

# ANDEX



## INTERNATIONAL

Vol. 9, No. 6

December, 1982-January, 1983

### A CHRISTMAS POEM

Christmas is a time for giving and spreading holiday cheer.  
We should keep the Christmas spirit throughout the whole  
year.  
So, I'm sending you some Christmas spirit in the form of IRCs,  
To help pay the ANDEX dues (or part of) for a needy mem-  
ber, pretty please.  
Making ends meet is usually a chore.  
Oh, how the money flies out the door.  
But I'm glad to see these IRCs fly many a mile  
So some other ANDEX member can smile.

The above poem was sent to us by Rose Akers, ANDEX No. 2749, RR 1, Urbana, Indiana, 46990, USA. I would like to say a big thank you to Rose and to all the rest of you who have sent IRCs, cash, stamps, and checks to the Friendship Pool to help with the membership fees of some of our ANDEX friends. Over \$100 (USA dollars) have been sent in so far. Many, many thanks!

### SOME FUN

Electronic calculators are very useful. They can be used to help with the math problems of school work, business, and everyday life. They can also be fun.

Calculators give answers in numbers, of course. But did you know that they can also spell words? Take your calculator and solve the following problem . . . then, turn the calculator upside down and read the answer to the second half of the problem.

Jack was getting ready to perform in the school music program so he practiced on his musical instrument one hour and 10 minutes every day for 44 days. How many minutes did Jack practice and what instrument did he play?

Work up some problems of your own. If they are good ones, send them to ANDEX and we'll put them in the bulletin so we can all enjoy them.

### SPANISH MUSIC

Many of our listeners comment about the beautiful Spanish music that they hear on HCJB programs. So we thought that we would list for you the name and address of a distributor of Spanish music and recordings:

J.D. Feraud Guzman, Ltda.  
Av. 9 de Octubre  
No. 426 Edif. Gran Pasaje  
Guayaquil, Ecuador

### MEMBER 4500

This week I wrote the number 4500 on an application form as it was returned to me by someone who wants to join ANDEX. That means that since the start of ANDEX in January, 1974, there have been 4500 people from all over the world who have filled out application blanks to join our club.

The person who is now going to be ANDEX No. 4500 is S. Lawrence Brotmann. He lives on 29 Townsend Avenue, P.O. Box 315, Hartsdale, New York, 10530, United States of America. Lawrence is 43 years old and is an attorney and writer. Welcome to our club! We are sending Lawrence a rubber stamp of the ANDEX logo with his membership number on it to help him celebrate being the 4500th member of ANDEX.

Just for fun, and because Chuck Adams of Sioux Center, Iowa, USA, asked me to, I looked up to see who is ANDEX No. 1. It turns out that ANDEX No. 1 and ANDEX No. 2 are both inactive members at the present time, but ANDEX No. 3 is Woody Seymour, Jr. of Sanford, North Carolina, USA, who is still a very active member of our DX club. Woody applied for membership in the club on October 15, 1973, when he was 23 years old.

There are about 1200 active members of ANDEX currently and we say best wishes to all of you. Thank you for being ANDEX!



# FEARLESS FORECAST: DAYTIME MW (AM) DXING

The propagation of radio waves during daylight hours on frequencies between 540 and 1650 kHz is a quite exact science. Probably more is known about the behaviour of these waves than waves of any other frequency. Since during the daytime, MW frequencies do not reflect from the ionosphere, but are absorbed instead, the propagation of the waves takes place via the ground wave; a wave which is vertically polarized and travels along the surface of the earth. For that reason, all MW stations use vertical antennas or antennas that provide as much vertical polarization as possible.

These vertically polarized waves radiate out from the tower in a uniform, omni-directional manner except where the station uses multiple towers to concentrate its beam in a certain direction while "protecting" other stations on the same frequency. The strength of the signal at a distant point is, therefore, related to transmitted power, antenna pattern, distance from the station, and the ground conductivity between the station and the receiver.

