



DXer OF THE MONTH



Cornelius tuning HCJB on his old Philips receiver

Many DXers feel that in order to keep up with their shortwave hobby they need to buy the latest model receiver on the market. In order to pick up these rare new stations, they need a better and more expensive radio. They like to read about the new models in the DX magazines and dream about owning and using one in their own home. Our DXer of the Month for February could be an exception to this trend. Cornelius Jan Slot does his DXing on an old Philips radio which was manufactured in the Netherlands in 1949. The receiver, a model BX-490/A, is about 32 years old, much older than its present owner.

Cornelius lives in Leeuwarden, a large town in the northern part of the Netherlands. His home is only a short distance from the North Sea, so should be a good location for shortwave listening. In spite of the age of his receiver, Cornelius finds that the set is very sensitive and does a good job of picking up stations around the world. It has four shortwave bands which cover continuously from 5.8 MHz to 22 MHz. It also has bands for long-wave and medium-wave listening. Cornelius uses a random-wire antenna about 25 meters in length. Because of local conditions he has been forced to hang the antenna in a zigzag shape under the roof of his house. He calls it a 25-meter indoor antenna.

DXing has been one of Cornelius' major occupations since he became involved in the hobby about five years ago. However, he is still a student and says that he has to do some studying as well. Another interest is photography. The picture of his receiver is one that he took and developed himself. We think he did an excellent job! Cornelius spends from one to four hours a day with his shortwave hobby and most of his listening is done during the evening hours, between 1700 and 2200 GMT. Along with the old receiver, he also has a reel-to-reel tape recorder and a cassette recorder. He enjoys all phases of electronics and likes to build and experiment with his own radio projects.

Cornelius joined ANDEX around the middle of 1979 and received membership No. 3354. In addition, he has joined some other clubs, including the BBC World Radio Club, The Radio Budapest Shortwave Club, and the Club DX Québécois in Canada. He heard HCJB for the first time during the month of May, 1979, shortly before he joined ANDEX.

We are glad to have Cornelius Jan Slot as a member of ANDEX and to be able to introduce him to our other club members. We trust the old Philips BX-490/A will continue to perform well for many more years. If not, Cornelius can join the others who are searching for the ideal receiver to replace their present equipment. Our very best wishes for good DXing during 1981!

WHAT'S AHEAD?

Part 1

International shortwave broadcasting is a little more than fifty years old. HCJB is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary during 1981. It is interesting to look back over these fifty years. Things have changed a great deal. The efficient compact solid-state receivers now on the market were not even dreamed of back in the early days of DXing. In this article we want to forget the past and look to the future. Let's even do a little dreaming!

What kind of radio receiver will you be using during this decade for your shortwave DXing? It could be an old receiver using tubes made during the 1940s, or a more modern piece of equipment containing transistors. The real question we want to consider concerns the receivers you will be using for shortwave listening ten or fifteen years from now. Let's take a quick look into the future. What improvements could be made in the equipment of the coming years? Everyone would agree that they should include more accurate frequency readout and better filter that would separate the wanted signal from other stations and noise. Actually, the designers are now working on the receivers of the future and there are some really sensational ideas.

A new type of dial has already been put into practice. There are now receivers on the market with completely digital dials which give the exact frequency being listened to in numbers. The second basic change will probably be the elimination of the tuning knob which has been used in the past to select the desired station. Present research is looking for a method of automatic tuning similar to that used in some car radios which scan the band and stop at the first station they reach. In our case, that of shortwave radio, the automatic searcher would find any programmed frequency in less than one-hundredth of a second. With this improvement there would be added an automatic frequency control such as those that have been used on FM receivers for many years. This helpful control would find the frequency desired and then adjust itself to the exact center and stay there even if the station drifts slightly during a transmission.

Another factor to remember is that the boom, or explosion, of interest in shortwave that has

been taking place in recent years in Japan, will soon reach other countries as well. This means that several technological powers could combine to put the new advances into practice in a relatively short time. Let's dream a little! Imagine a radio with only a button for a dial. An invisible pointer moves across the desired band, perhaps 49 meters, and stops automatically at each station. Immediately the frequency appears in digital form on a small readout.

There are many other projects and ideas in the minds of the engineers. One of these would use a tuning card that could be inserted in the receiver. This card would contain the frequencies and schedules of the stations we want to listen to. The station would then be tuned in immediately by the receiver. These cards would have a standard size and shape, something like the cassettes we use today. The cards could be prepared by the stations and mailed to their listeners. They would include all the program, frequency, and time information now sent out as program schedules. The listener would simply insert the card into a slot on his receiver. The radio would do the rest. The best frequency for the particular hour and location would be selected automatically and fed to the speaker. The receiver would continuously monitor other parallel frequencies in use and tune to the best as conditions change. It would even follow frequency changes as they are made by the desired station! All this would be easy and cheap to do with the present programs in integrated circuitry.

Many DXers will protest against automated shortwave reception. What will happen to the joy of tuning slowly across one of the crowded bands? Certainly it will be possible to disconnect the automatic control on the receiver. On the other hand, this new way of shortwave tuning will bring with it the understanding and interest of the large masses of people so they will enter our hobby. At present, probably the major defect of shortwave listening is the difficulty of hunting for and finding a desired station in the crowded jungle that exists on the shortwave bands.

To be continued

SPECIAL QSL CARDS

What was the most exciting QSL card you ever received? Was it the first one you found in your mailbox when you were just starting the hobby? For many DXers that would be the case. Others who have been in the hobby for many years have no doubt received cards that, for one reason or another, have even more significance. Take Don

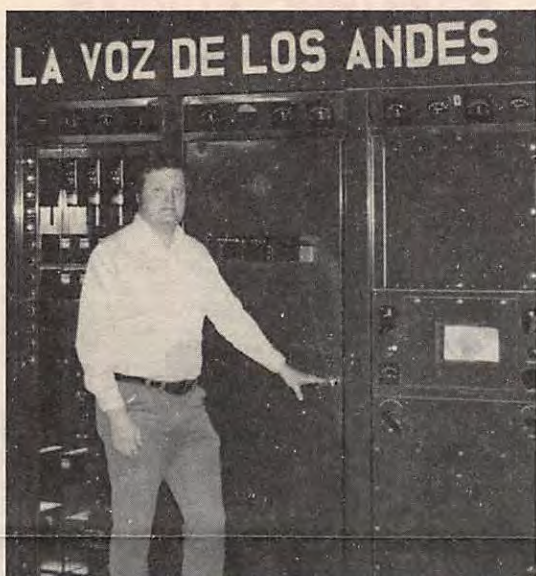
ANDEX International—

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 — Richard Lemon
ANDEX Executive Director — Clayton Howard

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



*Don Jensen inspects one of HCJB's
100-kW transmitters*

Jensen, a well-known DXer from the state of Wisconsin, as an example. He recently answered the question in an issue of FRENDEX, published by the North American Short Wave Association, P.O. Box 13, Liberty, IN 47353.

"The most memorable QSLs, I suppose, are those you almost didn't get! My prime DXing target for years was Emisora de Goa, in the tiny Portuguese enclave of Goa, on the coast of the Indian subcontinent. So it was a thrill when I finally logged the station on 15,385 kHz on November 5, 1961. A report was quickly sent, after which several weeks went slowly by.

"On December 18, 1961, pacifist India shocked the world by invading Goa in a bloodless, but forcible military take-over. The Portuguese were sent home. Goa became a part of India. The station so long looked for ceased to exist. My hopes for a QSL card were dashed!

"But just a few days later, in the mail, was a full-date QSL card from Emisora de Goa. The card was postmarked on November 23, 1961. Was this possibly the last QSL card ever sent from this station and country? Who will ever know?"

Perhaps you can't match a fascinating QSL history like this one from Don Jensen. However, we know many DXers have had some exciting experiences. Other ANDEX members would like to hear about your highlights, so send them along. We would like to print them in future issues of ANDEX International.

