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# ANDEX INTERNATIONAL

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## Reflections

by Karen Mace

**T**he "curtain man" came to our house at 5:15 p.m. to measure our windows--just as I was getting ready to go to my painting class. A smart, happy little man, he appealed to me right away as



(left to right) Ileana, Sarah, Karen, Miriam, and Ross Mace

he wiped his feet before entering our apartment. We chatted about a variety of things. He was very friendly. Eventually, however, the question came as it always does, "How many children do you have?"

"Three girls," I responded. "Miriam, our 15-year-old, and Ileana and Sarah who are already with Jesus."

He was taken aback and, in fact, quite shaken. The lump in my throat swelled and threatened to choke me. It

happens frequently. It's more than a year now since the Lord took Illy and Sarah, and it isn't any easier than it was at the beginning to verbalize that they're no longer with us. It's good that they're with the Lord, and I'm happy for them, but it doesn't take away the pain--always there as a dull ache, at times cutting through me like a knife, exposing the rawness of the wound.

"Well," the man said, "we trust in God and in His sovereignty and we believe that nothing happens to us that He doesn't allow." He sighed and shook his head. "I'm very sad to think of those beautiful girls no longer with you, their parents."

I bit my lip to stop the trembling and attempted to respond in a normal voice. "We miss them terribly. It's not easy to be in the house without the sounds of their voices filling the silence. No laughter, no squabbles--just quiet." The ache within threatened to burst out in an anguished groan, and I turned away and changed the subject.

Later, I looked at their photos on the wall and softly asked, "Why Illy? Why Sarah? Why did God want you so soon? I so long to hold you in my arms, Illy, to cuddle you and laugh with you. Only 3 years old. You hardly had time to make your mark on the world. Yet you did. You left behind memories of a laughing, happy little girl who loved Jesus and who looked forward to celebrating His birthday. You got to do it the best way this year--right there with Him. And you, Sary, I miss you so much as I walk in the mornings. I still see your face as you looked at me and laughed and with a toss of that beautiful hair, always said, 'Let's go, Mum.' Oh, Sary,

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## DXer of the Month

**Congratulations to William (Bill) Scott (ANDEX # 8845), DXer of the month!**

"I am new to DXing," Bill says. "I have been a long-haul truck driver for the past 25 years, hauling fresh produce from California to the midwest and east coast, sometimes staying out as long as three months. I live in Toledo, Ohio, on Lake Erie. Our winters are cold, with snow, and summers are mild. Fishing is good year-round as we fish on the ice in December and January.

"I also fly single engine planes as a hobby. But the cost of aviation fuel has gone up so high that we don't fly as much as we used to. I also have a 4-wheel-drive Willys Jeep that we have off-road fun with."

"I got my DX-390 for Christmas a year ago. HCJB was the first station I heard, and my first QSL card was from HCJB, in Quito, Ecuador. I'm now spending more time at home than before and plan to get more QSL cards; however, I need a better outside antenna. Last week I heard Radio Japan, and Melbourne, Australia, and I have also heard Spain once.

"My Pro-30 programmable scanner is in the truck to keep track of police calls. That's what got me interested in shortwave. I now have a 'shortwave converter kit' to add SW to my car radio. It's fun building a kit and trying to learn something new. Some day I hope to get

my ham radio station licence. I put together a code practice oscillator kit, and it worked when done--made me feel good about myself! Now I must learn the code.

"As a truck driver, I know how to fix trucks, but

radios are a new ball game. It might take awhile, but I'll learn it."



If you'd like to write Bill, his address is:  
P.O. Box 148038,  
Toledo, Ohio  
43614, U.S.A.



Above: Bill's Realistic DX-390 and "Amplified Shortwave Antenna" mounted on the dash of his rig.  
Below: Bill Scott

## My Favourite QSL

**Eddie Scott (ANDEX # 56), of Winston Salem, N.C., U.S.A., describes his favorite QSL:**

"I've been a shortwave listener all my adult life and have received QSLs from fascinating and exotic places like the Seychelles Islands (FEBA), Radio St. Helena, and many QSLs from the Voice of the Andes (HCJB), but this is the first time I've had the privilege of receiving a 'first day of regular transmission' QSL.

