

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

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August – September, 1981



Ruth Stanley

INTRODUCING..... me!

Beginning with this issue of Andex, you will have noticed a few changes. One of them is the change in the Executive Director of Andex from Clayton Howard to Ruth Stanley.

Clayton and Helen Howard have left Ecuador for a well deserved furlough in the United States . . . therefore, it is with a bit of apprehension, but with willingness and enthusiasm that I undertake to handle the Andex International Radio Club.

I was introduced to the ways of radio, both ham radio and shortwave listening, when I met a young man in 1968. He strongly hinted that the gaining of a Ham License on my part would then follow with a marriage license on his part so I became WB4LUA and then became Mrs. John (K4ERO) Stanley!

Newly married, we travelled to India where we taught at a technical school. VU2IE (John) and VU2IYS (Ruth) were our call signs during those three years. Then, a nine month stay in Costa Rica to study Spanish where TI2ERO was the call of the Stanleys as we jointly operated the station. Now,

in Ecuador, HC1JX (John) and HC1RN (Ruth) are the call signs we use as we complete eight years soon with the Engineering Staff at Radio Station HCJB.

Radio has become for us a way of life and studying for higher grades of ham radio licenses, working to pass Federal Communication Commission exams and looking, buying and building radio equipment a common occurrence. And having lived in various locations overseas for all of our married life, we have come to appreciate shortwave listening and have learned what programs on which stations are informative, helpful and enjoyable.

So although it will be my name that is listed with Andex, I'll be quick to use the technical expertise of my engineering husband, of DX Party Line Host Roger Stubbe, and indeed, the whole Engineering Department of HCJB to make Andex a bulletin that will be helpful and enjoyable to you, our Andex members.

WHICH ARE YOU?

Once there were four neighbors who lived side by side. Their names were Mr. Somebody, Mr. Everybody, Mr. Anybody and Mrs. Nobody. They were difficult to understand; the way they lived was a shame.

For example: Somebody talked about his neighbor and Everybody was afraid to do anything because Somebody might find out. But Anybody knew that Everybody was talking about Somebody.

Really it wasn't a very pleasant neighborhood. There was the time Anybody's house caught on fire. Everybody thought Somebody had called the Fire Department. Somebody thought Everybody had done it so it turned out that Nobody called . . . and Anybody suffered quite a loss.

All four belonged to the Church. Everybody decided to stay home and rest on Sunday. Anybody wanted to worship but wasn't very friendly himself and was sure that Somebody would not speak to him, so Nobody went to Church.

FEARLESS FORECAST FOR OCTOBER - NOVEMBER, 1981

By John Stanley

During late October and early November of 1981, viewers in Japan and India will receive TV direct from the Philippines. Police and other VHF radio users in North America will hear calls in strange languages. CBers will find local calls obliterated by skip, and hams on six continents will ignore work and family to chase a new country on 6 or 10 meters.

Meanwhile, some knowledgeable DXers will be tuning to higher frequencies than those normally associated with SW listening and finding all sorts of unusual signals. What's going on here??? Nothing unexpected, really, just the annual peak of ionization up there above us, in a year of high sunspot activity.

For various reasons, the weeks centering around November 1 provide the highest MUFs of the year over many paths. MUF (Maximum Usable Frequency) is the highest frequency expected to propagate over a given distance. Listening just below the MUF can provide opportunities to hear weak signals not normally listenable.

Sun spot activity is now declining and MUFs with it so October and November, 1981, may be the last chance in many years you will have to hear some of these signals. Perhaps the last chance in your lifetime, since no one can say how long it will be before the sunspot number gets above 100 again. (It will be around 120-130 this October-November.)

Since MUFs may reach as high as 60 MHz for many DXers at some time to somewhere, if you can't receive above 30 MHz, you may be missing a lot. Now is the time to beg, buy or borrow a receiver that will tune higher, or, at least, hug the upper frequency limit of the receiver you do have.



John Stanley with his FEARLESS FORECAST equipment.

