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## Why Do I read *antenneX*?

Jef Verborgt, PhD

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### INTRODUCTION

**S**ome time ago, Jack Stone asked me that question, being that I was such a long-term reader and so eager to be involved with many of the activities at *antenneX*. Moreover, I was not even a Ham!

I have been a subscriber to *antenneX* for almost eight years now. Further, I have contributed by writing a number of articles, co-authored some more and translated a few more for a friend of mine from Belgium. I am also an active participant of the [antenna discussion forum](#).

I am not an electronics engineer, not a licensed ham, not a CB'er and not even a devoted SWL'er. Far from it, being a Polymer Chemist. Hence, I must be an oddball. So, why do I read and reread every issue of *antenneX*?

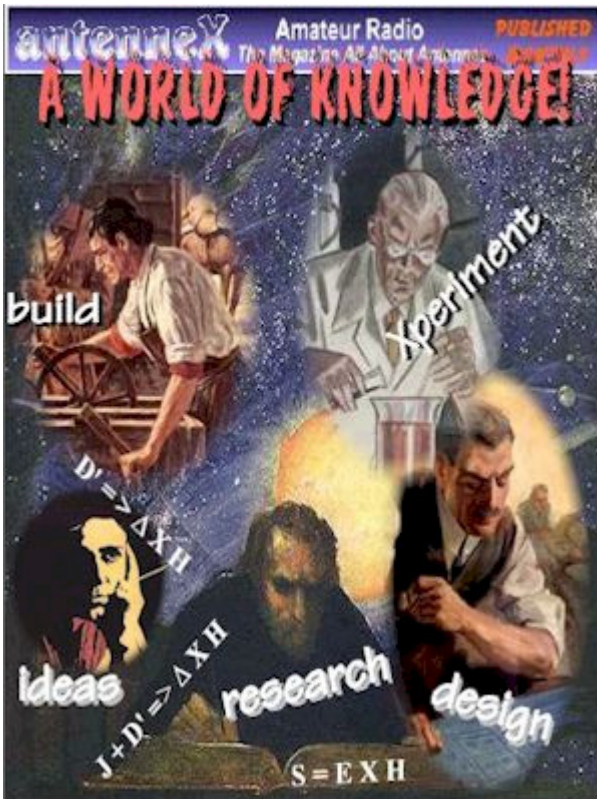
### HOW I STARTED IN RADIO

For me it started the same way as for so many others. As a young boy I was intrigued by radio and everything that comes with it. I built numerous crystal radio sets and collected old radios with high hopes of fixing them. Needless to say that only very few survived my "early dissection and surgery" skills. Later I became interested in short-wave radio and tried to receive foreign broadcast stations. Unfortunately there were no hams in the area that could point me in the right direction. So I got myself a brand new six valve superheterodyne receiver, but hooking it up to the central TV antenna did not bring me what I was hoping for.

I then started reading antenna books and radio magazines and learned about Maxwell in physics at the University. I was bitten badly by the "antenna bug," an incurable disease that stays with you until the day you die.

### SEARCH FOR MORE KNOWLEDGE

I subscribed to several amateur radio magazines and soaked up all the knowledge I could find in these magazines. Most of these magazines however disappeared from the market so I started buying antenna books by the dozen. Some books were good, some were excellent but most were just reprints of the same articles that appeared in magazines before. Sadly enough most authors had passed away long before I bought and read the book so there was no room for questions or discussions.



Back in late 1998, I had a kind of let's call it a sabbatical year. I had more time with my radios and antennas and I started getting more active on the Internet. The Internet led me to *antenneX* magazine with its new articles and topics every month with authors that had an e-mail address almost inviting readers to communicate with them. I noticed that Jack Stone himself greatly facilitated ease of communication between authors (from 25+ countries) and their readers and encouraged individuals to contribute. I had seen the light....!! I became an addicted subscriber in December 1998.

#### **A VERY SPECIAL JOURNAL**

*antenneX* is a special, *very* special online-only magazine dedicated

solely to the well being of antennas and antenna enthusiasts like myself in more than 200 countries. Among other things, it provides a forum for new ideas, meaty homebrew projects and high-end theoretical articles as well as antenna modeling. One of the modeling masters, LB Cebik, W4RNL has a monthly column on that very subject, "Antenna Modeling." This special journal has the courage to provide a platform for some new wild and sometimes wildly contested ideas and a treasure trove for antenna projects. Indeed, it is an exciting place to be to learn about bleeding-edge developments—in the raw.

