



# ANDEX INTERNATIONAL

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## Radio: its history in Ecuador



*With a poncho to keep off the Andes Mountains chill, this young Indian warms his heart with the radio message of HCJB. The radio emblazoned with "Vozandes" was pre-tuned to the Voice of the Andes. The pre-tuned radios were part of HCJB's early history.*

The first stirrings of radio sound in Ecuador are slightly blurred in history. Quito's *El Comercio* recounted that intriguing history in a two-page spread of articles.

Radio signals first reached Ecuador in 1926, when Radio Paris aimed its shortwave transmissions at the port

city of Guayaquil. Three years later in the mountain city of Riobamba, programming was sent out via Radio Prado with Ecuador's first transmitter. Programs aired four to six hours per week and few Ecuadorians owned receivers (about an equal number of stations as receivers in the entire country!).

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## *History of radio in Ecuador - continued*

The 1930s saw the advent of two radio mainstays, the state-run Radio Nacional del Ecuador and HCJB. (See photos.) It was a time when music was rarely pre-recorded. Instead, musicians performed live in the studio.

The decade of the 1940s brought more transmitter power to those stations already broadcasting. Stations began offering 12 or more hours of programming a day, instead of the few hours offered before. Radio drama became popular. A new station went on the air— Radio Quito.

Technological advances helped radio grow in this era, enabling organizations like HCJB and Gran Colombia to produce studio recordings for use on radio.

*El Comercio* newspaper calls the 1950s the “Age of Gold” for Ecuador’s broadcasting medium. Programs such as radio drama, live and recorded music, information dissemination, news and sports became more professional and diverse. Stations became adept at capturing the interest of listeners through service, entertainment or education. By 1960, Ecuador had one of Latin America’s highest ratios of radio receivers to inhabitants.

Quito’s first FM station was founded in 1963. Teleonda Musical capitalized on the new concept of using an announcer playing rock music. It was the sole FM station until the early 1970s when Radio Stereofonica, one of the chain of Gran Colombia stations, began transmitting.

HCJB FM took to the air in 1972, followed by Radio Corporation. However, the FM band continued to function primarily for the elite listener who preferred music with little talk. Laws actually prohibited radio drama, news and other dialogue-laden programming on FM.

As the 1980s rolled around, Ecuador’s oil became a valuable commodity on the world market. Increases in imports brought modern

stereo equipment into more homes and a flurry of signals took over the FM frequencies: Sonorama, Pichincha, Cordillera, Colon, Centro, Bolivar, Blue Wave and others. Meanwhile, Radio Corporation sold its transmitter and forfeited its frequency.

As competition grew, stations worked to improve the quality of their transmissions and programming. Radio Pichincha became a favorite of young people with its high quality announcers and popular rock music. Meanwhile, HCJB-FM continued to hold a loyal audience with its classical music style.

While FM programming flourished, AM floundered somewhat. The late 1980s and early ‘90s saw the ever more polished programs targeted at specific audiences via FM. Other types of programs appeared, with newscasts becoming more important. Music expanded to include European and reggae, encompassing more of the world outside Ecuador’s borders.

In 1993, radio is highly competitive as stations aggressively reach out to the 10 million Ecuadorians throughout the land. Where local radio waves don’t reach, shortwave carries a mixed diet of quality programming.

*—written by Karen Schmidt with information published in **El Comercio***

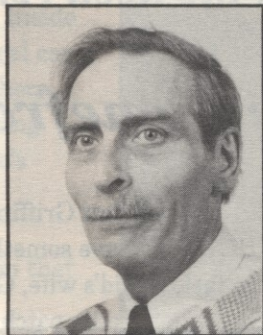


*HCJB had a role in the beginnings of radio in Ecuador. The early broadcasts were in Spanish and English, and over the past decades many languages and dialects were added. Francisco Litardo and Ben Cummings are ready for the ON THE AIR light.*



## DXer of the Month

The home of tulips, windmills and Don Quixote is also home to our Special DXer, W.Th.M. van der Meulen. He lives in the city of Utrecht in the beautiful country of Holland. He is married with three grown children.



