

ANDEX



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ANARC CONVENTION



Dave Browne, ANARC Executive Secretary

Next to actually snagging that rare DX station, most DXers enjoy getting together with others of like interest. What can be more fun than discussing those exciting moments in front of your receiver and comparing notes with other DXers? What better way to find out what is going on in the shortwave hobby? How does your receiver and listening equipment compare with that used by others? What new gear or techniques are bringing in the hard-to-hear stations?

This month many DXers and shortwave listeners are expected to gather in Los Angeles, California, for the 1976 ANARC Convention. Summer is the time for conventions and meetings held by many shortwave clubs, but the ANARC Convention is the best. This convention will be held in the Holiday Inn near the Los Angeles International Airport. The dates are July 23rd through the 25th. This convention promises to be the biggest and best ever held by ANARC. SCADS, the Southern California Area DXers, is acting as the convention

hosts. A full and interesting program is being planned for the three days. Prominent speakers will be taking part, a wide variety of shortwave equipment will be on display and tours will be made to local radio facilities. Perhaps most important, there will be plenty of opportunity to meet fellow DXers and discuss your hobby with them.

ANARC, the Association of North American Radio Clubs, is an organization made up of the top shortwave clubs in the United States and Canada. To be a member, or associate, of ANARC means that a club has to meet very strict standards. ANARC member clubs are the elite of the hobby. They can be trusted to give each member reliable help in their DXing and shortwave listening.

ANARC helps DXers in North America in many ways. They publish a monthly newsletter which is filled with news of the member clubs, details of regional group meetings and a wealth of other information of interest to the shortwave hobbyist. One ANARC committee is researching the equipment used by DXers to determine what is available and what DXers would be ready to purchase. With this information manufacturers can be encouraged to give shortwave listeners more attention and provide the equipment they need. A second committee is working to help shortwave broadcasters find clear frequencies for their transmissions and eliminate interference as much as possible. Another group is working with the Federal Communications Commission Service Group to formulate recommendations for international shortwave allocations and standards. ANARC also plans to publish a much needed master list of DX publications currently available in North America.

ANARC has done much to foster shortwave listening and DXing in North America. We congratulate Dave Browne, the executive secretary, for the fine job he is doing to help everyone interested in the hobby. It is our expectation that this eleventh ANARC Convention will be a great success.

BASIC PROPAGATION

Part 4

In this fourth, and final, discussion on basic propagation we would like to consider one more factor which has a big influence on what we can hear on our receivers. We are referring to noise. Most natural noise comes from two sources, the sun or thunderstorms.

Let's look first at the role the sun plays. The severity of the noise depends on the elevation of the sun above the horizon. At midday, for example, it is worse with difficult reception on all of the lower frequencies. At night this noise disappears. Moreover, in summer the noise is worse than during the winter because the sun is higher in the sky during summer months. This explains why medium wave and tropical band DXing is better in the winter. When it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere it is summer in the Southern Hemisphere. For this reason these two seasons are not favorable times for DXing from one hemisphere to the other on the lower frequency bands. Best results will usually be obtained during the spring or fall. If you want to get the best reception within your own hemisphere, the best season is winter. Since the noise is least at night, it is a good idea to try for the low-frequency station when both the transmitter and your receiving location are in darkness. The best time for DX stations to the east of your location is in the early evening. For reception of stations to the west of your receiver try listening during the early morning hours. Midnight is the best time to listen to broadcasters due north or south.

The second source of noise, the thunderstorm, is usually of more local interest. As a general rule they are more frequent on the east coast of con-

tinents. They are usually more common during the summer than in winter, in the hemisphere where they occur. There is very little you can do if your reception is blocked by a thunderstorm except to make sure that you have a working lightning arrester!

This brings us to the end of our series on basic propagation. We trust you have found the information of interest and value. It should help you to know when and where to look for the best DX on the shortwave bands.

(This series of articles was prepared by Richard Varron in cooperation with the American Shortwave Listeners Club, 16182 Ballard Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92649. For further information on this excellent club write directly to the ASWLC.)

DXing HIGHLIGHTS



Historic antenna insulator

From Fair Oaks, California, William Davis, ANDEX member #1015, has written to tell us about one of his most interesting experiences in connection with shortwave radio. During his years of DXing he has had many exciting moments but the following event is perhaps the most unusual.

Recently William received a very valuable insulator that was sent to him by Michael Crawley, an amateur radio operator living in Listowel, County Kerry, Ireland. Michael operates amateur station E14R. The insulator is made of porcelain, is six inches in diameter, nine inches long, and weighs thirteen and a half pounds.

It was at Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland, close

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HCJB Broadcast Director - Ben Cummings

English Program Director - Delores Baklenko

ANDEX Executive Director - Clayton Howard

Address all mail to: ANDEX International
Casilla 691
Quito, Ecuador

CARTOON CORNER



*Drawn from personal experience by
Donald Robinson, ANDEX No. 1608
of St. John, N.B., Canada*

THE OLD WEST

This month the United States of America celebrates its two-hundredth year as a nation. It was on July 4, 1776, that the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Looking back over these two-hundred years, many names come to mind of those who had a part in making the United States what it is today. Many of these names are familiar to people around the world. Others are practically unknown. How many have heard of Jedediah Smith?

Jedediah is an authentic American hero of the Old West. He was born on January 6, 1799. As a youth his imagination was captivated by visions of life on the Western frontier. In 1822 he joined in a fur-trading venture on the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. Little did he realize the excitement, opportunity and dangers he would encounter in the coming years.