Just what can you expect to hear in this "Once in a Lifetime Opportunity for DXers"

TV SIGNALS: Consult *World Radio-TV Handbook* to see standards and frequencies used in various countries. You may not be able to see the picture, due to incompatibilities with your country's TV system, but picture buzz and audible sound may make ID possible for QSL purposes.

HAMS ON 50 MHZ: Hams on 50 MHz (6 meters) may be audible. Most use SSB, but some FM signals should be present and some CW as well. Listen around 50.110 (SSB) and 52.525 (FM) for intercontinental DX QSOs.

UTILITY SERVICES: Services such as police, construction, etc. are to be found between 30 and 50 MHz, (low band VHF), in most parts of the world. You can follow the rise and fall of the MUF by scanning these frequencies. FM is the mode in use.

BELOW 30 MHZ: Below 30 MHz are many interesting catches. The 10 meter amateur band will be hot many hours each day with excellent DX signals. The 27 MHz Citizens Band will be full of skip signals from all over. The 11 meter Broadcast Band will have strong signals. Now is the time to confirm HCJB on 26.020 MHz if you haven't before. Now using a low gain omni-directional antenna and about 60 watts, this has got to be international broadcasting's lowest powered signal. Can you log it?

Even more challenging will be broadcast *harmonics* which sometimes are hearable over great distances even though consisting of fractions of a watt unintentionally emitted by powerful shortwave transmitters. Harmonics are to be found on exact multiples of the normal transmitter frequency. For example; 6.050 will have weak harmonics on 12.100, 18.150 and 24.200.

Special recognition is due anyone hearing a harmonic of HCJB's new 500 KW transmitter . . . they measure in MICROwatts!

One word of caution, however . . . if the main signal of a station (the fundamental) is very strong, you may hear harmonics that the station is *NOT* transmitting. They are being produced in your receiver due to overload.

WHEN TO LISTEN: Unlike summertime MUFs which can stay high till midnight, October-November MUFs usually fall rapidly after dark. On some paths, MUFs peak at 10 a.m., local time, so listen early. (Equatorial paths are an exception and may peak after dark.)

DXer OF THE MONTH



Kari Nieminen with his DXing gear. .

The DXer featured in this August-September ANDEX bulletin is KARI NIEMINEN of Helsinki, Finland.

Kari joined An dex International in early 1980 and is An dex member No. 3634. Kari enjoys the DX pen pals he has met through An dex and especially sends greetings to Nan Hawthorne No. 3685 and Ray Violette No. 3745, both of the United States of America.

DXing and SWL are top hobbies of Kari and this is evident by the fact that he is also a member of the Finnish DX Association, FDXA, and the BBC World Radio Club.

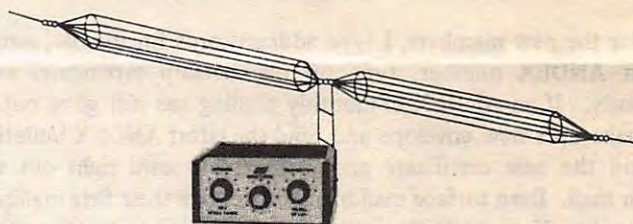
His first DX experience was in 1968 when he heard HCJB while he was in Argentina, and then next in Venezuela. Being in the Merchant Navy provided many opportunities to hear DX stations from different ports. Other activities crowded out his radio listening until 1979 when he sent for and received his first QSL card from, you guessed it, HCJB!

Since December, 1979, Kari has collected 43 SW QSL cards from 43 countries as well as many other MW QSLs, TV QSLs and FM QSLs. He also has a long list of places he has written to and is waiting for their cards to arrive. When he receives some of those, he'll have an even more impressive collection.

Kari's receivers, shown in the picture, are a USSR made Saphire Mark IV and a Panasonic RF 2900 LBS. In addition, he uses a National RQS17 radio cassette recorder. He uses the cassette recorder to tape certain parts of transmissions so that if there was a problem in understanding the first time, he can run the recording over and over until the message is understood. Also a good way, evidently, to learn other languages since Kari can understand programs in Swedish, English, German, Spanish, and, of course, in Finnish!

His antenna is a 27 meter long wire, L-type Marconi, from his room to the nearest tree in the back yard hanging about 9 meters above the ground. We'd like to thank Dr. Osmo Sallas, as does Kari, for arranging the special permission for this antenna as Kari is in the criminal hospital in Helsinki serving an eight year sentence. No doubt Dr. Sallas knows how educational and rehabilitative SWL and DXing can be.

Kari says he really enjoys reading DX bulletins, but doesn't have many available to him. Maybe some of you reading this have some old DX papers around. Why not send some to Kari Nieminen, Box 40, 00551 Helsinki 55, Finland, our DXer of the month.



THE ANTENNA CORNER

In this space we want to provide details for building antennas which have proven useful to ANDEX members. Send us your ideas. The idea presented in this issue may have come from one of you, but since I found it unmarked in the back of a file drawer, we will have to give someone credit only if he writes to tell us about it.

Construction of a Semi-Vertical Whip Antenna

This antenna is an ideal one for apartment dwellers, since it requires little space, can be wall or window-sill mounted, and performs well over the shortwave bands when used with a tuner. Most landlords will have no objection to this antenna since the building is not excessively marked when installing it.

The antenna is composed of three sections of strong aluminum tubing, which are chosen so that they will fit inside one another. Each section overlaps by one inch to allow bolting the sections together. Non-rusting bolts should be used or else replace them annually. A cap is placed over the end to keep water out.

The lead-in is taken from the large end at one of two bolts. A 90° angle bracket, made of strong aluminum, permits mounting on either walls or windows. The antenna must be insulated from ground. If you can not mount it to a wooden or other insulating surface, put a short piece of plastic water pipe over the bottom end and mount it with U-bolts to the aluminum bracket. All of the materials needed should be available from your nearest hardware store.

PATIENCE, PLEASE

(There Is Still Some QRM In My ANDEX Procedures !)

You've been listening to DX Party Line on HCJB and found out that there is a radio club called ANDEX and you decide to join. You write HCJB in Quito, Ecuador for an application blank, receive one, fill it out and send it, along with the yearly fee, to HCJB, P.O. Box 3000, Opa Locka, Florida, 33055, USA. The deed is done, and now my work begins.

Once a week or so, a bulging envelope arrives from Florida and is laid on my desk. The envelope is filled with new application forms or renewal forms for ANDEX International, along with other ANDEX mail matters.

For the new members, I type address cards for the file, assign an ANDEX number, type up membership certificates and cards. If an ANDEX bi-monthly mailing has just gone out, I make up a new envelope and send the latest ANDEX bulletin, and the new certificate and membership card right out via air mail. Even surface mail members receive their first mailings by air. If an ANDEX mailing is about to go out in a couple of weeks, I prepare everything, but file it to go out with the regular ANDEX mailing. The ANDEX mailings, by the way, go out in the first week of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

For renewals, I check their address from the file, record their fee, type up new membership cards and put in an envelope to await the next ANDEX mailing.

After I've done these things, I type up a list of new members and send them to Roger Stubbe, the DX Party Line Host who will read them on a DX Party Line program soon after receiving them.

Another form must be typed up, again with your address, and this form and your letter and reception form are sent to our English Service where your ANDEX letter joins hundreds of other letters that have been received from listeners to other English programs, all of which need to be given attention.

Here, in English Service, all letters are checked, reception reports noted and other requests heeded and QSL cards and other requested material comes back to me to be sent to you in the ANDEX mailing.

Your letter may then be sent to some of the people who produce the programs you mentioned in your letter or report and, finally, tired and dog-eared, your letter is filed in the English Correspondence headquarters.

Oh, yes, I've left out the part where I put your addresses on addressograph plates on a pre-war machine and then use another equally old and massive machine to stamp your addresses on the envelopes. After the envelope is stuffed with all the enclosures, the letter is sealed and sent to the HCJB post

office where the letter is postage franked and sent on its way . . . hopefully to be received safely by you in due time.

The reason I write all this is to let you know what a big process this is. There are a few things you can do to speed up the process:

1. Always send mail with money in it to the Florida address as they can handle the fees and the exchange rates faster than I can.
2. Put your ANDEX membership number on all correspondence . . . the envelope, the reception reports, your letter. Of course, the first time you write, you won't have a number, but you can still put ANDEX on all your papers. This will direct your letter to me faster, and will keep your letter from getting mixed up with all the other hundreds of non-ANDEX letters.
3. If there is an error with your address, your subscription date or fees, or with anything, let me know. We aren't trying to do things wrong . . . really!
4. If you have suggestions for improving the DX Party Line, the ANDEX bulletin or our mailing procedures, please let us know. We are concerned about our inactive members who used to be on our regular mailing list, but now have not renewed. If you know of some inactive members or if you are thinking of not renewing, why not let us know why they or you are not renewing . . . maybe it is something we can change.

We have lots of ideas, as is always the case when new people come into an established position, but no room to write about them in this issue. You will have noticed that we have changed the size of the ANDEX bulletin. We have done this so that the set-up time for me and the print shop is lessened and gives us the opportunity to run some longer articles. Hope you like it, but if not, let us know.

We also will write of other things in issues to come . . . of computer programs for propagation, of what do you want as extra enclosures in your envelopes, of new prices for ANDEX T-shirts, of questions you have sent to us.

But, for now, if there are hold ups in the mailings these next few months, or some mistakes made in your membership applications or renewals, please be patient. Our English Correspondence Service is overworked. I'm not only overworked, but undertrained!! Hopefully, as I learn the system better and as school starts here for my eight year old son, giving me more office time, our ANDEX service will improve.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER, REMEMBER

USE YOUR ANDEX NUMBER. . . ALWAYS



Check WWV at 18 minutes after the hour. High solar flux numbers mean higher MUFs. A LOW K index means higher MUFs on high latitude (East-West) paths. A HIGH K index can raise MUFs on tropical paths (North-South).

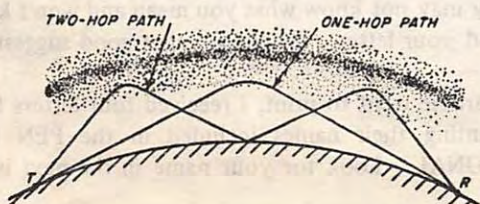
More on HIGH MUF DXing in March when we get a second chance to nab the VHF rare ones. Meantime, 73 and DX.

NOTE: FEARLESS FORECAST will be a regular feature in future issues of the ANDEX bulletin. We want these to be useful to you. Let us know what kind of propagation related information will be most helpful . . . and give us feedback on what you heard as a result of these forecasts.

TIMES AND TARGETS FOR HIGH MUF DXING FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1981

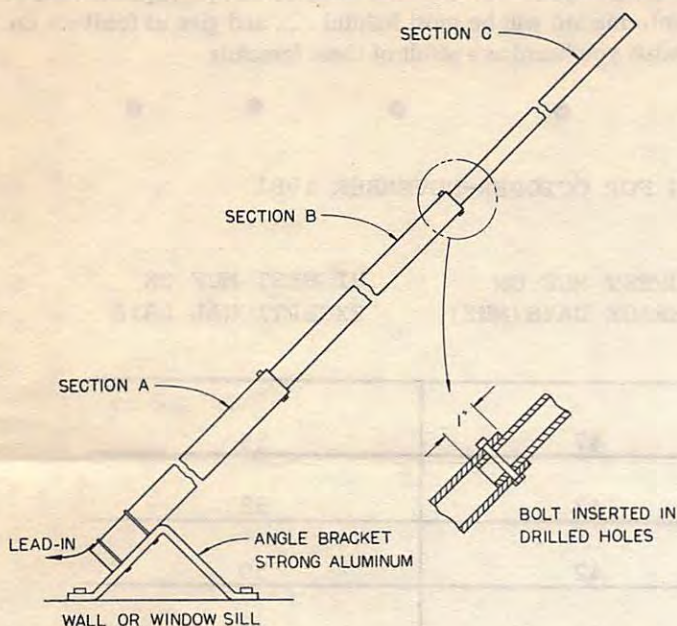
SIGNAL PATH*	TIME THAT MUF SHOULD PEAK		HIGHEST MUF ON AVERAGE DAYS (MHZ)	HIGHEST MUF ON EXCEPTIONAL DAYS
	GMT	LOCAL		
Europe to South Asia	1000		47	55
Europe to Central Africa	1000		47	55
Europe to Eastern North America	1500		42	50
Europe to Western North America	1700		40	48
Europe to South Africa	1600		46	54
Europe to South America	1300		42	50
North America to South Africa	1400		42	50
Eastern North America to South America	1500		46	54
Western North America to South America	1600		46	54
Americas to Japan	0000		42	50
North America to Hawaii	2000		44	52
North America to Australia and New Zealand	0000		42	50
South America to Hawaii	2200		46	54
Japan to South East Asia	0600		50	60
India to South East Asia	0800		50	60