"In the past, I have listened to special DX catches (St. Helena Day; a broadcast from a volcano in Ecuador, anniversaries, etc.) on receivers like the Heathkit SB-313 (which I built from a kit and wish I still owned). The 'QSL catcher' I have now is a Sony ICF-2010. This catch was made using the 2010 receiver and a homemade poor-man's log periodic antenna that I cut out of coat hangars and affixed to a piece of wood about 7 feet long and aimed due south. It gives me a 9-15 dB gain (depending on the band). Ironically, though it works well on all other

bands, it has not worked well on the 31M band since that catch as it usually drops the signal by 6-9 dB.

"This one-of-a-kind antenna is elevated about 7 feet



Eddie's first-day WRMI transmission catch

off my living room floor, using a coffee table with crates and boxes to get the needed height--ah, the life of a bachelor to be able to get away with such an

unsightly mess! It's connected to my receiver in the bedroom with twin lead 300-ohm TV cable, because coax would have been too heavy to use. The WRMI catch was the first time I ever used this antenna. I'm thankful to Jeff White and Radio Miami International for this 'first day' QSL, and to Rich McVicar of the DX Party Line for this DXing tip of how to catch it.

"73 to the staff at WRMI and to all the readers of 'My Favorite QSL.'"

# Hearing HC

by Rich McVicar

## The Medium Wave Loop Antenna

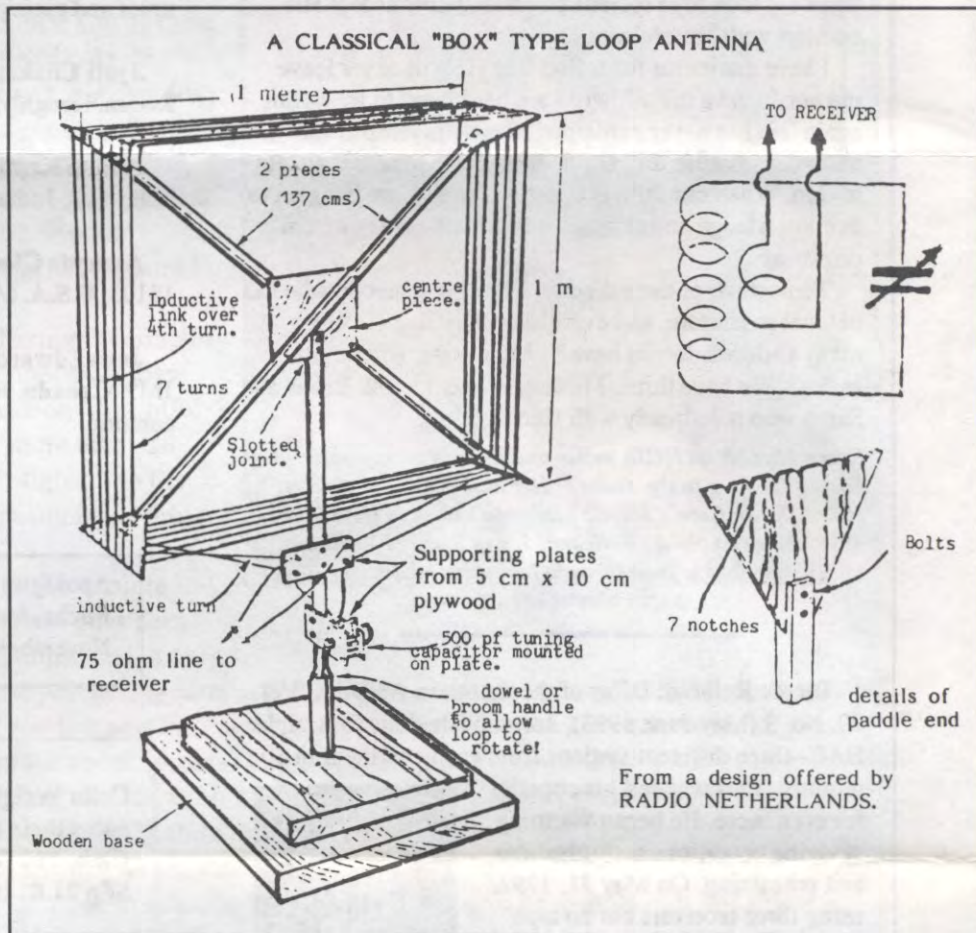
the publication Medium Wave Guide to Broadcasting Stations of Australia, Asia and the Pacific. It was in turn reissued by Radio Netherlands in their Looking at Loops pamphlet.