Jedediah was a man of raw courage, keen intellect and practical know-how. His career as a mountain man developed hidden resources of energy, determination, endurance and skill. He survived three Indian massacres. All of the adversity associated with life in the wilderness was a part of his daily experience. On one occasion Jedediah and his hunting party suddenly encountered an enraged grizzly bear. Jedediah was the first to meet the bear head-on. It lunged at him, grabbing Jedediah's head between its gigantic jaws, and threw him to the ground. The encounter left savage wounds on his face. Jedediah's presence of mind enabled him to remain in charge of the party while a friend sewed up the wounds with a needle and thread.

His accomplishments amounted to more than just feats of physical courage and strength. He was the first man to reach California overland. He was the first to cross the Sierra Nevada. He was the first to reach Oregon by travelling up the California coast.

Perhaps most significant are the details of Jedediah's personal faith in Jesus Christ, gleaned from his letters and from written comments of those who knew him. Friends respected him as a Christian gentleman. He was modest, quiet and mild mannered. He was not involved in the immoral life, bad habits and language which were so prevalent in frontier life. He was an unusual man to find in the rough-and-tumble West. He took his

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to the home of Michael Crawley, where the old Marconi Wireless Station was constructed. This insulator was one of those used to support the antenna for the International Telephony Tests conducted in March, 1919. From this site the voice of Marconi engineer, W. T. Ditcham, was projected across the Atlantic Ocean in the first east-to-west transatlantic transmission from Ballybunion to Louisberg, Nova Scotia. It is interesting to note that the two-and-a-half kilowatt transmitter used for these tests consisted of only three main valves (tubes). The transmitter that had been used in 1915 for the west-to-east tests had required 300 valves.

The only known survivor of the station staff that witnessed the test is Mr. Mike Daly. He worked at the Marconi Wireless Station as a fitter and aerial rigger. Mike is now over 80 years of age and still resides at Ballybunion. Perhaps he is the one who originally installed the insulator now proudly owned by William Davis.

William adds that it was on January 1, 1973, when he made his first amateur radio transmission from station EI4R. This was a contact between Ireland and Lancashire, England. In California he operates amateur radio station WB6UWB.

As William looks at this historic insulator resting on his desk in front of his modern receiving and transmitting equipment, his mind is filled with the wonder of all the progress that has taken place in shortwave communications during the more than half century that these items represent. How little Marconi knew in 1919 of all that would transpire during the next 50 years!

DXer OF THE MONTH



Arthur Hart, ANDEX No. 1973

The large majority of DXers are young fellows in their teens. In fact, 50 percent of the members of ANDEX are between the ages of twelve and eighteen. Then there are others who develop their interest in shortwave radio later in life. Our DXer of the Month for July, Mr. Arthur M. Hart, belongs to this second category.

Arthur lives in Melbourne, Australia, where he works as a salesman. He has many other interests including cricket and football. He sent us a picture postcard showing the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the surrounding area of this beautiful city. It is only within the last year that he has become involved with his new DXing hobby. We are happy to welcome him to the growing number of shortwave enthusiasts around the world. One of the first stations he heard was HCJB and he has been a frequent listener ever since. His work makes it impossible for him to listen on any regular schedule. When at home he tries to tune around the bands for an hour or two between the hours of 0600 and 1200 GMT.

Although a newcomer to shortwave listening, Arthur has acquired two very nice receivers. The one in the middle of the picture is a Russian-made Vega Selena. On the right is a Japanese-made Sanyo Transworld, model 18H815, which uses 18 transistors. Both radios work quite well with the built-in telescopic antennas. However, a short wire run across the room and wrapped around the telescopic antenna of either radio greatly improves the reception. The picture shows the pride Arthur has in these two receivers which provide his passport to world travel.

Australia is the land of the kangaroo. This animal is noted for its remarkable hopping action. In fact, it is entirely dependent upon this specialized means of locomotion. Short-wave radio also depends on a similar hopping action as it spreads around the world. We're glad that many stations, from many parts of the world, hop into Arthur's two receivers. We trust he will have many more years of happy listening!

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religion with him into the wilderness and, in spite of the difficult circumstances and constant temptations, he remained true to the Lord, not only in profession, but also in his personal life.

Just four months before he was ambushed and killed by Comanche Indians in 1831, he wrote a letter to his brother, Ralph, in which he quoted the Scriptures and expressed his longing to adequately give thanks to God for the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. He was awestruck with the reality that, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

As the United States celebrates the nation's Bicentennial, the memory of Jedediah Smith is a reminder that we all face new frontiers in the coming days and years. We may not have to fight a grizzly, but there will be situations that call for courage and steadfastness equal to anything that Jedediah faced in his life. It is the wise man who faces the future with a solid, realistic faith in the Lord Jesus which will sustain him to the end, and bring glory to God. What an excellent example Jedediah Smith is for each of us.

Adapted from an article in Now Magazine

Listen to DX Party Line, and invite your friends to tune in. Heard three times each week on HCJB.

For South Pacific: Monday—Thursday—Saturday
0930 GMT 31 m — 9.745 mHz
49 m — 6.130 mHz

For Europe: Monday—Thursday—Saturday
2000 GMT 16 m — 17.780 mHz
19 m — 15.300 mHz

For North America: Tuesday—Thursday—Sunday
(Monday—Wednesday—Saturday 9:30 P.M. EST)
0230 GMT 25 m — 11.915 mHz
31 m — 9.560 mHz