

ANDEX



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DXer OF THE MONTH



Kent Magill checks a schedule

The enjoyment of mountains and all the varied activities they make possible is something that is shared by many DXers. HCJB broadcasts from nearly 10,000 feet up in the beautiful Andes Mountains of South America. Our DXer of the Month is also a lover of mountains. Kent Magill lives in Modesto, California, in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Although the area is about 100 feet above sea level, it is only a few miles from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the highest and steepest mountain range in the United States. For one who loves fishing and camping, what area could be better for living. Mt. Whitney, the highest mountain in the continental United States, is only one-hundred-and-fifty miles to the southeast. Yosemite National Park is even closer. Many interesting and scenic spots are close by. The San Joaquin Valley contains some of the richest farming land in California and produces an amazing quantity of fruits and vegetables. These products are shipped to consumers throughout the nation.

From this beautiful area, Kent has logged many

shortwave stations. He has received QSL cards from 156 different countries around the world. Most of his DXing has been done with a Grundig Satellit 1000 all-band receiver using only the built-in telescopic antenna. This model receiver, which is very popular in Europe, is not too common among DXers in the United States. In the picture a Drake SPR-4 can also be seen. This is another excellent radio for DXers. The Drake receiver can be used for medium-wave DXing with the plug-in loop antenna. Kent uses two pairs of headphones and finds a 24-hour clock very convenient when trying to determine the local time in other parts of the world.

Kent has been interested in shortwave radio for five years. He purchased his Grundig radio in January of 1974 and heard HCJB for the first time during that same month. He has been a frequent listener to HCJB ever since. He does most of his DXing between the hours of 0000 and 0700 GMT and listens for at least two hours a day. He was a baker for many years but was forced to retire early due to physical injuries. This makes it possible for him to spend a generous amount of time at his DXing hobby. He joined ANDEX four years ago and is member No. 1487. Recently, he became a member of the North American Short Wave Association, an excellent club for DXers.

We would like to be able to publish a picture of Kent Magill a few months from now. In a recent letter he wrote, "If I were lucky enough to have my picture published as DXer of the Month, I think I would frame it and put it on the wall of my shortwave shack." Look at the picture above and imagine a framed copy of ANDEX International hanging on the wall with Kent's other DX trophies! Our sincere congratulations to Kent Magill. We trust he will enjoy many more years with his shortwave receivers.

PACS MICROCOMPUTER

By Dan Anderson

On February 15, 1979, the first microcomputer controller went into regular operation at HCJB. This microcomputer is the first of three similar pieces of equipment that will be employed in the PACS (Program Automatic Control System) master control room. All of the programs from HCJB are broadcast through this system which has been in operation in a semi-automatic mode since March 4, 1978.

This first unit, now in service, is called the transmitter-switcher computer. It routes the six program lines, each carrying a different program, to the transmitters located fifteen miles from Quito in the town of Pifo as well as to the local AM transmitter on nearby Mt. Pichincha. The switching schedule stored in the computer provides for making a change of program source to any of ten transmitters at times specified to the nearest second.

The microcomputer is constructed on three printed circuit cards. Except for the main CPU board, it was designed and built by HCJB engineers. The computer is based on the S-100 bus system used in many small business and hobby installations. An operator may communicate with the computer by means of a sixteen-key keyboard and a seven-digit LED display. He may also use a printing terminal and a complete 64-character keyboard. The schedule is entered four times a year via the terminal into a memory with battery back-up.

Construction of the two remaining microcomputers is under way. These will provide for complete automatic control and logging of all programs broadcast by HCJB. The result will be a reduction in the number of human errors and a better sound as HCJB presents the Gospel message to a worldwide audience.