*W.Th.M. van der Meulen,  
Special DXer*

Mr. van der Meulen has worked for the same pharmaceutical company for 28 years. He listens to music and reads during the off hours. He also lists DXing as a hobby and his daily listening schedule includes the following stations: Radio Netherlands, Radio Australia, Radio Osterreich International, Kol Israel, Evangeliums Rundfunk, Trans World Radio, Family Radio, WEWN, and HCJB World Radio.

"Here in Holland we have the E.O. which means the Evangelical Broadcasting," writes

Mr. van der Meulen. "They have... radio programs and once a week a TV program. I am also a member of this broadcasting."

One of HCJB's attractions for Mr. van der Meulen is the music of the Andes. He writes "I am playing the panflute for several years, so I do like the music."



*Three popular Andean instruments: the pan flute, made of various-sized tubes; the charango, a 10-stringed instrument sometimes made of an armadillo shell; and a quena, or bamboo flute similar to a recorder. Mr. van der Meulen enjoys playing the pan flute.*

## Person to Person

History is the focus of this *Andex International* edition. You may have already read the history of radio in Ecuador. I hope you also enjoy the brief account of Radio Budapest.

Just as institutions and nations have histories, so, too, each of us has a personal history. As you look over the years of your life, are you satisfied? Some people are; some are not.

The truth is that whether we're proud or ashamed of our personal history, there is a problem. All of us have sin in our life. We have offended our loving Creator.

Jesus came to live among us to change the course of human history. And He is just as willing to change our personal history.

Here is how it is stated in the Bible:

*Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

— II Corinthians 5:17

Maybe you're ashamed of your history and want an improved life. I can tell you that Christ brings not only improvement, but transformation! Write to me, would you? Ask for the pamphlet *The Touch of the Master's Hand*. Write: ANDEX, HCJB, Box 17-17-691, Quito, Ecuador, South America.



*Ralph V.  
Kurtenbach,  
Studio 9 host*

*Word from home is important to anyone living far from loved ones. It's no different among the many missionaries in Ecuador. Despite the friendships the need remains for . . .*

## *News from the homefront*

That's why two HCJB engineers went to great lengths (and risks!) to link up with folks at home. As ham radio operators, Warren Griffin and David Russell know about traversing the miles via radio waves.

But life at HCJB's Pifo antenna site provides special challenges. The ubiquitous HCJB signal manifests itself in strange and sometimes eerie ways. One may awake at 2:00 a.m. to hear strains of Quechua music emanating from the bathroom lights. Or push down the toaster and suddenly hear *Musical Mailbag* (that surely provokes a glance into the bread slots!).

It's not that Griffin (HC1CZA) and Russell (HC1DVE) have something against the Mailbag crew. (In fact, David's wife, Giselle, is one of them.) It's just that a ham radio patch to folks at home shouldn't include sporadic giggles and corny jokes from John Adams and his letter-reading gang. So the two engineers located a place sheltered from the radio waves. "We went roughly 250 feet down the side of a ravine where we strung a dipole antenna for 15 meters," says Griffin, "then we hooked up our ham rig with a car battery and were amazed to receive signals from the United States and Europe!"



*Warren Griffin and David Russell extended this ham radio antenna into a canyon near HCJB's antenna farm at Pifo. The Pifo Valley and Mount Pichincha are in the background.*

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Beyond the many antenna arrays, beyond the horses grazing in the pasture, sits an old moving van. Inside are a small desk and chair, several car batteries, and a ham rig. From here, one can talk to family while looking over the Pifo valley toward Quito's lights.

The antenna cable leads from that ham rig down the wooded mountainside. It goes to the edge of a deep canyon with a river babbling far below. There, stretching 30 feet into the canyon is a structure holding the engineers' antenna. One wonders how Griffin and Russell assembled it and that must be why Griffin calls it "the seventh wonder of the world."

First, the avid radio operators descended the steep mountainside about 10 feet. Digging into the mountain, they established a small, flat staging area for the set-up. Up above, they firmly anchored a long beam to a tree at the canyon's edge. The beam's other



David, left, and Warren, show how the antenna boom is mounted on the tree on the edge of the canyon.

end was brought low to allow assembly from the staging area. They affixed the antenna first on one side, then on the other. That done, they tied a rope and hoisted up the complete works, securing it with cables.

Planting his ladder on the staging area, Russell climbed up. "I kept telling myself...don't look down, don't look around. Just concentrate on what you're doing and get it done and get out of here," Russell remembers. Ever so carefully, hundreds of feet above the babbling river, he rotated the antenna to point out of the canyon in a northward direction.