**H** CJB has conducted two DXtests on 690 kHz--one last May and the second on December 24. Both tests were heard by a small number of DXers on the eastern coast of the United States.

There are two factors in particular which will help or hinder the radio hobbyist in his/her chances of hearing HCJB on its medium wave frequency of 690 kHz. One of these is propagation conditions. The ionosphere must be in condition to successfully refract medium wave signals across very long distances. Auroral conditions in the ionosphere are especially beneficial to medium wave DXers. We'll look at these in a later article.

The other factor--and one that the hobbyist can do something about--is the antenna he uses. In the last couple of issues of ANDEX International, we've set out plans for building the huge Beverage antenna, a very long wire pointed more or less at the desired target. Such antennas require the use of large expanses of land, something relatively few of us have access to. This month, let's take a look at a type of antenna that even a city dweller can build and put some hope into--the loop antenna.

The design for this easy-to-build loop antenna was originally offered by the Australian Radio DX Club in



What is a loop antenna?

The loop antenna has proved itself to be an ideal antenna for DXing the medium wave band. It consists of a number of turns of wire around an insulating frame. It is easy and inexpensive to construct. The directional properties of loop antennas make it possible to cut down on static interference and man-made noise and especially reduce interference from other stations on the same frequency.

# J B o n 6 9 0 k H z

## Construction:

1. The loop should have approximately 39 meters of wire in it, with the length of each side being 1 meter. You will need to experiment somewhat to make sure you have proper frequency coverage.
2. The wires may be spaced about 1 cm apart, but can be jumble wound.
3. The ends of the main loop winding are connected to the fixed and moving plates of the tuning capacitor--not directly to the receiver antenna terminals.
4. A one-turn pick-up loop is wound around the main loop, but not connected to it electrically. The ends of the pick-up loop are connected to the dipole antenna terminals of the receiver, or to the antenna and earth terminals, whichever is the case.
5. The tuning capacitor is a single gang type, possibly taken from an old radio. It should have a capacitance range of 10 to 415 pF. Radio parts suppliers may be able to offer suitable capacitors.
6. It is very important that the builder experiment with the best mix of the number of turns used, the placement of the pick-up loop and additional capacitance in order for the desired frequency coverage to be available.

## Operation:

The loop's tuning capacitor is adjusted so that the plates are about half-way open. A station is then tuned in on the receiver. The loop's tuning capacitor is then adjusted for maximum signal strength, and the loop is rotated to verify that nulls and peaks exist. Nulls should be found 180 degrees apart while peaks should also be observed 180 degrees apart.

Nulling of signals can make it possible to receive stations on the same frequency not normally audible. The null effect can also be used in determining the approximate direction from which the received signal is coming.

The directional property of the medium wave loop is usually the reason for building it. Once connected to the receiver, find two signals that sound mixed together. If the two co-channel stations are in different directions, it may be possible to remove one of the interfering signals by slowly rotating the loop. You will find that there is a point where one station fades out completely, leaving the other clearly audible.

## 690 kHz DX tests

One of the hurdles to overcome when trying to hear

*HCJB on 690 kHz is the interference from other stations sharing that same frequency. With a loop antenna, it should be possible to nearly or completely eliminate at least one of the other stations. Even if you don't hear HCJB, there are a number of other good catches you may hear. From North America, you might pick up the "Caribbean Beacon" from Anguilla, "Extra Gold, Radio 69" from Tijuana, Mexico, "Radio Deportes" from Bogotá, Colombia, or a number of interesting stations in your own country.*

*Best of luck in hearing HCJB on 690 kHz. Listen to the "DX Partyline" and "The Latest Catch" for details on the next 690 DX test.*

*Richard McVicar*

*There are many good articles on loop antennas. Here are a few:*

*The Delta Loop: An Alternative Antenna for Tropical Band DXing, David Clark, Proceedings. Published 1988 by John H. Bryant for Fine Tuning special publications. (David's article demonstrates the effectiveness of delta loops for the tropical shortwave bands.)*

*A Coil Loaded Delta Loop, Guy Atkins, Proceedings. Published 1989 by John H. Bryant for Fine Tuning special publications.*

*A Remotely Tuned Loop Antenna for the Tropical Bands, Joe Farley, Proceedings 1989.*

*The Kiwa Medium Wave Loop Antenna, Werner Funkenhauser, Proceedings 1994-95. (This article reviews a commercially available loop antenna.)*

*DX clubs such as the National Radio Club (NRC) and the International Radio Club of America (IRCA) also print many excellent loop antenna plans in their regular bulletins. You can write them at:*

*NRC: DX News Subscription Center, P.O. Box 118, Poquonock, CT 06064-0118, U.S.A.*

*IRCA: P.O. Box 1831, Perris, CA 92572-1831, U.S.A.*

*Rich McVicar, former editor of ANDEX, is HCJB's frequency manager and an English programmer.*

# Shortwave tells what you should know

by Heather Kuersten

Is abortion wrong? Why do many teenagers struggle with suicide? Why are gangs so popular today? Are there any absolute truths? If you've asked yourself any of these questions, you're not alone. Many people in today's world ask themselves these tough questions, but few seek the answers.

If you're tired of questions and are looking for answers to things you *should* know, host Leonard Kinzel of the HCJB's shortwave program, "You Should Know," will tackle those confusing and greatly ignored issues of today's societies.

The program airs every Monday,\* offering 30 minutes of news and views and exploring contemporary issues and ethics from a Christian perspective. Both insightful and informative, it helps listeners learn more than just cold facts. A typical show might offer insights into the issues of abortion, kids killing kids, teen suicide, evolutionism versus creationism, or AIDS.

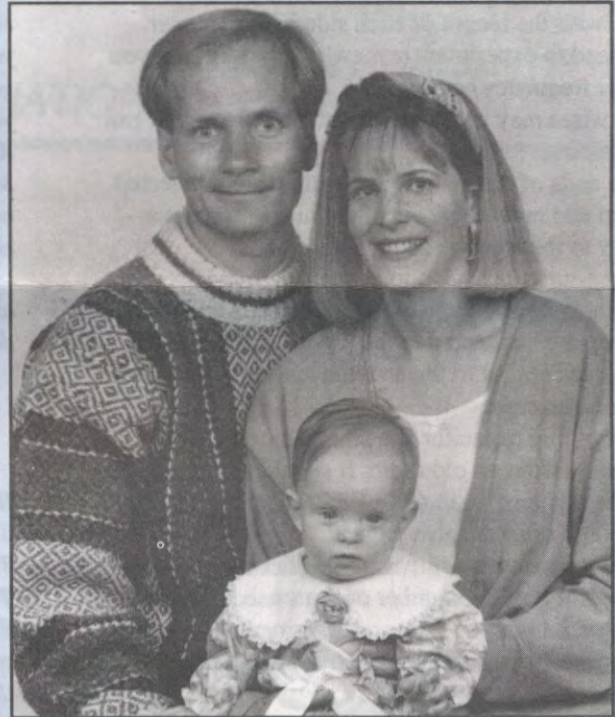
The purpose of "You Should Know"? To explore issues others ignore and try to hide. Leonard goes deep into issues whereas many local news stations scratch only the surface. Leonard doesn't want to state just boring facts and starchy statistics, but he works to bring stories behind stories to the surface. He wants you to know the "whys" and "hows" involved in each story. He stands up for absolutes in a world where the shock level is *decreasing* and the tolerance level is *increasing*. He believes there are answers to every question, and the Bible has them. He tries to blow the doubter's clouds away and equip soldiers of Christ to stand strong for their faith. "I want to teach people to stand up for absolutes, not wait for others to do it for them," he emphasizes.

Recently Leonard discussed prayer vs. guns in schools. "Schools are trying to keep guns out, and many schools are trying to put prayer back in," he stated on the air. However, one principal was suspended for letting a student pray on the school intercom.

A Canadian, Leonard began producing the program last September, the newest addition to the English Language Service's schedule. "I've always enjoyed jumping into fiery issues facing us today," he says. "I like learning hard truths about hot issues!"

**Leonard encourages listeners to write in about their concerns as he wants to know what his listeners want to know. If you have any question or comments or would like more information on "You Should Know," write to: HCJB, English Language Service, You Should Know, Casilla 17-17-691, Quito, Ecuador.**

*Heather was a recent working visitor with HCJB's English Language Service.*



*Len, Beth, and Jennifer Kinzel*

\* "You Should Know" is aired on Mondays at: South Pacific: 0930 UTC; Europe: 0800 and 1730 UTC; Andean region: 1730 UTC; and North America: 0130 and 0530 UTC Tuesday (Monday evening local time).

