

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 8, No. 6

June 1981

DXer OF THE MONTH



David Remont in HCJB control room #1

Usually we like to include a picture of our DXer of the Month with his receiving equipment. This time we have a little different picture. David R. Remont is shown in one of the HCJB control rooms as he was being interviewed for the DX Party Line. His receiver is one of the very popular Realistic DX-160s so most ANDEX members know what it looks like, anyway. He has his eyes on a new Kenwood R-1000 and hopes to replace the DX-160 within a year or so. To improve the frequency calibration on the DX-160, Dave uses an MFJ-200-BX frequency standard which provides precise markers throughout the shortwave bands.

Dave lives in Covington, Louisiana, which is just a few miles north of New Orleans and very close to the Gulf of Mexico. This should be an ideal spot for picking up those tropical-band stations from Latin America, as well as HCJB. He grew up in the New Orleans area. After graduation from the University of New Orleans, he spent eight years in the United States Air Force. He

left the Air Force with a master's degree and quickly found employment with Delta Airlines. He was delighted when Delta sent him back to his home in Louisiana. From there he flies all over the United States and frequently as far away as Puerto Rico. He has had experience flying Boeing 727s but is presently serving as flight engineer on Lockheed L-1011s. He hopes to be advanced to co-pilot on the 727s in another year.

Two years ago Dave had never heard of shortwave radio and knew absolutely nothing about it. He met Wil Pounds of the HCJB staff at his church, Fellowship Bible Church, during 1979 and discovered they had a mutual interest in flying. At Wil's urging, Dave made a trip to Quito in May, 1980. He was overwhelmed and had his eyes opened by what he saw. He returned to the United States determined to learn more about shortwave radio. He purchased the DX-160 and got his start by listening to HCJB. He joined ANDEX in September, 1980, and is member No. 3797. Not satisfied with just listening, he started classes in amateur radio during the summer of 1980. He is now a licensed ham with the call letters, KA5JWB. During April, 1981, he passed the requirements for an advanced-class license. For his ham activities he uses a Kenwood TS-830-S transceiver with simple dipole antennas. Plans call for the construction of a quad antenna. After visiting HCJB where the quad antenna originated nearly forty years ago, he is more determined than ever to build his own and improve his signal.

Even though Dave has become an active ham operator, he has not deserted the DXing hobby. He still spends an hour or so a day listening to his DX-160, usually during the evening hours. Of course his favorite station is HCJB. He is married and has two young girls, nine and five years old. During the month of April, 1981, he and his wife, Debra, made a second trip to Quito. They spent

about a week with the Pounds and HCJB. We feel sure this has not been their last visit and that they will be back again! Most people who visit Quito find it hard to stay away.

It has been an honor to introduce David Remont to our other ANDEX members. We wish for him, and his lovely family, the very best during the coming years.

TURTLE VISITS HCJB

Recently, as part of HCJB's 50th Anniversary activities, an interesting visitor came to live for some months just outside the HCJB studios. An area of the yard was fenced in and became the temporary home of a large turtle. As turtles go, she is a young animal. She is believed to be about fifty years of age which makes her visit very appropriate during this anniversary year. Turtles live longer than any other backboned animals and have been known to live for more than 150 years.

Our visitor is one of the famous Galápagos turtles. The Galápagos Islands, a part of Ecuador, was the original home of our new friend. The islands were discovered by Tomas de Berlanga in 1832. One of the most interesting features of the islands at that time was the presence of thousands of these large turtles. Since the Spanish name for turtles is galápagos, the new discovery was named the Galápagos Islands. The huge turtles, which may weigh up to as much as 500 pounds, are now quite rare and are protected by the government. Turtles have a remarkable ability to stay alive under difficult conditions. For that reason they were captured in large numbers by the whaling



Galápagos turtle helps celebrate 50th Anniversary

ships that sailed the Pacific Ocean. Refrigeration was unknown and turtles stored in the holds of the ships would stay alive for many months. As needed, they were killed and provided delicious fresh meat for the whalers. With protection, it is hoped that the turtle population of the Galápagos Islands will build up again. However, turtles move slowly. They also reproduce slowly, so it will take a long time.

Our turtle, which weighs about seventy-five pounds, has been living in the city of Ambato, about ninety miles south of Quito. She is owned by the father of one of our HCJB staff members, Jorge Zambrano. You may have heard Jorge on the Música del Ecuador program on HCJB. Mr. Zambrano has had this turtle for about forty years. When he first got the animal, she was just a few inches across. Now she lives in a shell that is two feet long and seventeen inches wide. The top of her back is thirteen inches off the ground. She still has a long ways to go to reach a weight of 500 pounds! A turtle of even her size has a good appetite and loves such things as ripe bananas and lettuce. Turtles have no teeth but the jaws have horny edges that can chew the food very quickly.

HCJB's new mascot makes an interesting conversation piece for visitors and tourists who come to the HCJB studios and offices. It is fascinating to watch her eat and move around. By early afternoon she crawls under the steps where she has her bed and sleeps with her head in a corner. After all the activity of the morning, she is tired and ready for a good night's sleep. She is making a real addition to our 50th Anniversary celebration.

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.