Ever since that momentous day, Griffin and Russell have enjoyed talking with family in the U.S.



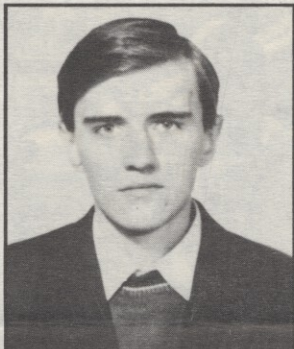
It's likely their "shack" is more rustic than most ham shacks, but Griffin says it's great to talk to home while looking out over the Pifo Valley toward Quito's night sky.

# My Favourite QSL

Radio Budapest's history can be traced all the way back to the late 1800s.

In 1894, Hungary was the first country to use the Telephonograph to transmit news to subscribers on a local telephone-like link. It was invented by Tivadar Puskas, who later collaborated with Thomas Alva Edison on the improvement of the telephone. Other experiments followed, and in 1925 radio broadcasting began in Hungary.

In December 1933 a transmitter called "The Giant of Lakihegy" began broadcasts. It was a 120 kilowatt transmitter built by the Hungarian Standard Radio and Electric Company. Lakihegy is



Andrej Krasnopjorov



In the two-year history of *My Favourite QSL*, we've featured a dozen confirmation cards from shortwave stations from all over the world. Thanks for your participation in this regular feature.

I know how SWL'ers prize their QSL cards, especially their favourites. Whenever I borrow QSLs from co-workers for this bulletin, I'm tempted to take out more life insurance (in case the card would somehow be lost or damaged!).

Well, Andrej Krasnopjorov has made quite a sacrifice for our bulletin by sending us his favourite QSL. He offered no explanation other than to include

on Csepel Island in Budapest. Csepel Island's geographic location made it favorable for broadcasting all over Hungary.

A year later Radio Budapest began regular shortwave transmissions in Hungarian and English from Szekesfehervar. The broadcasts began with a couple of five kilowatt transmitters, but the output was later increased to 20 kilowatts.

By the end of World War II, withdrawing Nazi troops had blown up Radio Budapest's installations or dismantled the equipment. But the Post Office staff heroically reconstructed the transmitters. One part of the equipment had been carried off and was found on Hungary's western border. Radio Budapest was first heard again on May 1, 1945. Budapest Two was reconstructed at a new location in Szolnok.

Radio Budapest's domestic service is aired three ways. The medium wave transmissions, Radio Kossuth, emanate from Solt. Meanwhile, Radio Petofi is aired by 10 medium wave and FM stations and Radio Bartok is aired only on FM and VHF.

The shortwave releases go out on several bands and in several languages: Hungarian, English, German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish. There are three transmitter locations: Szekesfehervar, Diosd, and Jaszbereny.

Radio Budapest has excellent listener relations and was the third station in the world to broadcast DX programs in English. The Radio Budapest Shortwave Club was established in 1965. The club has thousands of members on all continents who serve as official monitors and maintain contact with Radio Budapest.

a history of the station. We will be glad to return your card, Andrej. Just write us with your current address.

*My Favourite QSL* is not a contest, but a regular column by ANDEX members. Want to write with yours? Rather than describing the QSL, tell about the circumstances that make it special. For example, you can talk about events going on in your life at the time you heard the station. Write the story in 300 to 500 words and send us a clear photocopy of the QSL (both sides). ANDEX reserves the right to choose and edit the story.

# PROGRAM

HCJB · THE VOICE OF THE ANDES · QUITO · ECUADOR

## July-August 1993

All days are local days, as opposed to UTC days. This distinction applies only in North America.

### THIS 'N THAT

**New Kids on the Block:** Two new voices are on the airwaves from HCJB's English Language Service these days. Have a listen for Curt Cole and Allen Graham as they give new dimensions to the programming. We welcome them to the team. Let us know you hear them when you write to us.

Here are program details for July and August:

### MONDAY - FRIDAY

**STUDIO 9**—Latin America comes sharply into focus on *Studio 9* each weekday. Host Ralph Kurtenbach corrals a team of reporters for some serious and sometimes humorous views into the region, punctuated by the music of the Andes.