(cont. from page 1)

we were just starting to get to know each other. I think we would have been best friends." I turn away as the faces of my girls blur into one, and I let the tears fall. I sob quietly so as not to disturb the others.

In the quiet of the early morning when I cannot sleep, I think of Illy and Sarah. I ask the Lord Jesus to hug them for me and to tell them I love them. Not only does He hug my girls, but I sense His arms around me, too--comfort that once I refused in anger, anger at a God who supposedly loves me, yet who allowed such a deep hurt when He took my precious children. I now accept His comfort with gratefulness.

I have assurance from God that He will never leave me nor forsake me. Slowly I am beginning to trust Him again. He has never explained to me His reasons for allowing what He did, nor does He have to. After all, He is God. When our faith is tested in the fire, we hang on to that knowledge and at times it is all that saves us from drowning.

Tomorrow, or the next day, I'll meet someone who has not met me before, and eventually they'll ask, "How many children do you have?" My answer will be the same: "We have three. Miriam, who is 15, and Ileana and Sarah who are already with God."

*Karen Mace is an HCJB writer and English programmer who hosts "Cooking in the Andes." Her husband, Ross, directs HCJB Health Care's Mobile Medical Clinics. In November 1993, their two children--Ileana, 3, and Sarah, 12--accidentally succumbed to fumes from a faulty gas heater.*

**Dieter Reibold**, DXer of the month in ANDEX, Vol. 20, No. 3 (May-June 1993), accomplished his first triple HAC--three different stations from each continent in 30 minutes. This whetted his appetite for even more. He began planning, studying conditions and schedules, and rehearsing. On May 31, 1992, using three receivers but no tape recorders, he accomplished a quintuple HAC--logging 30 countries, five from each of the six continents, all within 30 minutes (HCJB was one of the South American stations). Writing to HCJB in 1993, he believed he was the first to accomplish this feat and hoped to find his name in the *Guinness Book of Records*.

He now advises that his name is in the 1995 *Guinness Book of Records* (German edition).



Dieter Reibold

Kurzwellenempfang. Dem Dozenten Dieter K. Reibold (\*1937) aus Kirchheim bei München (BY) gelang es, am 31. Mai 1992 innerhalb von 30 Min. Radiostationen aus 30 Ländern von sechs Radiokontinenten zu empfangen. Er benutzte dazu in der Wellzeit von 4 Uhr bis 4 Uhr 30 (6 Uhr-6 Uhr 30 MEZ) simultan drei Empfänger (Sony GEF-320, Sony ICF-9001 D, Sony ICF-7600 D). Von allen 30 gehörten Stationen liegen die Hörbestätigungen (QSL-Karten) vor. Für diese Leistung erhielt Dieter K. Reibold ein fünffach (Quintuple) HAC-Diplom (Heard All Continents) vom Sender D6-Kultur Berlin.

Dieter's notation in Guinness Book of Records.

Pen Pals 

**Md. Abdul Mannan**, Vill. Sona Masna, P.O. Sona Chandi Hat, Via-Nachole 6310, Dist. Chapainawabganj, Bangladesh (ANDEX # 8745). Abdul is 23 years old, a student. His hobbies: DXing, pen pals, stickers, bank notes and view/post cards, magazines and stamps.

**Jyoti Chakravartty**, 'Emmaus Kutir,' 143 Rail Park Rishra, Hooghly, W.B., India 712 205.

**Anand Kapil Nunkoo**, A123, Clairfon, Solferino, Mauritius, Indian Ocean.

**Amanda Glockner**, 926 Chris Lane, Allentown, PA 18103, U.S.A. (ANDEX 8933).

**Jean Edwards**, 43 Balfour Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3L 1M9, Canada. Jean is 59; her hobbies are music and painting.

Apologies to DXer of the Month, **Helmut Fuchs**, for omitting his last name in the November-December 1994 issue of ANDEX.

**Colin Wright**, Secretary of British DX Club, notes their new address: **British DX Club, 126 Bargery Road, Catford, London, SE6 2LR, U.K.**

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