WHO MADE YOUR RADIO

What kind of shortwave radio do you use? Where was it made and by whom? What would you say if we told you that the factory that produced your excellent receiver used the following method of assembly? In the factory there is a long line of revolving tubs, much like those used in a laundromat. All the components for a receiver are dumped in one of the tubs, along with a good hot soldering iron and some solder. Then, the tub starts to revolve. After a few days the tub is stopped and a worker removes a perfectly assembled and aligned shortwave receiver. If by any chance there is something wrong with the radio, or it needs further tuning and alignment, it is put back in the tub and allowed to bounce around for a few more hours or days. Eventually, a perfect receiver will result.

Obviously your answer would be, "Nonsense! You could charge the capacitors and resistors with all the energy imaginable. You could let the parts churn for a million years. They would never churn themselves into a sophisticated DXing receiver! It takes a mind with a great deal of experience and training to assemble a radio or any other kind of machine." Exactly. It takes a mind.

Now use the same common-sense reasoning in regard to an infinitely larger and more complex mechanism, the universe. It is a vast machine of many millions of parts. We are told that the Milky Way alone contains 300-million suns! Talk about distance! The sun that seems so near on a hot summer day is 93-million miles away. Some of the stars are so remote that it takes many centuries for their light to reach the earth, though light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles a second.

With millions of stars in the universe, and millions of planets on the go, the movement of each one is so nicely adjusted that it forms the standard of measurement for all human observation. The motion is so regular that in an entire century the length of a solar year varies only a thousandth of a

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HCJB



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second! The far-flung machine is tuned in order to produce the proper distribution of light and sequence of seasons for the people inhabiting the earth.

To have thought out a machine of such vastness and intricacy, and to keep it running with such efficiency, takes a mind, the mind of a Supreme Thinker, whose will is good and all powerful. Can you imagine the stars getting together and deciding to keep out of each other's way? There is a God, there must be a God, whose tremendous mind has planned it all.

We should want to know more about this God. What does he want of us? How does he feel about us? What are his plans for us? What is he going to do with us when we die? God himself has given us the answers. He has revealed himself, not only in nature, but in his book, the Bible. He has revealed his love for mankind and his provision for saving people from the punishment they deserve for their sinful acts. God himself came to earth in the person of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died upon the cross to provide salvation for everyone who decides to accept it.

Not forever shall the universe revolve about us. The time will come when God, who created the universe, will destroy it. But everyone who believes in Jesus Christ as his personal Savior possesses, today, everlasting life. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved" (Acts 16:31).

DX REFLECTIONS

By Gerald W. Arrington

Part 1

Where and when did you first get the bug? All DXers had a beginning, the time, and place when a first interest in this fascinating hobby started! I get the impression that most people who are SWLs often take for granted the wonderful mysteries enabling them to sit down, and at the twisting of the controls of the shortwave receiver, bring friendly visitors from faraway lands right into their own room! Personally, I view this phenomenon as one of the most wonderful and exciting discoveries ever enjoyed by man. Was Marconi, or any other inventor, ever able to exactly explain all the reasons why radio signals can be sent into space, bounced back from the ionosphere, and converted into intelligible listening via our shortwave radios?

I first got the DX bug as a grade school youngster

living in the small town of Nettleton, Arkansas. My boyhood friend had a crystal set. Every day at lunch we would run to his house near the school and put on the headphones. We would listen to crackling, popping noises caused by static electricity. In between we would hear clear, but faint, signals from KDKA, Pittsburgh, or WLW, Cincinnati! In those days I had never heard of DXing, but of course, that is just what we were doing when we listened to stations 300 to 500 miles away. This was back in 1926 or 1927, the early days of radio.

What did we hear? For the most part news, weather, music, and the World Series baseball games. What a treat it was to go down to the local drug store and hear baseball games over the big loudspeaker, even with all the static! Already, the spark of interest for listening to faraway places was being kindled within me. I remember hurrying home at night to catch Amos 'n Andy or Lowell Thomas with the news. However, I still wanted to hear stations farther away. I would often stay up until 2:00 or 3:00 A.M. to hear KFI, Los Angeles, and perhaps three or four other stations in California. I was constantly scolded by my father for disturbing the family's sleep at such an unearthly hour!