On Mondays we tackle special medical issues, on Tuesdays we meet the people who make up this part of the world. The environment and nature catch our attention each Wednesday, while we turn to the history books on Thursdays. Fridays allow you the opportunity to explore Latin America.

Watch for a special program in honor of the 10th of August when Ecuador celebrates its first cry of independence.

**MORNING IN THE MOUNTAINS** (to the Americas only)—We're still here every morning Monday through Friday beginning at 1200 UTC. Be listening for the dulcet tones of Leonard Kinzel with the news as he sits in for Ken MacHarg over the next 6 months. Also, get a bird's eye view of weather in the western hemisphere at 1245 UTC via **World Weather Watch**. Music and other features compose the remainder of these 90 minutes dedicated to getting you up and going with a breath of fresh Andean air.

### SUNDAY

**SALUDOS AMIGOS**—HCJB's international friendship program sails on, greeting friends, connecting pen pals and answering a basketful of questions. John Adams fills in for Ken MacHarg this summer, promoting international friendship and understanding. Join us for a rapid fire 50 minutes every Sunday.

**MOUNTAIN MEDITATIONS**—Several key leaders at HCJB exchange the role of host for this Sunday-morning program, mixing music and devotional thoughts in an Andean setting. Hosts include HCJB President Ron Cline, Senior Vice President Ben Cummings, Chairman Abe Van Der Puy, World Offices Director Jim Allen and Pastor Ray Hinchman. Listen in each Sunday at 0700 UTC in Europe, again at 0830 UTC in the South Pacific and 1400 UTC (9 a.m. EST) in North America.

**HCJB TODAY**—Each Sunday HCJB missionaries get together to share what's happening. Producer Jeanie Jacobson has these topics, and others, lined up:

*August 1-2* What's it like to give birth overseas? It may be quite different than you imagine.

*August 8-9* The Making of a Magazine: Join HCJB's

writers and editors in the maze of magazine production.

*August 22-23* John Beck discusses the message of HCJB via radio.

*August 29-30* Tongue-tied missionaries—what learning the language can mean for some.

And as always, there are Headlines of the Week and music. Tune in each Sunday in North America at 9 p.m. EST (0200 UTC) or single sideband at 11:30 p.m. EST, and on Mondays to Europe at 0700 UTC and to the South Pacific at 0930 UTC.

### MONDAY

**INTROSPECT**—Medical dilemmas, persecution, finances, violence, relationships. Mondays on *Introspect*, host Leonard Kinzel interviews an expert, or sometimes a panel, on social, economic and moral issues, providing the listener with an opportunity to understand and be involved in the problems of society. Join us for a look at current events from a Christian perspective.

### TUESDAY

**HAPPINESS IS**—The best of *Happiness Is* continues as now-retired host Dee Baklenko brings some aspect of Ecuadorian life into close view. There's always fascinating information blended with some distinctive Latin American folk music.

### WEDNESDAY

**HAM RADIO TODAY**—Each week host John Beck fills this half-hour with amateur radio and electronics info, the latest DX news from the ham bands and items of interest to the electronics hobbyist. Join him for features on computers, radio wave propagation, utility roundup, and useful tips.

### THURSDAY

**WHAT'S COOKING IN THE ANDES**—Sample the foods, cooking and culture of Latin America with Karen Schmidt each Thursday. One of the August editions will feature the humble but versatile potato, one of this continent's native foods. Every program brings Food News That You Can Use, music and some food for thought. Put some spice into your eating with *What's Cooking in the Andes*.

### FRIDAY

**MUSICA DEL ECUADOR**—Meet the composers, musicians and instruments of Latin America as Jorge Zambrano presents his special blend of Ecuadorian and Latin music.

### SATURDAY

**DX PARTYLINE**—Antennas, radio stamps, clandestine stations, equipment reviews and more come your way each Saturday. John Beck provides a veritable feast of DX news, tips and loggings along with special reports from correspondents around the world. Whether you're a veteran DXer or a novice, *DX Partyline* helps make your radio hobby fun, Saturdays on HCJB.

**MUSICAL MAILBAG**—What more can be said that hasn't already been said about the Mailbag? John Adams, Giselle Russell, R.V. Kurtenbach and Karen Mace happily share letters from people around the world who somehow grin and bear it and write to us anyway. Saturdays provide the window of opportunity for you to share in the wonder of *Musical Mailbag* on 7 different occasions to various parts of the world. Try it; you might like it!