*Since radio propagation is bi-directional to a good approximation, signals will pass both ways along the path at the same time. So-called "one-way-DX" does exist but is rare.



High MUF DXing takes place via the F2 layer of the ionosphere. Distances of more than 4000 KM take more than one hop unless tilts in the ionosphere are present. These tilts can occur, especially on north-south paths, or if the path crosses the terminator (the dividing line between day and night).

A Semi-Vertical Whip Antenna



WANT BACK ISSUES OF ANDEX BULLETIN?

They are available for 25¢ per copy with a minimum order of \$1.00. ANDEX started in 1974 and there are issues available for almost every month from 1974 until the present. So if you want them, they are here...just write and ask.

ANDEX International —

is the official publication of Andes DXers International, a DX Club operated in conjunction with DX Party Line broadcast over Radio Station HCJB and sponsored by the World Radio Missionary Fellowship, Inc. It is mailed bimonthly to all members.



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 English Program Director — Phillip Sandahl
 DX Party Line Host — Roger Stubbe
 ANDEX — Ruth Stanley

ADDRESS MAIL (WITH FUNDS) TO:

HCJB
 P.O. Box 3000
 Opa Locka, Florida 33055
 United States of America

ADDRESS MAIL (WITH NO FUNDS) TO:

ANDEX International
 Casilla 691
 Quito, Ecuador
 South America

PEN PALS INTERNATIONAL

Here is a list of new people to write to for all of you who are interested in having friends in other countries.

The first one is *JÖRG KNAACK*, Otto-Grotewohl-Strasse 59, DDR-5320 Apolda, German Democratic Republic. Jörg is Andex member 3817 and is 23 years old. He is an industrial worker and is interested in SWL, DXing, listening to music and motorbiking.

Next is *PAUL DEVER*, 28 Edwards Road, Braintree, Massachusetts, 02184, United States of America. Paul is Andex member 3951 and is 19 years old. He works for an insurance company and also for a newspaper. His hobbies include SWL especially to DX programs, and collecting QSL cards from different countries.

Another fellow who would like pen pals is *MAURICE D. BOODRAM*, 115, Uitvlugt Pasture, West Coast Demerara, Guyana, South America. Maurice is Andex member 3792 and is a 29 year old teacher. He enjoys SWL, DXing, collecting QSL cards as well as postcards, reading, music and sports.

The last fellow we have for PEN PALS INTERNATIONAL this month is *BRIAN SARKISIAN*, 8668 Treat Highway, Jasper, Michigan, 49248, United States of America. Brian is Andex member 3852 and is 15 years old. He is a student and his interests include SWL, DXing, sports, motorcycle riding and writing letters.



Did you notice that all the members included in PEN PALS INTERNATIONAL this month have a member number that is in the 3000's? Maybe the next issue will have some members from the 100's or from the 4000's . . . how about writing to let us put your name in this corner and receive letters from many different places.

And the following suggestion from Tan How Chai, No. 355, in Malaysia . . . when writing your pen pal, write out the address in full as it is listed here. Abbreviations of states or countries may be familiar to you, but the postman in another country may not know what you mean and won't know where to send your letter. Thanks for that good suggestion!

Just as this article went to print, I received four letters from members wanting their names included in the PEN PAL INTERNATIONAL. Look for your name in the next issue!