Today this kind of listening is called medium-wave DXing. My friend, Gary V. Jackson, is probably the outstanding MW DXer in California. He has many rare catches including a low-powered Canadian station. This broadcaster was operating with only forty watts of power and was tucked away up in the mountains of British Columbia. Gary has this reception on tape as well as a confirming QSL card. He has actually heard Radio Moscow on medium wave and has a taped recording to prove it. He frequently tunes in medium-wave stations from Japan, Korea, or China. Some of these stations he can hear on his car radio! You see, it is the result of years of experience, study of propagation conditions, and knowing when the stations are on the air. He says the ideal time to pick up rare DX on the medium-wave band is early Monday mornings when local broadcasters are off the air for their testing and maintenance routine.

During the 1930's, I had a chance to actually become a DXer. I was in an electronics store when a sailor was trying to sell his Hallicrafter receiver. He had been called to duty and was to report to San Diego immediately. He needed money desper-

ately and was willing to sell the set at a very low price. But those were days when money was scarce. I had to be content with just looking at the Hallicrafter and doing a little drooling!

From American Shortwave Listeners Club
16182 Ballad Lane, Huntington Beach, CA
92649, Used by permission

To be continued

STUBBES VISIT EUROPE

This summer, European DXers will have a chance to meet Roger Stubbe and his wife, Joyce, as they do a bit of travelling. Roger has served in a number of capacities at HCJB during the past years and is one who can give DXers a great deal of technical information about this station. Most recently he has filled the position of Director of the Spanish Language Service as well as serving as Frequency Manager. For a number of years he has been the one responsible for the selection of shortwave frequencies for HCJB broadcasts.

Roger will be carrying a portable shortwave receiver with him on this trip in order to personally check on reception conditions in Europe. He also hopes to meet many DXers, hams, and other HCJB listeners. His purpose is to promote shortwave listening in general and listening to HCJB in particular. We would encourage ANDEX members in Europe to let others know of this visit and to take advantage of the opportunity to meet Roger personally.

The Stubbes left Quito on the 28th of May. Following a three-month stay in the United States, which included attendance at the ANARC Convention, they plan to arrive in Europe on September 3rd. The first stop will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, for a visit with Jens Frost of the World Radio TV Handbook. From September 5th to the 12th, the Stubbes will be in West Germany where they hope to contact DXers and DX or ham clubs. The 13th and 14th will be spent in Holland. Both of the Stubbes have ancestors who lived in Holland and they plan to visit the regions where these relatives lived. From the 15th of September to the 8th of November they plan to be in the British Isles. The first week will be at the Filey Holiday Crusade, a Bible Conference where some eight-thousand people assemble each summer. The rest of the time they will be free to meet with DXers, hams, and listeners.



Roger and Joyce Stubbe

If you would like to meet with the Stubbes, or have them speak to your DX or ham club, you can contact either of the following two men.

Mr. Evangelos Evangelides
D-66 Saarbrucken
Grosse Schachtstr. 2
West Germany

Mr. Malcolm Goodman
63A Main Street
Bingley, West Yorkshire
England BD16 2HZ

CONTEST WINNERS

In February we announced a Transmitter Contest. Now we are ready to tell you who came out on top. We received more than fifty entries in this contest. Five ANDEX members sent in lists containing more than 400 words. For this reason we have decided to send prizes to the top five instead of three as we had offered. Here are the names of the winners. Congratulations to each one.

- 1 — Steven Freeh, ANDEX No. 2891 of Binghamton, New York.
- 2 — Rod Logan, ANDEX No. 2941 of Burnaby, B.C., Canada
- 3 — Bob Hammack, ANDEX No. 2897 of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri
- 4 — Douglas Stevens, ANDEX No. 204 of Wahiawa, Hawaii
- 5 — Tom Warrenburg, ANDEX No. 1458 of De-lavan, Wisconsin