

ANDEX



INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 3, No. 5

May 1976

ANDEX MEMBER 2000



Dick de Man with his receivers

ANDEX has recently passed another milestone. When the application form from Dick de Man was processed he was assigned membership number 2000. In just a little more than two years ANDEX has enrolled two-thousand members! This has far exceeded our wildest hopes when the club was founded in January, 1974. We are glad that many have found ANDEX to be interesting and helpful.

Dick is a fourteen-year old boy who lives in Baarn, Holland. He has been DXing for a little over one year. He uses two receivers, both of which were made in Holland by Philips. The first is a Philips Interphone 7800-AF. This receiver was manufactured in 1953 and uses seven tubes. It is a tropical export model with medium and shortwave bands, covering from 520 to 26,000 kHz. With this radio Dick uses an FM antenna which is about 30 feet in the air. The second receiver is a portable model L6X38T, FM-AM de Luxe. With all solid-state construction this receiver was built in 1965 and tunes the long, medium and shortwave bands as well as FM, 87 to 108 MHz. A fifty-foot longwire antenna is used with the second radio. With these two receivers, Dick is able to eavesdrop on many parts of the world as conditions permit.

Another piece of equipment that Dick finds very useful is a cassette recorder. This was also made by Philips, the originator of the cassette system for home recording. The recorder was manufactured in 1975 and is a model N-2220. Dick says he also has a stereo hi-fi system but he isn't able to pick up much DX on it!

In addition to joining ANDEX, Dick is also a member of the BBC World Radio Club and the Benelux DX Club. We are glad to have Dick as a member of ANDEX and welcome him as member number 2000. Our congratulations to Dick de Man! A special prize is being sent to Dick in recognition of this honor. Our next goal is member number 2500. How long will it take? There will be another prize for member number 2500.

BASIC PROPAGATION

Part 3

In the first two articles in this series on basic propagation we looked at the effects of daylight and geomagnetic storms on shortwave reception. Now, in this third part, we will examine some of the effects the sun has on radio propagation.

To begin, as a general rule, the higher the sunspot number, the higher the frequencies which can be used. Conversely, the lower the sunspot number, the lower the frequencies which must be used. Currently, we are on the bottom of the eleven-year sunspot cycle and the sunspots are at a minimum. Therefore, the eleven and thirteen-meter bands are generally closed and the seventeen and nineteen-meter bands are open only to varying degrees. Even at minimum there are variations in the sun's activity from day to day which may change the pattern of reception which is observed.

As a rule the cycle of high and low solar activity repeats itself every 27 days. So, if you keep track of the stations you hear, or the reports you read in

club bulletins, and you want to know when the conditions will again be similar to those when the stations were first logged, you should add either 27 or 54 days to the date of the original logging. Of course you may try for the stations at any time, but if you have trouble you may want to listen again at the more favorable time.

Another effect of the sun is to change the length of day and night in spring, summer, fall and winter. Generally, the lower frequencies must be used in winter due to the darkness and the higher frequencies can be used in summer due to the increased amount of daylight. However, in the Southern Hemisphere winter and summer are reversed as compared with the Northern Hemisphere. While the higher frequencies can be used in one area, conditions in the other region restrict high-frequency reception. In the spring and in the fall conditions are the same in both areas and reception is easier.

To summarize, in the summer use higher frequencies and in the winter use lower frequencies. To get the best results from the opposite hemisphere try listening during the spring or fall. I may add that reception from the opposite hemisphere is not impossible during the summer or winter but conditions are usually better during the spring or fall. If you heard some interesting stations last fall, why not try listening for them again this spring. If you saw some interesting loggings in a club bulletin last fall and have not been able to pick up the stations yourself, you may want to try for them again this spring when conditions will be similar to those when the stations were first heard.

For listeners in North America, WWV and WWVH give daily reports on solar activity. These can be heard at fourteen minutes past each hour throughout the day. WWV and WWVH can be heard on frequencies of 5,000, 10,000, and 15,000 kHz,

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 monthly to all members.

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English Program Director - Imogene Booker
ANDEX Executive Director - Clayton Howard
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depending on where you live and the time of day. Instead of the sunspot number these reports give the solar flux. This is generally about sixty units higher than the sunspot number.

(This is the third article in a series of four, written by Richard Varron. They have been prepared for ANDEX in cooperation with the American Shortwave Listeners Club, 16182 Ballard Lane, Huntington Beach, California 92649. Look for the concluding article in a later issue.)

