

ANDEX

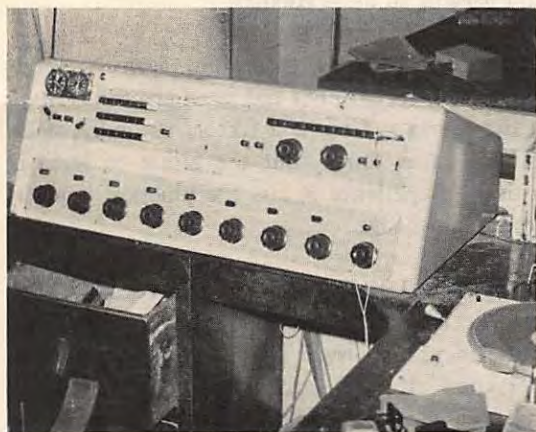


INTERNATIONAL

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ESCUELAS RADIOFONICAS



HCER5 studio console

In the March, 1976, issue of ANDEX International, Radio Mundial was the featured station. In the same city, Riobamba, there is a second shortwave station which is more frequently reported by DXers. This is Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares which broadcasts on a shortwave frequency of 3.985 MHz. Riobamba is the capital of the Province of Chimborazo, named after Ecuador's highest mountain which rises just a few miles to the west. This province is the home of a very large Indian population, the primary audience of Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares.

The studios are located in a group of buildings situated on the western edge of the city. The same organization also has other facilities to meet the needs of the Indians, many of whom come to Riobamba on market days to sell and barter their goods. Some come from a long distance making it difficult to return home the same day. Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares provides a hostel where they may spend the night and receive medical help as needed. A literal translation of the name would be Popular Radio Schools. The primary emphasis is education for the Indians with twenty percent of the programs in the Quechua language. Courses

are broadcast to help the uneducated learn to read and write and gain basic knowledge of many of the fundamental fields of learning, including mathematics, history and agriculture. Other programs are broadcast in Spanish and include music, news, sports, religion and some of a commercial nature.

Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares operates under the call sign, HCER5. Three frequencies are used by the station but only the shortwave outlet is of interest to DXers. On the standard broadcast band a frequency of 1045 kHz is utilized. For this service a homemade transmitter operates with 400 watts of power and a simple antenna. On the 75-meter frequency a French-made transmitter generates 1000 watts, and is fed into a triple-dipole antenna. This transmitter uses four tubes, type QB-3.5/750, in the output stage. The modulator employs four tubes of a different type, QB-3.5/1100. A third transmitter operates on 94.7 MHz in the standard FM band. A gates 50-watt unit provides this monaural service to the city of Riobamba. The FM transmitter and antenna are located right at the studios while the other two are situated outside the city. Programs carried on the medium and shortwave frequencies are the same. Some of these are also broadcast on the FM programming, when they are of a musical nature. At other hours separate musical programs are prepared for FM listeners.

HCER5 broadcasts only six days a week. No programs are released on Saturdays. Regular hours of operation are from 1000 until 0300 GMT on weekdays and from 1600 until 0300 on Sundays. Studio facilities include a two-channel console, manufactured by Philips in Holland, which can provide different programming for the AM and FM transmitters simultaneously. Two good 12-inch turntables, a TEAC tape recorder and an AMPEX 600 tape recorder provide most of the music.

We visited Riobamba on a Saturday so were not able to see the station in operation. However, Sr. Washington Luna, the man in charge of the technical operation, was very friendly and gave us a good tour of the facilities. The station has been serving the Indians in the area for more than fourteen years. Sr. Luna assured us that although the principle target of the station is the rural population of Chimborazo Province, they do appreciate receiving reception reports from DXers in other parts of the world. These reports should be sent in the Spanish language and it is not necessary to include any return postage. He gave us a sample copy of the QSL card they send in reply, a simple card printed in black.

Take a look for Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares. If you are able to pick them up on 3.985 MHz, send them a reception report and ask for a QSL card. Address your communication to Escuelas Radiofónicas Populares, Apartado 4755, Riobamba, Ecuador. We hope you are successful in your request for their verification card. We also congratulate the organization on the good job they have been doing in helping to educate the Indians of the area.