Ground conductivity can vary widely with sea water being the best. Smooth, moist farmland is quite good, also. Kansas, North Dakota and northern Texas are areas of high ground conductivity in the USA. Hilly land, deserts and sandy areas, such as Virginia, Nevada and northern Florida are typically poor conductors of ground waves.

Using Figure 1, you can estimate the strength of a 1 KW station at a given distance from your location. A 10 KW station will be 3 times stronger (in voltage) and a 50 KW station will be 7 times stronger (voltage is the square root of power). However, knowing the field strength in millivolts/meter does not mean much to most listeners.

Therefore, consider the following . . . 10 to 50 millivolts will provide good reception in the city (downtown) . . . 2 to 10 millivolts will provide good reception in suburban, residential areas, and .1 to .5 millivolts will provide good reception in rural areas.

The DXer is not, however, looking for "good" reception. More often he or she is looking for the weakest identifiable signal. What that might be is the real question!

The ultimate limit to MW ground wave DX is the noise at your location. In rural areas, away from powerlines, this can get quite low in the daytime, especially in the winter. At 1000 kHz it can be as low as .0001 millivolts/meter or 1000 times less than the signal specified for "good" listening in rural areas. That means that it is possible you could hear well enough to ID a station only .001 millivolts/meter, and from Figure 1 you could theoretically log a 1 KW station 300 miles away at high noon!

If you draw a 300 mile circle on a map with your receiving location at the center, it will no doubt include many AM stations using the same channel, as well as some "clear channel" stations which have a channel to themselves. (A listing of AM stations by frequency such as WHITE'S RADIO LOG or the WRTV HANDBOOK will help you spot stations on your map.)

Using a communications-type receiver with an outdoor antenna, tune across the AM band. On the so-called "graveyard" channels you will notice that there are stations not too widely spaced geographically and tuning to these frequencies may turn up a mish-mash of carriers all trying to occupy the channel. In their respective home towns, each is providing an interference free signal, but if you are not near any of them you will hear several about the same strength. Rotating your set or using a loop antenna may allow you to separate the signals and log two or even three of them on one channel!

Experience will allow you to gain more confidence with Figure 1 by determining on which of the ground conductivity curves you fall and by getting some idea of your local noise level.

A rainy, winter day, by the way, can increase ground conductivity considerably, and noise can vary also. What you hear will change from day to day. Also, occasionally, a station will be off due to technical problems and allow you to hear weaker signals on the same channel. With about 100 channels on the MW band you may be able to log 200 or more different stations on daytime MW ground wave if you really dig for them.

In the process you will learn a lot about what goes on in all the large and small towns that are in your corner of the globe. MW stations can be fairly easy to ID because of advertisements referring to stores or businesses which often give away their location from telephone numbers, and, of course, from the call sign ID. At times, only a few minutes are sufficient for an ID.

Small AM stations are not usually easy to QSL, but may respond with a letter. The best proof of reception is reference to a commercial since these are always logged by the station for legal and billing purposes. Small stations may wish to use your reception report as proof of their "range" in order to impress advertisers and so may respond enthusiastically. On the other hand, you may be ignored. You may want to visit the station to politely press your claim to a QSL (letter if not a card). This can be interesting in itself and a facet of DXing more practical with daytime AM than with international SW!!

*By John Stanley*

## SPECIAL DXer FROM THE USSR



Our special DXer for this issue wrote to ANDEX way back in April of 1981 to put in his entry for DXer of the Month so I hope that the information in this article is not too out of date.

Valentin Ershov is ANDEX member No. 3380. He joined ANDEX in September of 1979, his original membership being a gift from a friend in the USA. Valentin lives at 200 032 Tallinn; Aru 20-9, Estonian SSR, USSR. Tallinn is the capital city of the Estonian Republic with a population of 415,000 people. Look it up on the map, folks, and see the location of Tallinn on the Gulf of Finland.

Valentin is in his thirties and has a variety of interests. He likes to collect QSL cards, station pennants, stickers, flags, stamps and postcards. Another hobby is getting long play records of disco and rock music.

As for his main hobby. . .you guessed it. He has been interested in listening to shortwave and mediumwave stations since 1971.

Valentin has three receivers for his DXing. One of them is a Ural-111 domestic radio. He also has a Okean-205 and a Leningrad-010. With these receivers and both indoor and outdoor antennas, he has verified close to 200 stations in over 80 countries. His first QSL was received from Radio Canada.

He has been very interested in hearing SW and MW stations in South, Central and North America and has received verifications from HRVC, 4VEH, Radio Guatapuri, and Radio Diffusora de Amazonas to name a few in the shortwave area and on MW; WBBM, WOWO, and CKBI.

Besides being a member of ANDEX, Valentin belongs to the Radio Budapest SW Club.

Season's greetings to you, Valentin, and we wish you continued success in your DXing.

## SPECIAL DXer FROM THE USA

Ricky P. Jenkins lives on 2505 Warwick Avenue in Fort Worth, Texas, 76106, United States of America. As long as you have your map out to look up the Gulf of Finland, see if you can remember where Fort Worth is!

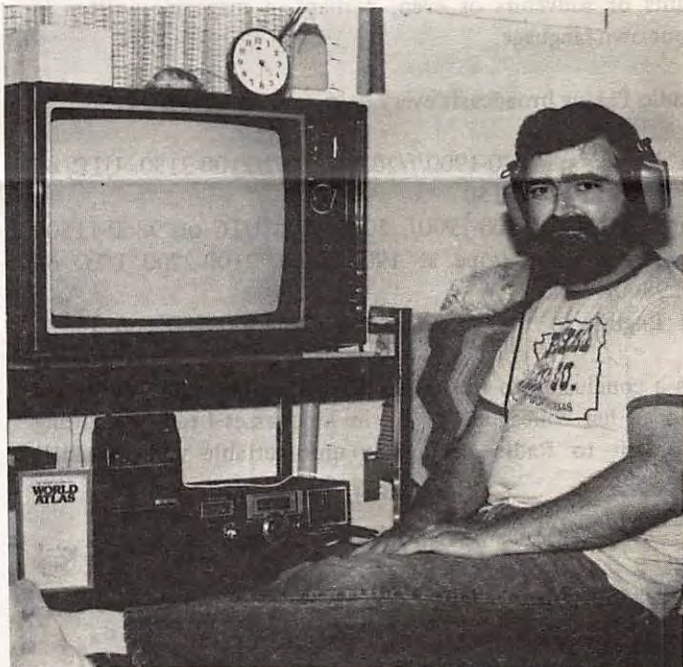
Ricky is 28 years old and works as a grocery stocker. Ricky joined ANDEX very recently, July of 1982, and is ANDEX No. 4381.

He has been interested in SWL since 1976 and heard HCJB in 1976 over a portable eight-band receiver. He tries to spend from two to four hours a day listening to some of his favorite programs, one of which is MUSICAL MAILBAG on HCJB. He usually can be found listening to the radio from 2300 to 0400 GMT.

Ricky does his listening on a Realistic DX-100 which operates from 520 kHz to 30 MHz. He uses a 153 foot longwire, loop-coil, directional antenna of his own design, and enjoys QSLing the stations he hears.

Ricky has some interesting hobbies besides his radio activities. He is interested in photography as evidenced by the nice, clear photo that he sent, and he raises quail. He also likes meer-schaum pipes. He didn't mention whether he likes to smoke them or to collect them so you all can ask him when you write.

Merry Christmas, Ricky P. Jenkins, and we wish you a new year of good listening.



*Hey, ANDEX members...send in your entry for SPECIAL DXer for 1983!*

# A VISIT TO RADIO PEKING

I am a regular listener to the Italian broadcasts of Radio Peking since 1978 and on the occasion of a trip to the People's Republic of China, I had the privilege to be invited to spend a couple of hours with the leading staff of the station.

Radio Peking went on the air officially in 1950 broadcasting in seven languages; English, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Burmese and Indonesian. Now, they broadcast in 40 languages. . . all the European languages, Esperanto included; all the Asian languages; the most-spoken African languages and to South America they broadcast in Quechua, Spanish and Portuguese.

The Italian broadcasts began in 1960. The Director of the Italian Service is Mrs. Ji Shupeï. Also working with her are Mr. Kuo Yi-ting, Mrs. Chou Ping-you, Mrs. Yua Hua, Mr. Shan Dehai, Mrs. Wu Shu-Ying, Mr. Shang Hui-teh and Mr. Tang Ting-guo.

The Italian programs begin with the news followed by comments and viewpoints on international affairs. A musical program is broadcast on Sundays featuring tunes of the Chinese culture and on Wednesdays, it is a "Mail Bag" program answering questions which listeners have sent in.

The QSL policies of the station are that reception reports are welcomed and verified in 30-40 days. When you send them a report for the first time you may be happily surprised to receive a personal letter of welcome and when you become a regular listener to the station you will receive very nice pen-nants or souvenirs or even, perhaps, a magazine written in your own language.

Radio Peking broadcasts every day:

In Italian at 1830-1900///2030-2100///2100-2130 UTC on 9965-11445-15150

In German at 1800-1900///2000-2100 UTC on 9860-11500

In English to Europe at 1900-2000///2100-2200 UTC on 9860-11500

In English to the Americas at 1200-1300 UTC on 15520

As a conclusion to this article I wish to thank Mrs. Ji Shupeï and all her colleagues for all the kindnesses I received during my visit to Radio Peking, an unforgettable visit indeed!!!

*by Salvatore Placanica*

Salvatore Placanica is ANDEX No. 3276 and lives at Via Borreani 22-C.P. 48, I-17014 Cairo Montenotte, Italy. He was our DXer of the Month in the August-September, 1982, issue of ANDEX.

God, you tell us to love. To love people and to love you. Sometimes it is easy. The whole world seems to sing, and we look at strangers and those close to us, and our hearts smile. But it isn't always easy. Even . . . or particularly . . . with those closest to us. Where needs cry out and hurts go deep, there is more chance for things to get tangled. We mean too much to each other, and we cannot express it.

O God, help us to see clearly when nothing is clear, to speak in love when feeling unloved, and to have the wisdom and patience to speak the right words at the right time.

## WHY SO ODD?

Two letters recently from Douglas J. Doull, 78 College Road, Northcoet, Auckland 9, New Zealand, ANDEX No. 152, have passed over my desk. In both of these letters, Douglas wanted to know why we split up the year with our ANDEX bulletins . . . that is, having the two-month issues published in such a way that we wind up with a December-January issue, making the December be in one year (1982) and the January being in another year (1983).

Well, we could say we like to be different! We do, but that is not the whole reason. When ANDEX was first published, it was a monthly bulletin and sent to members every month. As postage prices began to soar, it was decided to continue to write the bulletin every month and have it printed, but to send mailings once every two months to members. This meant that the bi-monthly mailings would then contain two issues of ANDEX.

When I took over as Executive Director of ANDEX in August of 1981, I decided to make the bulletin one big-sized one instead of two smaller ones per mailing. Since I started the job in August, the first big bulletin printed was August-September, 1981. And continuing on throughout 1981, made the split year end issue of December-January.

Now you might think it would be an easy matter to get the bulletins back into order . . . that is, ending the year nicely with, for instance, a bulletin called simply December, 1982 and then start 1983 out with a bulletin called January-February, 1983.

However, the Fearless Forecaster likes the odd month arrangement because he says that the propagation predictions fit better with the current arrangement. For instance, December-January predictions are more alike than a November-December grouping or a January-February grouping. February-March work good together as do April-May as far as propagation forecasting is concerned and so on throughout the year.

So, I think we will continue with the odd arrangement, at least until we get closer to the time when we hope to put all the ANDEX information into a computer system. Then we will rethink all quirks and plans and see what we come up with! Don't press me on a time when that will happen however. You know what happens to best-laid plans of mice, men and ANDEX directors . . . . .

# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM GUIDE

Rob Harrington, ANDEX No. 40, P.O. Box 3434, Littleton, Colorado, 80161, United States of America, has just become the North American representative for the International Listening Guide.

The Guide is a publication that comes from West Germany four times a year. The publication is a complete directory of English language transmissions on shortwave. It shows target areas, frequencies, broadcast times and other pertinent information.

The Guide usually arrives about the 29th of September, November, March and May of each year. A year's subscription costs \$6.50 in US dollars or \$7.75 in Canadian dollars. Rob says that US dollars are preferred so people living in Canada take note.

North American ANDEX members, you might want to take advantage of this offer. Sample copies cost \$2 in US dollars or \$3 in Canadian dollars.

## RR FORMS

This suggestion from James Willett of Grimsby, England, ANDEX No. 4347:

"I hope you don't mind me photo-copying the reception report sheets. This way I have a good stock of them. Maybe other members of ANDEX might do this to save money for sending them out from HCJB."

Thanks for the suggestion, James. I try to include a few forms to every member each mailing who is receiving a QSL card, but if you do run low of forms, try running a few off on the copy machine.

## NEW DIRECTORY

The most exhaustive directory of agencies and frequencies using the HF spectrum ever published has been announced by Grove Enterprises, Inc., 140 Dog Branch Road, Brasstown, North Carolina, 28902, USA.

If you are interested in listening to emergency vehicles, International Red Cross, aircraft exchanges, point to point telephone conversations, ocean vessels and coastal station messages and much, much more, write Grove Enterprises for complete information. This may be the book you have been looking for to add a little excitement to your shortwave listening.



AM DXING HAS BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME!

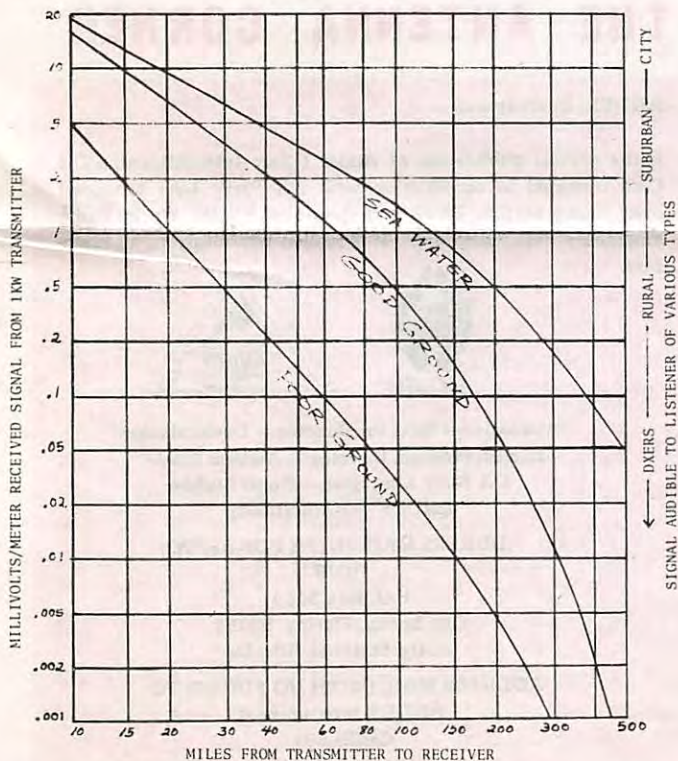


FIG. 1 - SIGNAL STRENGTH VS. DISTANCE AT 1000 KHZ

# PEN PALS INTERNATIONAL

First on the list is STEVEN SIENICKI. Steven is ANDEX No. 4288 and he lives at 328c Spotswood, Englishtown Road, Jamesburg, New Jersey, 08831, United States of America. Besides the usual activities of SWL, DXing, and QSLing, Steven likes to collect stamps, coins, military insignia, flags and books. He also enjoys listening to music. He is 19 years old and a college student.