DXer OF THE MONTH



Myron L. Gercken, ANDEX No. 182

Among the many popular receivers used by DXers and SWLs, none seem to have wider distribution than the Realistic DX-160, and its predecessor, the DX-150. Myron L. Gercken, our DXer of the Month for May, belongs to this large group of shortwave fanatics who find the DX-160 meets their requirements. Myron is 25 years old and lives in Watseka, Illinois, about 75 miles due south of Chicago. Watseka is close to the Indiana State line.

Myron began his DXing hobby about four years ago. It was through his cousin, John, that he learned of the fascinations of shortwave listening. He first purchased a Lafayette Explore-Air, Mark 5, receiver. On this radio the first station he heard was HCJB! The first program he listened to was News, Music and Variety, a program that was later replaced by the popular Passport on the HCJB schedule. In 1974, Myron purchased his Realistic DX-160 but kept the original set as a second receiver. With the DX-160 he uses an outdoor horizontal "V" antenna with 62-ohm coaxial feedline. A wire in his attic is used as the antenna for the Explore-Air.

One of Myron's biggest thrills came when he heard his name mentioned on the Passport program. This was back in 1973. Since then his frequent correspondence with shortwave stations has resulted in many replies heard over the air. These have come from such stations as Radio Australia, Radio RSA, Radio Nederland in addition to HCJB. Myron likes to collect QSL cards from the stations he hears. According to the last report we received from him he has heard stations in more than 52 countries. Of these, 32 have sent him QSL cards and 16 included pennants. Another six stations sent bumper stickers. He spends from two to three hours a day with his shortwave receivers, mostly during the morning and evening hours.

In addition to the two receivers already mentioned, Myron finds a few other pieces of equipment useful. A world map on the wall of his radio shack helps in locating the stations he hears. Two clocks keep him aware of both local time and GMT. He uses an Intermatic timer to turn his shortwave receivers on and off automatically. For accurate reception reports he finds the recordings made on his K-Mart brand cassette recorder very helpful.

Myron has been a member of ANDEX since the inception of the club. He is charter member No. 182. He is also a member of the North American Shortwave Association, the BBC's World Radio Club and the Radio Australia's Listeners' Club. Although his major hobby is DXing, he also enjoys art, good music, assembling models and a bit of fishing. His favorite sports are basketball and football.

ANDEX congratulates Myron L. Gercken on being selected DXer of the Month for May, 1976.

TRUE RICHES

Would you like to be rich? How would you like to have a lot of money? What a question! Who wouldn't like to be wealthy, especially in these days of inflation and high prices?

"The worst thing about money is that it costs too much!" This was the bitter complaint of one of the world's richest men who learned by experience that money can be the root of many evils. He has amassed a fortune at the high cost of neglecting his own family, and sadly declared, "I

have made enough money to send all of my children to hell."

Rothschild, the international banker, was approached by a very envious man who murmured, "It must be wonderful to be rich." Whereupon the financier sighed deeply in a troubled spirit and confessed, "It forces me to sleep with pistols under my pillow."

John D. Rockefeller put it this way: "The most miserable man in all the world is the man who has nothing but money." How tragically true!

Another put it this way: "Money may be the husk of many things but not the kernel. It brings you food but not appetite, medicine but not health, acquaintances but not friends, servants but not loyalty, superficial joy but not peace and happiness." In those last three words, peace and happiness, the root of the matter is reached.

Peace and happiness - what magic, tantalizing words! These are the true riches, the noble possessions which are of true value and which men long to claim as their own. For many, life is often filled with tragedy. There come occasions when a person realizes that a roomful of money simply isn't worth the paper on which it is printed. It can bring neither peace nor happiness when trouble comes, when problems press or when life approaches its end.

You may be rich or poor, have everything or next to nothing of this world's temporary belongings. We would all do well to ponder this saying, "Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul." And the greatest of all necessities is your need for salvation - to be born again. You need to be a new creation in Christ Jesus. Someone has well said, "No man is so poor as the man who has no home in eternity."

There is a high price for your salvation, for the peace and happiness of your soul. You are not able nor required to pay for it since Jesus has already made the payment in full. You have but to come, to claim and to trust Jesus as your Savior. Don't stay any longer in the bankruptcy of trespasses and sins! Christ has bought you by his blood. Come to him and you will be truly rich. "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed . . . but with the precious blood of Christ . . ." (I Peter 1:18, 19).