ON TO THE TOP

Part 1

Several years ago Don Jensen prepared an excellent series of articles on how to become a topflight DXer. These articles appeared in FRENDEX, published by the North American Short Wave Association. Don is certainly qualified to write on this subject. He rates number one among NASWA members with a record of 220 countries heard and 215 verified. NASWA has kindly granted permission for ANDEX to publish this series of articles for the benefit of our many ANDEX members.

How can I become a topflight SWBC DXer? Seldom is this question voiced, but it sums up the intent of a lot of specific questions actually asked by listeners who have progressed beyond the unabashed beginner stage. It is a good leadoff question for this series.

Unfortunately, there is no one magical answer, no clearcut formula for success. One word that will be cropping up again and again in this series is "experience." Catching the hard-to-hear stations is the sum and substance of serious DXing. Though it may seem a flippant answer, experienced DXers

catch the hard-to-hear stations because they are experienced!

Contrary to popular belief, top quality equipment isn't the answer. Yes, a good receiver will be a big help. It will make serious DXing easier. But the important word is "easier." An experienced DXer with a mediocre receiver will still manage, over the long haul, to hear most of the real DX. A novice with an expensive receiver will still be asking how he can log those rare stations. There is no one as disappointed as the guy who, expecting miracles, scrapes up enough money to buy a so-called professional receiver, only to find he isn't bagging all those goodies!

Experience - there's that word again - is the answer! But that does not mean just time served in the hobby. Time is a factor, naturally, since learning takes time. But the effort to learn is critical. Experience is just the practical application of knowledge.

A topflight DXer? Well, when does a DXer arrive? If arriving means reaching a pinnacle of proficiency, the answer is, "Never!" No one can ever know all there is to know about the subject and even the most experienced DXers can never stop learning more.

Individual definitions may vary, of course, but for our purposes let's assume that when a DXer is generally regarded by other DXers as being among the top ten percent, he has arrived. In other words, you're a top DXer when others consider you one. Or to put it another way, if you still have to ask, then you aren't!

To be continued

(For further information on the North American Short Wave Club, write to NASWA, P. O. Box 13, Liberty, IN, 47353, U.S.A.)

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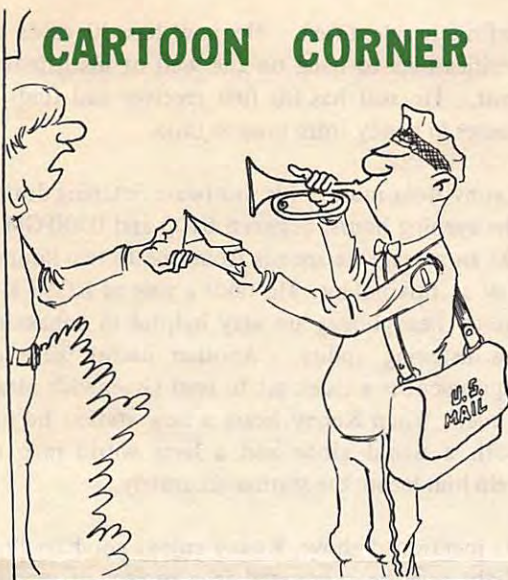
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CARTOON CORNER



It's my QSL card from Radio Maldives!

NEED A FRIEND?

Do you ever wish you had a friend to help you out of life's difficulties? Do you ever feel lonely? One of the most common complaints people have these days is loneliness! There may be lots of people around you and you may spend many hours listening to voices coming from remote corners of the earth and still suffer from loneliness. Often the most difficult times are when you are seemingly by yourself in a large and excited crowd.

Perhaps you are discouraged. Your life has been filled with sorrow and disappointment. You seem to have had more than your share of trouble. When you seek comfort from those around you they do not seem to understand or even care. You wish there were someone who could stand by your side and help you.

Or it may be that you are struggling with some habit - some evil appetite or passion that holds you in its grip. Time after time you have determined to cut loose from it, but you find yourself powerless to resist. You yearn for some friend who has the power to set you free.

Then again you might be among those who are burdened by a sense of sin and guilt. Voices from the past will not be silenced. Like angry bloodhounds, your sins refuse to let you escape. If only there were someone who could forgive you, and let you make a clean start.

Finally, it may be that you need a friend in your sickness. You are wearied by pain and suffering and terrified at the thought of what might happen. How often, in your quiet moments, you have longed for some voice to speak peace to your heart, and some strong hand to help you face the future unafraid!

