

# DX Cup Goes to South Island

## The winner, F. W. A. Barnett, describes his equipment and methods

AFTER seeing the result of the first DX Competition, I started DXing with only a half dozen verifications, which I probably would not have had, if the stations concerned had not especially asked for reports. I have been a keen DX'er since the days of crystal sets, but did not trouble to write to any of the stations that I heard, except a few, who asked for reports.

On seeing the result of the first competition I decided to write to the stations, that I heard, for verification and having the utmost confidence in the particular make of receiver that I use, I said to myself, I'm going to get all these stations I'm hearing verified, and try for the DX Cup. It was easier said than done, and has been hard work, especially as I started late in the field. As I am generally busy during the week, it is seldom that I can, except at the week-ends, listen for DX stations.

However, I set to and listened in at

pear below. Mr. Wightman remarks that though he is doing little dxing now as reception is poor during midsummer, he can still hear 3AR, 2CO, 4QG, 2BL, 2GH, 4BH, 4BC, and 1, 2 and 3YA. Mr. Wightman would like to correspond with a city dxer of his own aged 19—and who has been dxing about as long or longer than he has—about two years.

Extracts from "tip sheet":—Station XEV. Address, Ave. Reforma, 125, Puebla, Mexico. Schedule from 7.30 a.m. to 7 p.m., M.S.T., with occasional tests after 11 p.m., M.S.T. Frequency, time and plenty of data must be quoted to secure verification.

Station XEJ. Address: P.O. Box 111, Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico. Operates on 1000 k.c. (300 m.), power 100 watts.

Station XEZ. Address: Bucareli No. 12, Mexico. Schedule: Daily except Monday mornings, from 1-2 a.m., M.S.T. Frequency 780 k.c.

Station XETR. Address: Ave. 5 de Mayo, No. 10, Mexico City, Mexico. Schedule: Daily from 12-1 a.m., M.S.T. Frequency 610 k.c.

Station KTLG, Houston, Texas. Address: 816 Texas Avenue.

NBC has stopped sending out personal letters of verification, and those writing to WJZ, WHAM, WEAF, etc., will find themselves recipients of mimeographed cards, which, however, are definite verifications.

XFI advise that they have gone off the air for good.

KWK operates daily until 1.15 a.m., E.S.T., excluding Sunday.

KGKO operates daily until 11 a.m., E.S.T.

KFEL broadcasts a dx programme every Saturday night from 812-3 a.m.

The "Radio Record" Challenge Cup, awarded half-yearly to the member of the DX Club with the largest log of verified overseas stations, has been won by F. W. A. Barnett (DX760C) of Dunedin, with 291 stations—the best "score" yet. District certificates have been won by:—

Auckland: R. A. Sutherland (DX19A), with 220 stations.

Hawke's Bay: Morley Stafford (DX41HB), with 272 stations.

Taranaki: A. Greening (DX9T), with 190 stations.

Wellington: J. P. Cowlshaw (DX12W), with 204 stations.

Nelson/Westland: J. L. Fraser (DX3NW), with 194 stations.

Marlborough/Canterbury: J. C. Stapleton (DX6MC), with 79 stations.

Otago/Canterbury: J. J. Looker (840C), with 157 stations.

Cities: J. P. Cowlshaw (12W), with 204 stations.

In the accompanying Mr. Barnett describes his equipment and methods.

every opportunity and wrote to all the stations that I heard and was able to identify. I have to date received about 75 per cent. replies from the stations that I have logged, and have about another 50 yet to come to hand,

conditions than I had, and had the knowledge of the best times at his finger-tips, he also introduced me to the place where I have done my DXing, in fact I have him to thank for my success.

The aerial system consists of: Beverage aerial for American reception an aerial approximately 120ft. long, average height 25ft. for Australian, European and Eastern stations. Both are directional. The earth consists of, I Laker copper earth tube driven about 3ft. 6in. in damp clay.

The receiver, aerial and earth is situated on a rise about 1000 feet above sea-level, about 10 miles airline from Dunedin and about 1 mile from the coast. I have experimented with all kinds of aeriels and earths, and find that the ones I am now using are the most suitable for my locality, I have tried all the fancy earth systems that I have seen recommended,



Mr. Barnett.

and am still logging a few, although conditions for DX reception have not been too good this last month.

The receiver I use is a Super-Hetrodyne, 7 valves, excluding rectifier and all Dx-ing is done with the speaker. I have fitted output device for phones, but do not use them except if someone else wants to get some sleep, as I can hear much better off the speaker.

The set is calibrated exactly in kilocycles from 1500 k.s.'s to 550 k.c.'s, and has 10 k.c. selectivity on all stations except powerful locals. The calibrated dial is a big help in identifying stations, as one knows exactly the frequency, and used in conjunction with a good call book makes DX'ing much easier, 10 k.c. selectivity also enables me to get even a 100 watt American with powerful Americans on either side.

Through the help of a friend of mine I was able to find out the following: The best time of the day and the year, to listen for American, Canadian and Mexican stations, as he had been listening to these for years under better

but find that the one described is just as good for my locality, in fact the set brings in the 100 watt Americans with the earth off, providing the aerial tuning knob is adjusted to suit, just as good as with it on.

I was always of the opinion that the winter was the best time for reception of North American stations, but have changed my mind after listening during Christmas and New Year, about this time I logged about 100 new ones. During the Christmas and New Year holidays I heard 17 100 American stations and 1 100 watt Canadian, as well as dozens of higher powered ones, there was also hardly a click of "static" or interference right through the holidays.

Reception has not been of the best down here of late, only a few new ones have been logged, of course the more one gets the harder he is making it to get more new ones, as there is only a limited number of stations that can be heard out here, due to the conditions not being suitable for reception when they are on the air. There are also quite a number that will never be heard out here, as they either close down too early for us, or are not on the air at all at a time where reception of them is possible. DX and Test programmes help us to log stations that would not be heard on their usual programmes.

I am very pleased at having won the cup and all the boys of the club down here are quite pleased also, especially as it has come to our district and the South Island. We are going to keep it in our district if we can, although we are another 500 miles away from the DX fishing grounds—America—than our North Island DX-ers.

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