APARTMENT-HOUSE DXING

By Frank Crow

Part 4

If an outdoor TV antenna is permitted for the apartment where you live, the antenna plus lead-in can be treated as a vertically-placed random wire. These remarks will also apply to a TV master system. Shortwave reception may be quite good if the frequencies will pass the in-line transformers. To be sure, test the antenna system using a battery-operated portable receiver as before. A ground condition could exist so be careful not to use an AC-powered receiver for the testing. A knife switch can be installed to change the antenna from the shortwave receiver to the television set. If simultaneous operation of both sets is desired, a balun will have to be installed between the switch and the shortwave receiver. The DXer will have to be careful about the 15,734 kHz harmonics that are generated by the TV. If your apartment has a small balcony, a five-foot whip can be mounted to the balcony rail or held by a Christmas-tree floor stand. This can give effective results, especially when used with an antenna tuner and a preselector. Another trick is to allow wire to hang down from outside the window of your apartment. This can be done by unreeling the wire just prior to doing the listening. A one-to-two-pound weight will keep the thin insulated wire taut. At the end of the operating session the wire can be reeled in again to prevent problems from neighbors. We make no apology for suggesting such weird schemes as the ones presented. Shortwave listening when living inside a grounded cage requires anything that will work even if it is not according to the book. If and when the DXer finds a winner he should go ahead and use it.

Active antennas do a fairly good job when installed on a balcony or hanging from a window. These are usually purchased from the manufacturer and the recommendations of the company should be followed regarding signal enhancement.

Once an antenna is available, either with or without signal enhancement, another problem presents itself. Apartment-house DXing can be much noisier than in a single dwelling or in a rural area. There are many types of radiated noise that may be picked up. In addition to passing automobiles these radiated noises include electrical appliances, street lighting, advertising signs,

occasional amateur-radio or citizen-band operators, and the very annoying 15,734 kHz harmonics of the horizontal-scanning circuits of television sets in the area. These forms of radio-frequency noise may also come in through the power line. If so, they can be dealt with by using filters installed at the receiver.

The DXer can also suffer from cross modulation produced by nearby AM or FM radio stations. Many of the modern solid-state receivers are very subject to this type of interference. The use of one, or even two, preselectors will generally cure this problem.

Nothing much can be done at the receiver to eliminate radiated noise from small appliances using brush-type motors. These are used intermittently and are usually found in vacuum cleaners, floor-care units, mixers, blenders, and food processors. Since they are tenant controlled, there isn't very much the DXer can do directly. One thing that can be done indirectly is to note whether the interference shows up in a transistor portable receiver. How does it compare with the problem on the medium-wave band of the DXing radio. If it is bad on the portable set, then find out from other tenants if they have been experiencing the same problem on their portable receivers. The chances are that if the radio-frequency interference is heard on the medium-wave band it will also be disturbing many tenants on the FM band of clock radios and FM portable sets. Such sets rarely have really good limiting. The more tenants the DXer can line up on his side, the sooner the management will take steps to suppress the interference. Of course, there is nothing wrong in talking directly to the tenant causing the interference if the DXer wishes to do so. The chances are he will be very happy to cooperate in eliminating the problem as quickly as possible.

(This series of articles appeared originally in SWL, the monthly newsbulletin of the American Short-wave Listeners Club. In SWL the name of the author was not given. We inadvertently credited the first two installments to Richard Varron. We have now learned that the articles were actually written by Frank Crow, of Los Angeles, California. We want to express our apologies to Frank for this mistake and at this time give due credit to him. We feel Frank Crow has written an outstanding series of articles on this important subject.)

To be continued

CARTOON CORNER



It's my latest sculpture but it makes a good DXing antenna.

POINTS TO PONDER

People fail to recognize opportunity because it comes disguised as work!

A life is never hopeless unless Christ is ruled out!

God always gives His best to those who leave the choice with Him!

Living without God means dying without hope!

What you weave in time you will wear in eternity!

Heaven's dividends will be far greater than earth's difficulties!

God has you in His plan; do you have Him in yours?

A hypocrite is someone who is not himself on Sunday!

Your safety does not consist in the absence of danger, but in the presence of God!

A wise man adjusts himself to the Bible, but a fool adjusts the Bible to himself!