Everyone feels the need of such a friend at one time or another. But where is he to be found? The Bible gives the answer. The friend you need is the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no one who can heal the broken heart like Jesus. Who else can break the chains of habit and set you free? He is the friend who alone has the power to forgive sins. No one else can provide real comfort in time of sickness or death.

The best friend of all is the Lord Jesus. He is always near when you need him. He is a friend who loves at all times, in adversity as well as in prosperity. He will never leave you. The proof of his friendship is the Cross of Calvary where he shed his blood for sinful mankind so that he might save those who believe on him, and be their friend forever.

Perhaps you are telling yourself that Christ lived nearly 2000 years ago so how can he be your friend today? It is true that Christ lived many years ago, but it is just as true that he lives today. He rose from the grave three days after his death and, after being seen by many people, he ascended into heaven. That is where he is today - seated at God's right hand.

Here is how you can make him your friend. Go to him in faith with all your needs. Confess your sins to him. Admit that you cannot save yourself, and that unless he saves you, you will be lost forever. Then receive him as your Lord and Savior. If you do this God's Word assures you that Christ will save you. "If you tell others with your own mouth that Jesus Christ is your Lord, and believe in your own heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9).

When Christ becomes your Lord and Savior, he also becomes your friend. He will comfort you, cheer you, help you, and when life is over, he will take you safely home to heaven. He wants to be your friend so why not trust him as your Savior now?

DXer OF THE MONTH



Kenny Howard with his DX-160

During the last few months we have featured some of the older ANDEX members. Now it is time to introduce one who is somewhat younger as our DXer of the Month. Kenneth J. Howard, Jr. is a fifteen-year-old high-school student who lives in North Little Rock, Arkansas. He is ANDEX member No. 1190. In addition to his shortwave hobby he enjoys various sports including bowling, swimming and hiking. In school he finds the following subjects very interesting: science, botany, literature, mathematics, politics, religion and music. Kenny also enjoys reading a good book.

Kenny became interested in shortwave radio when he purchased his first radio covering the high-frequency bands. This was a Realistic Astronaut-6 which he bought in August of 1973. At that time Kenny lived in Memphis, Tennessee. For an antenna he used a long piece of copper wire wrapped around a cardboard tube. Even with this rather primitive equipment, Kenny was able to log between 25 and 30 stations on all continents except Antarctica. Among these stations was HCJB which he heard for the first time soon after his purchase of the Astronaut-6 receiver.

At his new location in Arkansas, Kenny has added another Realistic receiver. This one is the very popular DX-160 used by so many DXers. He has also improved his antenna situation by constructing a multiple-dipole with the longest section about 30 meters in length. With this improved equipment Kenny has been able to log about 60 stations in 44 countries. Even though he is quite interested in collecting QSL cards he has not requested verification from all of the stations he has

definitely identified. He now has 30 cards or verifications to hang on the wall of his listening post. He still has his first receiver and finds it comes in handy from time to time.

Kenny does most of his shortwave listening during the evening hours, between 0100 and 0300 GMT. On an average he spends from one to two hours a day at this hobby. He finds a pair of KOSS K-6 stereo headphones are very helpful in enhancing his listening ability. Another useful piece of equipment is a clock set to read Greenwich Mean Time. When Kenny hears a new station he has both a world globe and a large world map to help him locate the station accurately.

As mentioned above, Kenny enjoys good reading. Right now he is engaged in a project of reading the entire Bible. This is a worthy objective that we can recommend very highly to all DXers. You will find it interesting and helpful. We are happy to have had Kenny Howard as a member of ANDEX for nearly two years and wish for him continued success in his high-school activities as well as in his shortwave listening.

HCJB FALL SCHEDULE

Most shortwave stations make schedule changes in early September. To help keep you up-to-date, here is the new HCJB English language schedule. This is effective for the period from September 5th to November 6th, 1976.

To North America:

0040-0700 GMT: 11.915, 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 South Pacific:

0500-0700 GMT: 11.915 MHz

0700-0830 GMT: 11.915, 9.745 MHz

0830-0930 GMT: 11.915, 9.745, 6.130 MHz

0930-1045 GMT: 9.745, 6.130 MHz

To Europe:

0700-0830 GMT: 9.760, 6.130 MHz

1730-1800 GMT: 17.780, 15.310 MHz

1900-2030 GMT: 15.300, 11.845 MHz

(Frequencies are subject to change as conditions indicate.)