BRUNO W. KOTULA, P. O. Box 454, Quinnesec, Michigan, 49876, United States of America, is ANDEX No. 3842. Bruno is 39 years old, married and has two children. He works as a manager of an H & R Block tax preparation office. His hobbies include stamp and coin collecting, SWL and DXing, model railroading, collecting buttons and calligraphy. Bruno says that he will answer all letters and trade items of interest.

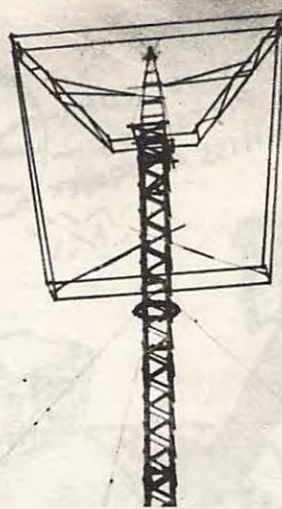
RONNIE COODY is ANDEX member No. 3999. His address is 1559 Rainbow Drive, West Monroe, Louisiana, 71291, United States of America. Ronnie is 16 years old and a high school student. He enjoys SWL, DXing, QSLing and hamming. His special interests are rock collecting and electronics.

JOHN M. DELK lives on an interesting road. His address is 1559 You Bet Road, CRR2, Box 1981, Grass Valley, California, 95945, United States of America. Besides the usual radio interests, John enjoys horticulture, organic gardening and stamp collecting. He would like to have pen pals from places in Central and South America and yes, he does speak Spanish. He is ANDEX No. 1602.

DOUGLAS B. KARLZEN, 5360 Logan Avenue, Dayton, Ohio, 45431, United States of America, is ANDEX No. 4107. Douglas is 31 years old and he enjoys SWL, DXing, herb gardening, cooking and photography. Besides speaking English, Douglas has started to learn Chinese. When you write him, ask him to tell you the story about a dog named My Shoes.

Last on the list is a fellow who wants to start a TAPE PALS section . . . that is, corresponding by cassette tape rather than by writing letters. JEROME A. HADEN is from 2401 Houma, Apartment 335, Metairie, Louisiana, 70001, United States of America. He is 31 years old, likes to read and is ANDEX No. 4271. Besides talking on cassettes, he exchanges radio station recordings with people in various countries, mostly their local AM and FM stations. He is looking for someone in the London area, or somebody in Australia and New Zealand or anywhere in the world as long as they can put English on the tape.

Jerome also says that there are TAPE CLUBS . . . the best one, in his opinion, being WORLDWIDE TAPE TALK, 35, The Gardens, Harrow, Middlesex, England, HA1 4HE. Membership is about \$10 (US) a year and there are about 400 members so far.



While looking through some old photos, we came across this one which should be of interest to the members of ANDEX. Taken in 1945, this picture shows the antenna invented by Clarence Moore, HCJB engineer, that later evolved into the famous "Cubical Quad".

Note that although two loops are used, they are very close together and thus do not correspond to the uni-directional two-element Quad of today. Rather the two turns served to raise the feed impedance so as to allow matching with the open wire feeders and also lowered the Q thereby avoiding excessive voltages that had caused corona with other antennas.

This antenna provided bi-directional coverage on the 25 meter band to North and South America. Another photo shows three of these "Quads" on the Quito property of HCJB. The transmitters and antennas were not moved to the Pifo site until 1951.

## THE ANTENNA CORNER

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 — Andrew Steele  
DX Party Line Host — Roger Stubbe  
ANDEX — Ruth Stanley

ADDRESS MAIL (WITH FUNDS) TO:  
HCJB

P.O. Box 3000  
Opa Locka, Florida 33055  
United States of America

ADDRESS MAIL (WITH NO FUNDS) TO:  
ANDEX International

Casilla 691  
Quito, Ecuador  
South America  
Printed in Ecuador, S.A. by Imprenta Vozandes