—Editor: Karen Schmidt

# Pen Pals

**EDWARD A. KINSALL** - 4000 E. 17th, Apt. 510a, Wichita, KS 67208, USA. He would like to have pen pals from anywhere.

**JOSEPH IANNUZZELLI** - P.O. Box 674, South Orange, NJ 07079 USA. He is a young man interested in ham radio, music, boating, SWLing and the outdoors.

**ROBERT PETRAITIS** - P.O. Box 493, 5802 Klaipeda 2, LITHUANIA. He is 29 years old and would like to correspond with pen friends worldwide in English and Russian. His hobbies are DXing, collecting stamps, FDCs, viewcards, and listening to music.

**MADAN GOPAL MUKHERJEE** - Nirodgarh, P.O. - Panduah, DT-Hooghly, INDIA 712149.

**DMITRI RIBOWLEW** - P.O. Box 292, Biysk 15, Altayskiy Kray, Siberia, 659315 RUSSIA. His hobbies include collecting stamps, coins, banknotes, viewcards. He also enjoys shortwave listening, reading the Bible and other books, and photography. He is ANDEX #8387. He will answer all letters.

**ROBERT BJORK** - Ehrensvarsgatan 5, S-213 Malmo SWEDEN. Works as a repairman in a newspaper printhouse. Interested in shortwave listening, electronics and everything that makes life fun. ANDEX Member # 8681.

*The following ANDEX member has a different address than was published in the May-June bulletin.*

**ANKE SETTGAST** - Ludwig Str. 9 B, 50374 Erftstadt, GERMANY.

Fees for ANDEX membership may be paid in the currency of the countries below by sending to the address given. One year's subscription to **ANDEX International** costs \$6.50 (U.S. dollars) or the current equivalent in your country's currency. If you choose to pay in actual U.S. dollars, you can send your fee to our U.S. office. \*\*\*Please do not send any fees to Ecuador.

**AUSTRALIA** HCJB-ANDEX, G.P.O. Box 691, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

**CANADA** HCJB-ANDEX, 6981 Millcreek Drive, Unit 23, Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 6B8, Canada.

**FINLAND** Radio HCJB, PL-101, 15111 Lahti, Finland.

**GERMANY** Margot Stegmiller, Hebelst. 32, D-69168 Wiesloch, Germany. (zu senden und gleichzeitig den Jahresbeitrag = DM 15. —auf das Konto: 22 816 004. Volksbank Wiesloch (BLZ: 672 922 00)

**JAMAICA** HCJB-ANDEX, Jamaica Office, P.O. Box 31, Kingston 6, Jamaica.

**NETHERLANDS** Stichting HCJB Nederland, Dalweg 30, NL-7122 Aalten, Netherlands. (f.15,00 per jaar. Maakt U dan Uw contributie over op girorekening 83 22 26 t.n.v. de Rabobank "Aalten" B.A. te Aalten. Bij de mededelingen dient U dan te vermelden: t.g.v. rek.nr. 3002.26.837 t.n.v. St. HCJB-Nederland.)

**NEW ZEALAND** HCJB, P.O. Box 27-514, Mt. Roskill, Auckland, New Zealand 1030.

**SWEDEN** Radio HCJB, Box 110, 54201 Mariestad, Sweden.

**SWITZERLAND** Radio HCJB, Schweizer Arbeitszweig, Postf. 119, 8708 Mannedorf, Switzerland.

**UNITED KINGDOM** HCJB-ANDEX, 131 Grattan Road, Bradford, W. Yorkshire, BD1 2HS, England. (Fee: GBP 4.50. Payable via a) cheque to HCJB, b) Girobank transfer at any post office to account #625 2311, or c) VISA or MasterCard via post or telephone.)

**\*U.S.A.** HCJB-ANDEX, P.O. Box 39800, Colorado Springs, CO, 80949-9800, U.S.A.

**If you live anywhere else:** Send \$6.50 (U.S. dollars only) to HCJB-ANDEX, P.O. Box 39800, Colorado Springs, CO, 80949-9800, U.S.A.

Please make checks/money orders payable to HCJB-ANDEX and allow 8 weeks for processing.



**ANDEX INTERNATIONAL**



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ANDEX Director Richard McVicar