Over the years as a reader, I have learned a lot about the claims from some inventors about the existence of Poynting Vector Synthesis, the hotly debated basis of CFA, EH, DLA and many other "new antennas" or devices. I followed closely the "brutal scientific analysis" and dissection of these antenna systems by specialists in the field and came to the conclusion that so far nobody can yet walk on water or multiply the fish. But, at least *antenneX* provided an outlet for "new" ideas and let them sink or swim on their own ability to survive the test of time, thus making the world much more informed about the true story of these devices.

However, I also learned that some of these new antennas like the Microvert and even the EH antenna do have merits. They put the coax to work as the main radiator and provided you can live with that idea, they work just fine for many amateur applications.

All content is not just “bleeding-edge” concepts. Quite to the contrary, there are also a lot of articles on more traditional-based conventional antennas like wire antennas and magnetic antennas—real life antennas that everyone can build with good results almost guaranteed. After all, for more than 100 years, we are still learning how to “bend wires.”

And then there was my friend and science writer Joel Hungerford, who shared his monthly antenna experiments with us for many years. My country compatriot Marcel De Canck, with his monthly column on propagation, was able to quench my thirst to understand the difficult mysteries of propagation.

***To be or not to be?*** ...or do you believe in Displacement Current or not? As one example, this subject was a long, hot debate between the believers and the infidels. Just another good example of the soapbox that *antenneX* provides to individual thinkers that may change the world of antennas some day. Provoking thought is one of the main objectives of this journal. With enough new thoughts over time, something good is bound to happen.

What makes *antenneX* (combined with the [antenna discussion forum](#)) so special for me is that it allows me to “talk” openly to many experts around the world and provide an infinite fountain of fresh new ideas that I can use in my own antenna experiments. It also has given me the possibility to discuss items of interest and share ideas with similarly minded antenna buffs, many of which have much higher credentials. Without such a forum as sponsored by *antenneX*, I wouldn’t have access to such folks and their brilliant minds. And, while reading the posts of the previous day, it makes my morning coffee taste all the better—while setting my mind to whirling with new thoughts and ideas!

In short: *antenneX* brings a flood of new and sometimes audacious ideas. New antennas and antenna concepts are skillfully analyzed to the bone and the “working mechanism” is clearly explained. There is a good mix between “plumbing”, mathematical, theoretical and modeling contents and all this without having to dig it out from commercial ads while trying to make sense of it all.

One particular "[letter to the editor](#)" sums it up very well:

Jack, I hope that amongst all the admin stuff, the web site activity and other hats, you can take time to be PROUD of what you have accomplished. Your articles TEACH and INFORM better than anything on the web or in print. You have established a world-class link for some of the keenest minds in Antenna Technology that I have ever encountered. And your actions and site have facilitated the INNOVATION of several new designs including the Prismatic, the various "cubes" and variants, a new fractal design and many more. (Maybe even one from me. Stay tuned.) Thanks, Jack! Bill KT4YE

Last but not least: *antenneX* provides the best possible soapbox for would-be antenna gurus without being "Stoned" to death (pun intended).

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Dr. Jef Verborgt

**Jef Verborgt was born in 1944 in Belgium. Jef was saved from a certain early death by meningitis by the American soldiers having the first penicillin for which he is still grateful. He went on to obtain a Ph.D. degree in Polymer Chemistry in 1970 at Louvain Belgium followed by a postdoctoral Fellowship with Dr. C.S. Marvel at the *University of Tucson, Arizona*. Jef has been Director of Research for *Sigma Coatings* for 15 years after which he became Director of the**

**International Business Operations for Marine and Protective Coatings. Jef further held the position as President of *Sigma Coatings USA* in New Orleans, Louisiana.**

**Jef is currently employed as a consultant/contractor at the Navy Research Laboratories in Washington DC where he is developing novel solvent free fast curing resin and coating systems.**

**Now living in Florida, he is married to Marijke from Holland where Jef had lived for some 20 years. He is the father of one daughter and two grandchildren who live in Belgium. Jef says he enjoys fishing, Louisiana food, experimenting with antennas and living in the USA.**

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Send mail to [webmaster@antennex.com](mailto:webmaster@antennex.com) with questions or comments.

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