 27 days, or roughly a month. If a certain station was heard with unusually good signals on a certain day, look for this station again, and other stations in the same area, about a month later. However, there may be more than one geomagnetic storm during the month so it is necessary to take this fact into account.

(This is the second article in a series of four, written by Richard Varron. They have been prepared for ANDEX in cooperation with the American Shortwave Listeners Club, 16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92649. Look for the third article in a later issue.)

WORLD DX-CLUB YEAR

RADIO MUNDIAL



Hector Flores at Radio Mundial control

On June 5, 1949, a new radio voice began programming from the city of Riobamba in Ecuador. This was Radio Mundial transmitting on a frequency of 910 kHz for the listeners in that area. Riobamba is the capital of the Province of Chimborazo in the central part of the country. The province gets its name from the majestic snow-capped mountain that towers above the city. Chimborazo is the highest mountain in Ecuador and reaches an altitude of 20,577 feet above sea level. On a recent trip to Riobamba, about four hours from Quito by car, we received a warm welcome, not only from Señor Galo Encalada, manager of Radio Mundial, but also from Chimborazo. Frequently covered by clouds at this time of the year, the magnificent mountain was visible in all its glory for our visit.

Approximately twenty years ago Radio Mundial added a shortwave outlet using a frequency of 4.860 MHz. The present studio location is on the third floor of a downtown building across the street from the railway station. Most of the programs are produced in the control room which contains a small console assembled locally, as well as two Japanese Neat turntables, two Sony tape recorders, and a microphone for the announcer. There is also a studio where a small audience may participate or watch the operation, and another studio for recording. Professional model Sony recorders are used for the recordings.

The transmitters are located at a different site some distance from the studio and away from the populated area of the city. Wire lines are used to link the studio to the transmitters. Both transmitters were assembled in Ecuador and operate with a power output of 1,000 watts. Simple half-wave

horizontal antennas are used on both frequencies. The medium wave transmitter is on the air daily from 1200 to 0400 GMT. The shortwave outlet carries the same programs but is on the air shorter hours: 1200 - 1400, 1700 - 1900, and 2300 - 0400 GMT. Like most of the stations in Ecuador, programs are primarily commercial with sports, news, and radio novels being included in the schedule. Radio Mundial is also a part of the national network called Yellow, Blue and Red. Members of this network retransmit each other to bring programs of national interest to the entire country. Wire lines between cities are seldom used for relaying radio programs in Ecuador. Radio Mundial also includes programs sent from other countries by recordings. Programs are received from the Voice of America, Radio Canada, United Nations, Radio Nederland, Deutsche Welle, Radio Israel, etc.

Señor Encalada expressed his desire to receive reception reports from listeners. Reports have arrived in the past from many countries including a rare one from Japan. It is better to write reports in Spanish but English is acceptable. Letters are sent confirming reception to all who write. It is not necessary to include return postage with your reception report. If you are fortunate enough to pick up Radio Mundial on 4.860 MHz, send your report and request to the following address: Radio Mundial, Casilla 1244, Riobamba, Ecuador.

Take a listen for Radio Mundial. It is not a station that we have seen reported by many DXers recently. As you listen to the station, remember that the transmitter is located at an altitude of over 9,000 feet at the foot of Chimborazo!

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of ANDEX. Manuscripts should have a maximum of about 500 words.

We cannot promise to use every article received and we reserve the right to edit those used as we feel necessary. We cannot offer to pay for manuscripts but we will send an Ecuadorian souvenir to each author when his article is printed. At the end of each year we plan to choose the best article submitted during the preceding months and award a grand prize to the writer of the Article of the Year!

Here's the chance you budding authors have been waiting for! We'll be looking for a flood of excellent articles on all phases of shortwave radio.