15th ANNIVERSARY



Clayton & Helen Howard

This month the DX Party Line celebrates its fifteenth birthday. It was on May 29th, 1961, that the first DX program was broadcast over the facilities of HCJB. Prior to that date there had been a weekly program called Party Line. On this program missionaries serving in Ecuador were given the opportunity to send greetings to friends and relatives in their homelands. Because of the similarity to the old party-line telephone system which was common in rural areas and didn't provide a great deal of privacy, the program earned its name, Party Line.

People who wanted to have a part on the Party Line program were assigned a definite spot on the first, second, third or fourth Monday of each month. Every few months a problem arose. What should be done with the fifth Mondays? Hardy Hayes decided to inaugurate a DX program for those odd Mondays. This way the DX Party Line had its humble beginning. Hardy was the first host and continued with the program until he left Quito about two years later. The DX Party Line was an immediate success with DXers and soon became a regular feature in the HCJB schedule. Hardy, incidentally, is now living in Roseville, Minnesota, and serves as Traffic Manager for the network of Christian radio stations operated by Northwestern Schools.

During the past fifteen years there have been many changes in the DX Party Line. In addition to Hardy Hayes there have been other hosts on the program, including Bill Ridgeway, Roger Stubbe and Clayton Howard. DXers can now hear a broadcast designed for them three times each week

rather than once a month as in the early days.

The DX Party Line continues to be a very popular release on HCJB. In fact the listener letters mentioning the DX Party Line average about 500 each month. No other English language program on HCJB can equal this response from our worldwide audience. We want to thank each DXer or SWL for your part in making the DX Party Line a success. We greatly appreciate your many letters and reception reports.

As our way of celebrating the fifteenth birthday of the DX Party Line, we have prepared a special QSL card to honor the event. This card will be offered for a limited time only. If you want a copy of this anniversary QSL card you must send us a reception report telling us that you heard one of the DX Party Line broadcasts during the month of May, 1976. Once the special birthday offer is over, this particular card will never be available again. Tune in to the DX Party Line during May and be sure to request the special anniversary QSL card when you write. We have one of them ready for you. All we need is your letter, reception report and request.

WORD PUZZLE No. 5

N U V F P E Q L D M L O B Y H A J F K M P C X Z R V Q A J
 A B V R T N P L K R E C E P T I O N R E P O R T X Z M I W
 S L P O W Y N D H R I A M L F J I R A Z X B Y T K L P E U
 E I L A I D C Z A X R S H O R T W A V E Y V O M H P Q R C
 F R K O B O N Q W I N T E R V A L S I G N A L W D Y T H J
 R W Q P O R G Y S N B Y J A B C N C B Y O W E T S Z M U L
 Y T R C N E O P E L S H C J B O U X Z C S W Q M N Y G L G
 O I M G S T W R O T C E L E S E R P D I R K H G P K H F L
 G S D E C E G L B H F A C M N R J I P E Z V B W Q U I K J
 A L K P N H G F R W U B R E U E V X I T J G R E D J N E S
 N T R A N S I S T O R M H D U H P O R P D X U N E O W E M
 D T X Z V Y S T U Y E O V E P P M E B R W S A V A P Y L J
 E R Y U B W R T E F H Y P R W S H H J L I B P S I N F O X
 X B Y R L X A S W R L H J Y U O B V X I L E W C S A B P L
 R L K J G D F I B E E A Q L L N T I U A B D E W N V R I E
 J E Y E O A P C X Q I M J I R O W Q C L D S G T C J K D R
 K G V S D P T B D U R D K N I I G I O E S A E Y C X Z P O
 T Q O I R T E M V E G K U N F D P S X L O N G W I R E A S
 X M N P E K E A U N B I O Y F O W M B R N V C M T I S R W
 J G E O N C D S A C N F E H R U E N I A S L O P R N P T E
 H D F E I B E L Y K R L T F P X Z T O P S N U S U V U L
 D Q W O T M E R S I S X Z C V R F W N K F S Y E L N S J K

Submitted by Jeff Brown of Akron, Ohio

Hiding in the block of letters above are a number of words or expressions which have to do with the DXing hobby. See if you can find twenty-five. All the words can be found running horizontally, vertically or diagonally in straight lines. The solution will be included in next month's issue.