International Program Director — David Manney
English Program Director — Phillip Sandahl
ANDEX Executive Director — Clayton Howard
Address all mail to: ANDEX International
Casilla 691
Quito, Ecuador

RADIO NOSTALGIA

By Alfred T. Thornton
Grand Bay, N.B., Canada



Alfred's DXing equipment, a few years ago

Having grown up in radio since the early Marconi days, I decided on a recent trip to England, my home country, to retrace those days that I remembered most.

Going back to the late '20s, I was attending an elite grammar school that taught the sciences. Radio was a sideline. I was, however, caught up in physics and chemistry and joined the so-called "Science Club." Bread-board construction was the thing with swinging coils to induce reaction or regeneration, horn-type loud speakers, and simple crystal sets. Local BBC stations were 5XX and 2L0. The local garage man used to put up an aerial on a 50-foot mast, a must for crystal sets, and woe betide the person who did so without the GPO license. The same garage man charged the batteries to work the bright emitters of the two-tube receiver. He would even loan a spare battery while he did the charging.

So I visited Daventry, which was 5XX, and saw the site of the old Marconi building and one of the original lattice masts, still standing after all these years. Norman Rhodes, the Superintendent Engineer, graciously showed me around the transmitter hall. I had visited Chelmsford earlier, where Marconi experimented, but I could not find the monument which stood in a field at Writtle, a village nearby. I was told it had been removed to the main plant at Chelmsford. Time did not permit me to retrace my steps to Chelmsford, so I pressed on to Ongar. Here a forest of antennas, owned and operated by Cables and Wireless, shoot towards the sky to far-off lands. Most utility listeners will know about these antennas.



5XX plaque in Daventry

During the war, as a communications officer, I was not called up, so to speak, in the service, but was put to work in London. The work was on invasion alarms. The circuit linked all the big cities by a coaxial cable. The most important was from London to Birmingham, about 128 miles. Every fourteen miles there was a repeater station which had to be maintained tri-monthly. Each repeater was housed in a small brick building sitting in a field, and very secret, of course. I stopped to see one of these huts. I scrambled up to look at the now empty six-foot racks festooned with cobwebs. The concrete that had been carefully tended before, was now covered with weeds. Little did we know that this very cable was to be the first to carry television signals from London to Birmingham after the war.

On the radar side of the war, I was fortunate to work near Bawdsey Island, on the east coast of England. This is where Watson-Watt discovered or invented radar back in 1937. Some of the towers still stood and Bawdsey Manor, home of the late Sir Cuthbert Quilter, was loaned to the RAF experimental staff. Other stations linked with Bawdsey were Canewdon and Orfordness. How well I remember testing, testing, and testing!

I sat on Bawdsey's stony beach and looked through the wheeling sea gulls toward the salt-encrusted copper domes of the manor. I looked past the sandy spit toward the sea where once a ship passed back and forth for days on end, testing out that eerie pulse we now call radar. Coventry was the first city to be bombed with the aid of radar. Yes, I did visit Coventry and saw again the Coventry Cathedral in its modern version, with the shell of the old one still standing as a reminder to those who remember what war can do.

I remember a Short Sunderland, a flying boat, crashing with eighteen technicians aboard. Local gossip said it was caused by the rays that were being tried out by the RAF "boffins."



Coaxial repeater station

Back in the big city of London I aimed for Bush House. Yes, you've guessed it, the BBC. I went upstairs to the World Radio Club where Peter Barsby, Henry Hatch, Reginald Kennedy, and Nikki welcomed me. What a character Henry is, although some years older than I. We shared early BBC days. Later they took me down to their exclusive club and we all had a pleasant chat together. Passing through those tall portals, I felt sad at leaving it all behind. But I was happy in the thought that I can hold on to my nostalgia simply by tuning in to the BBC World Service!

QUIZ ANSWERS

How did you make out on last month's ANDEX Quiz? Here are the correct answers so you can check your results.

1. True.
2. False. Tungsten's resistance increases with temperature while carbon's decreases.
3. False. A 50-ohm coaxial cable is available measuring only 0.0104 inches in diameter. Losses are increased with the reduction in size, however.
4. False. The third color band on a resistor always designates a multiplier. A fourth band of gold would indicate 5% tolerance.
5. True.
6. True.
7. False. Mu-metal is a specially treated magnetic shield.

8. False. Radio Australia sends QSL cards during one month of each year.
9. True.
10. False. Hearing efficiency decreases gradually between the ages of 20 and 35. Until very old age, however, it does not change appreciably after 35.
11. False. Sound reproduction always depends on speaker quality and enclosure design, not on speaker quantity.
12. True.
13. True.
14. False. An anechoic chamber absorbs sound and eliminates reverberation.
15. False. Communication with submerged submarines is carried on in the VLF band.
16. True.
17. False. It is played on a Swiss music box.
18. False. Receiver stability is very important when listening to single-sideband.
19. False. The Yaesu FRG-7000 receiver features digital read-out, but not the FRG-7.
20. True.

POINTS TO PONDER

Christianity is not a cloak put on, but a life put in!

Living without God means dying without hope!

In God's sight, one is never so empty as when he is full of self!

He who has no vision of eternity will never know the true value and use of time!

The real measure of our wealth is what we shall own in eternity!

Look at self and you will be discouraged, look at others and you will be defeated, look to Jesus and you will be happy and victorious!

Atheism is the death of hope, a fearful blindness of soul!

If man could provide his own salvation, Christ would never have died to provide it!

He who provides for this life only, taking no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever!