

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

It's that time of the year for the Charlotte Hamfest. I hope to see many of you there; stop by the CDXA booth and visit. I will have roster information, including email addresses, with me and I'd like everyone attending to come by and verify your information. This is to ensure we have all the information correct before we print the roster of CDXA 2000 members in the April edition of the *The Pileup*. This will be your last chance to pay your CDXA dues for 2000, be included in the roster, and receive the April edition of *The Pileup*.

Don't forget the CDXA Hamfest Social/Dinner on Saturday night, March 11th. It is being held this year at **The Open Kitchen Restaurant** at 1318 West Morehead Street, which is convenient to I-77 and downtown Charlotte. The social will begin around 7:00 PM followed by dinner ordered off the menu around 7:45 PM. Maps will be available at the CDXA booth.

Some interesting forums are planned for the Hamfest this year. Richard Thorne, N5ZC, will be giving a demonstration of the Kachina radio and remote station operation. This will include a live demonstration of Richard's remote station. There will a forum on antenna modeling done by Don Crane, W4OC, and Gary Breed, K9AY, which should be very inter-

esting. Bill Miller, KT4YE, will have a forum on PSK31 for those interested in newer operating modes. John Kanode, N4MM, our new ARRL VP, and Dan Henderson, N1ND, will be updating everyone on the League happenings and on the new DXCC field checking program. Dan will also be checking cards for DXCC at the hamfest. Check the forum schedule.

In other news, I'd like to congratulate Henry Elwell, N4UH, on his recent 80th birthday. To commemorate this achievement "Uncle Henry" is hereby awarded Life Membership in the CDXA. Let's hope that all of us can make this same achievement and still be as active as Henry who won the CQWW Phone low power category in our 1999 Intraclub competition. Also congratulations to John Covington, W4CC, who was elected ARRL NC Section Manager by the ARRL NC membership.

There are two upcoming DXpeditions worth looking for. By the time you receive this newsletter the Clipperton Island DXpedition should be on the air. For this rare one, good luck in the pileups. Shortly after the hamfest, the Chesterfield Islands may be voted in as a new DXCC entity. There are those who believe the vote will be favorable and who are already planning a DXpedition. Stay tuned to all the DX bulletins so you don't miss this potential "new one". Don't forget the ARRL International DX Phone contest is the weekend *before* the Hamfest on March 4th-5th. This contest has fallen on the hamfest weekend several times, but this year it does not, so you can compete in the contest and share your experiences with us at the hamfest. Good Luck to those competing.

I hope you are enjoying the new format of *The Pileup*. If you like what you've seen so far let us know, and if not, let us know what you don't like. Jerry, AE4PB, has the CDXA web site updated and *The Pileup* is available online in Adobe Acrobat format. Check out what Jerry has done and let us know what you think. Many thanks to John Scott and Jerry Moore for their coordinated efforts in making the transition timely and smooth. Until next month, see you at the hamfest.....73's Bob - N4PQX

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA Young Mountain	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.075 MHz (9600 bits/second)
Digipeater near Wingate, NC	144.91 MHz (DXWIN)	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 (+600)	Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.CDXA .org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Shoney's, 355 Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC (704-525-4395)	

The WY2000 Experience - Part I. The 12 meter Saga by AA4S, Ron Bailey

Claude, NC4NC, told me that CDXA Members would be using subject callsign during the month of January, 2000. When I noticed in the December "Pileup" that no one had volunteered to operate 12 meter CW, I called W4UNP, the 12m band captain, and offered to take it. Little did I know what I was getting myself (and QSL Manager, K4MQG) into.

This would be a chance to give my 12m antenna its first real workout. Several years ago I had modified a Hy-Gain 153BA (3 element 15 meter yagi) for this band simply by doing a ratio of the frequencies to scale the dimensions. Not very scientific, but the SWR turned out to be just about flat across the band. (Of course, we all know this isn't necessarily a good indicator of how an antenna will perform.) The beam is at 55 feet fed with about 120 feet of 1/2" CATV 72 ohm hardline.

The rest of the station consists of an ICOM IC-765 driving an Ameritron AL-1500 amplifier to a conservative 700 watts. Logging was done on a Toshiba Satellite T2105CS laptop using NA Software Version 10.44 in the "Logging" mode. Keying and radio/computer interface were accomplished through homemade circuits patterned after those shown in the NA Manual.

The first four days were slow as I battled the flu logging only 99 QSOs—mostly JAs in the evenings. On 5 January, I hit Europe for the first time and was immediately swamped, making 207 Qs in 125 minutes. Hey, this was starting to be fun, and I was feeling better! After 7 days I had 813 stations worked. No contacts were made between 1/8 and 1/11 due to other activities—one of which was a 420-QSO effort in the CW NAQP. At our Shoney's luncheon on 1/12 I indicated 2000 QSOs should be achievable on this band. I'm not sure everyone present believed, but Gary Dixon immediately volunteered me as an assistant QSL Manager!

The beat went on. By nightfall on 1/20, 2014 stations were in the log despite intermittent power line noise. Antenna icing caused a 5 to 1 SWR for most of 1/22-24 and again on 1/30. Luckily, I was able to persist with just the exciter using its built-in tuner. I hadn't had this much fun since running similar pileups on 30 meters during my trips to WP3X.

Operation continued on a daily basis through the end of the month. My best hour was 101 on 1/5; eleven different hours exceeded 70 QSOs per hour even after dupes were removed. No station was permitted to log me more than once; had I logged all those who tried for additional contacts, I estimate dupes would have ranged between 300 and 400! I expected this from Europeans but was surprised by how many JAs tried. I never felt the need to use split frequency because my signal was apparently strong enough to override any QRM. This may also explain the fact that the pileups were easily managed.

One of the more interesting, but frustrating, things about operating 12 meters is how difficult it is to work stateside stations, especially 4th call area (to which K4MQG can testify). In fact, only 263 (10.2%) of the total Qs were W/K/N, etc. I never

could find a beam heading on which to peak close-in signals. They were either on ground wave or backscatter.

Most pleasing was the quality of DX which called me. A partial list includes 3D2, 5N, 7X, 9J, C5, DU, EA6, EK, FH, FR, HL, J2, OX, OY, SV9, and VQ9. Also worked were 5A, 5U, C3, and VP6 since one of the objectives was to work at least 100 countries. (More about that in Part II.) There were also an incredible number of DLs (449) and JAs (227). The basic conclusion after 2576 QSOs in 90 countries is that the antenna works!

All in all, operating as WY2000 was a rewarding experience. I appreciate the efforts of Ted, Gary, and all the other club members who made this venture possible. Glad I was able to participate. Hope everyone had as much fun as I did.

The WY2000 Experience - Part II. The 30 meter Saga by AA4S, Ron Bailey

It was the morning of 24 January when I asked Gary on 2m what activity there had been on 30m. He said that he hadn't been on and, as far as he knew, no one else had either. I then received permission to activate WY2000 on that band. My objective at this point was to reach an overall level of 100 countries to ensure that we could apply for the DXCC-2000 award. So this is part two of the story.

By 24 January, seventy-five countries had been logged on 12 meters, but it was looking as if 100 countries would not be workable on the band within the time allowed. Several days provided no openings to Asia whatsoever, as the solar flux plummeted; only eight Africans had been logged in 2338 QSOs!

And so—on to 30 meters. My station here is a little more modest with only an upside down delta loop strung between two towers at roughly 60 feet. It is fed with RG/11 at the top corner closest to the tower by the house. It had never been battle-tested. The NA software was put in the "two-radio" mode and my second Icom IC-765 was used.

At 2119 UTC on 24 January I called CQ on 10.108 mHz. In the next 48 minutes 54 stations were logged including 28 Europeans, 3 JAs and a 4X. "Interesting band", I was saying to myself. By the evening of the 25th, 5X, 3B9, J7, and VQ9 were in the log. At month's end the overall country total on the two bands had reached a respectable 104. Forty-six on 30 meters including V5, CT3, FK, UK and UN along with 15 more on 12 meters bringing that total to 90.

Several stations worked during the month were using call-signs of a similar design. For example: DF2000, ER2000D, GX0000/2K, M2000A, OH2000, S52000, in addition to eight Gs signing G#---/2K.

But the three most exciting QSOs on 30 meters were HF0POL in the South Shetlands, 4U0G in Syria (which I first mistook for a VU0, hi!) and the jewel (and most difficult) of them all, XZ0A. He was found working split on 1/30 at 1200 UTC going about 10 wpm and apparently having problems with QRN. He finally got the call right after about 30 tries and he was in the log at 1240 UTC 12 minutes after our sun-

rise! Country number 105 was a 9U5 which I worked on 10 meter SSB. (My apologies to N4ZC for my unauthorized intrusion into his band.) Once again my thanks to all of the CDXA members who made this a successful project. I hope all of those deserving DXers enjoy their QSLs.

One Final Wrap-Em-Up About WY2000

As the WY2000 special event winds down, these "letters to the editor" act as testimonials to the real excitement this event stirred up.

From our "elder statesman", Henry Elwell:

Dear John, KA8FSM — I had a great time with the WY2000 call on 12 meter SSB under Band Captain Bill Jennings, W4UNP. I operated usually from 9:00 to 12 noon, Monday through Friday. I have one antenna on 12 meters, which is a rhombic pointing at Europe. So during the time span I used, I worked mostly European stations with an occasional Near East station, and two in Africa. There were a scattering of North American stations also. I had a total of 1375 contacts in 57 countries, and was surprised to have about 8% repeat contacts. I treated them as old friends. Occasionally I would get a comment that they had just worked me on 12 meters CW, or 10 meters phone, so I knew that AA4S and N4ZC were busy. I'm sure K4MQG will be getting a lot of cards because of the interest the call invoked. I often repeated the fact that the call was being used by the Carolina DX Association to commemorate the year 2000, so we got a lot of publicity. We should do this again sometime as well as having some of the "younger" members go on a DXpedition to further flaunt our great Club. Vy 73, Henry Elwell, Jr. N4UH

A short email message from Bill Parris, AA4R:

Hi John While operating on 20m phone this afternoon, I was called by W1AW. Operator was N2DB, who works at the ARRL. She said they would send an SASE to K4MQG for the QSL! I have 685 stations on RTTY and 417 on SSB so far. 73, Bill.

This one came in via email from Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK, in Winston-Salem:

Good morning, John- Just wanted to report 155 Q's for our use of the call WY2000—104 on 40m SSB, 51 on 20m RTTY. We ran WY2000 from the club station of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, W4NC at the Red Cross Chapter House in Winston-Salem, NC on Monday evening, 10 January and 17 January during our regular January meeting and board meeting. People really enjoyed seeing the station work (might have snagged some new contesters, as they were very interested in the CT program I had up for logging).

On 3 January and 24 January, we ran from W4WS, the flagship of the Winston-Salem Contest Crew (OK—my back-

yard), and although WX was rough on both those nights, we managed some fun QSOs. Thanks for the opportunity to fly the CDXA flag. 73,

Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK

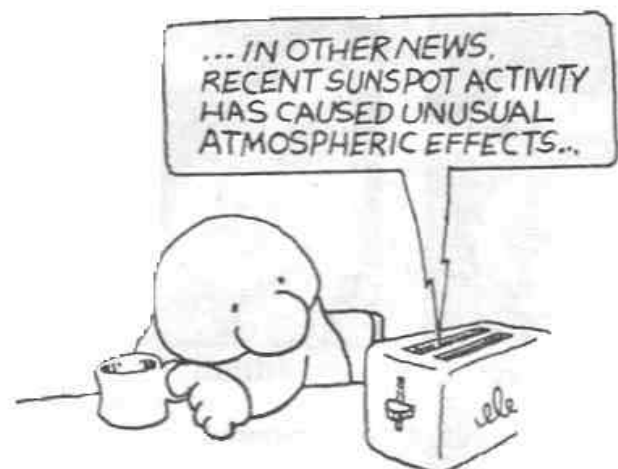
(Editor's note: If you're wondering why weather was a factor in the "shack" at the W4WS station Henry mentions, go to <http://summitschool.com/faculty/w4ws.html> for a pictorial representation.)

Slick Software

Need a map of the world centered on your QTH with beam headings to various parts of the world? Well, go no farther. Your editor became used to this kind of chart while working as a volunteer operator at Discovery Place. The map is used as a backdrop for the antenna rotator to show where the roof mounted antenna is pointed, and I went looking for one on the web. I found it at <http://hem.passagen.se/sm3gsj/gcm.htm>. It is free for the downloading. It has been nicely updated with new features since I first got my version. The newest versions runs as a Windows application.

The software gives you great circle headings to particular station locations from your QTH. With a click of the mouse on a particular location on the map, you will be given distance as well as heading in km or miles. You have options as to how much detail you wish to display, as well as the distance from your QTH you want mapped. Not bad for freeware!

Ziggy



Roving Reporter

Your “Roving Reporter” decided to seek out Bill Tippett, the winner of three CDXA intraclub contests in the Fall contest season.

RR: How did you get into ham radio?

Tippett: I became a ham at age 12 in 1957 when I was growing up in Greensboro, North Carolina. My Dad was a ham, too. I was an enthusiastic chaser of DX and I earned DXCC while still a Novice. (Editor’s Note: Pretty good since the novice license is only good for a year!)

RR: Has your interest in ham radio remained as strong all through the years?

Tippett: Not exactly. I went off to MIT during the years 1962 to 1966 and was somewhat active in a club station, but the books kept me pretty busy. When I got out of school, I went to work for Hewlett-Packard in Colorado. My ham activity dropped off somewhat while I got my working career off to a start. Most of my activity in those years was to keep a contact with my Dad via radio. I was transferred to Germany with HP, and I got involved with a club station while there and that sparked a renewed interest. I’ve been pretty active ever since.

RR: I saw your array on the web (<http://www.arraysolutions.com/Users/w4zy.htm>) in a write-up on the StackMatch product. Tell us about it.

Tippett: I’ve always been lucky, because I’ve always sought out a domicile with lots of land to allow me the freedom to put up an antenna of my choice—that is except for my earliest days out of college and as a kid growing up in Greensboro. The current array has an interesting story since the concrete for the base was only poured on September 24, 1999—one month before the CQWW SSB contest. My wife, my neighbor, and I did a lot of running around our New London home that month. I did some modeling with EZNEC to optimize the pattern using vertical spacing of the antennas. I ended up with three 6-element KLM monobanders for 10 meters at 35, 70, and 105 foot heights. The boom on the KLM monobanders are 27-1/2 feet long. The StackMatch lets me choose any two antennas pairwise, any single antenna, or all three together. Electrically, they are all fed in phase.

RR: Why did you choose to make such a special purpose antenna system?

Tippett: Well, I had some of the old tower sections laying around, and I figured the sunspot cycle would warrant having an antenna system worthy of the promising conditions. I’ve never been a guy to go half-way on antennas. Most multiband antennas must of necessity be a compromise. And, if I’m going to enter a contest, I like to WIN!

RR: Well from those of us in the CDXA, we know that,

“U Da Man!” and received several awards to prove it. How did you do in the contest overall?

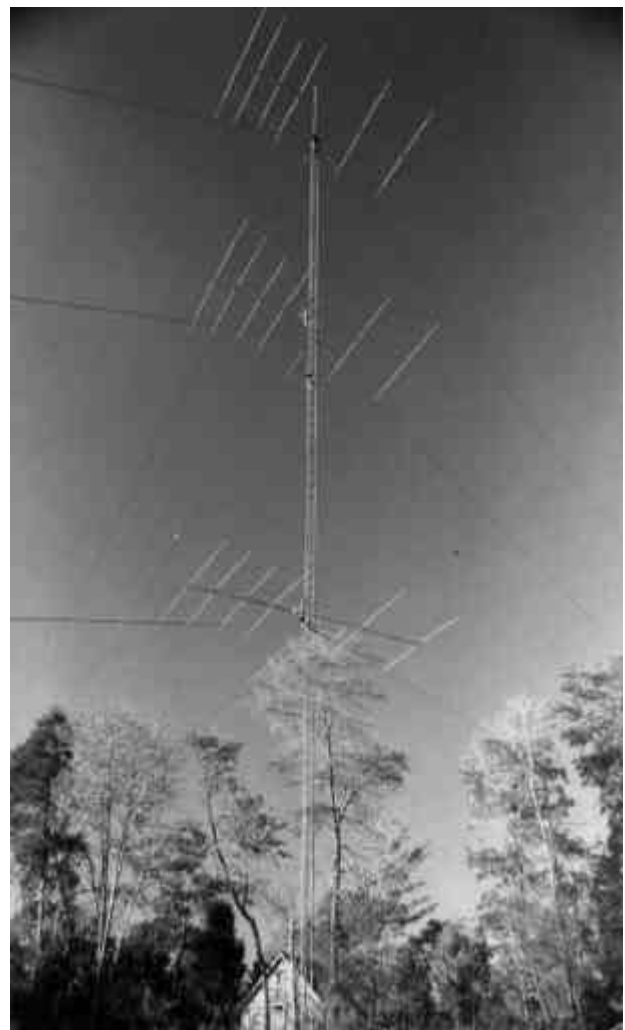
Tippett: I won the CQWW SSB for 10 meters and set a new record that I previously held as W0ZV from Colorado in 1988. For the ARRL 10 meter contest, I think I’m sitting in third place. I may be able to move up one place since one of those currently ahead of me sometimes loses QSOs in the reconciliation process. We’ll just have to wait and see.

RR: Sounds like you’ve got the high end of the HF band covered. I hear you also like to work 160 meters, too. In fact, I hear that you are on the “top of the heap” as regards countries worked on 160 meters. True?

Tippett: “Yes”, answered a very modest Bill Tippett.

RR: I guess that competitive spirit runs deep. Bill, we are honored and proud to have you as one of us in the CDXA!

Below: Bill Tippett’s Contest-winning 10 meter array.



Speaker's Bureau???

Gary Dixon was asked to address the Sugar Creek ARC in Fort Mill, SC for their February meeting. Gary was asked to speak of his visit to Jordan in 1979 at the invitation of the late King Hussein, JY1, who all of you know was an avid amateur radio operator. Here is Gary's recap of the experience, unfortunately without the numerous slides accompanying the presentation.

The trip, now over 20 years ago, was at the invitation of the late King Hussein, JY1. I took the trip with my two sons, Gary Jr. (KA4HVI) and Ray along with another couple Paul, K4BF, and his wife Cathy. During the trip I shot over 700 color slides. We spent a lot of time with our good friends Clyde and Carolyn Huddleston while in both countries. Clyde and Carolyn were Americans and Clyde was a pilot for The Royal Jordan Airlines. Both Clyde and Carolyn had ham calls at both QTHs.

The slide presentation has been condensed down to about 225 slides and was presented in about an hour. It consisted of a travelog of family slides from the time we left home including pictures of NY City, Aeronautical Mobile Operation from the 747 airplane, historical and biblical tours in Jordan and Cyprus, and ham radio operation from both countries.

It had probably been eighteen or nineteen years since I had last looked at the slides, and I had forgotten some of the names and calls of the hams whose homes we visited. In spite of that, I managed to get through my talk. HI!

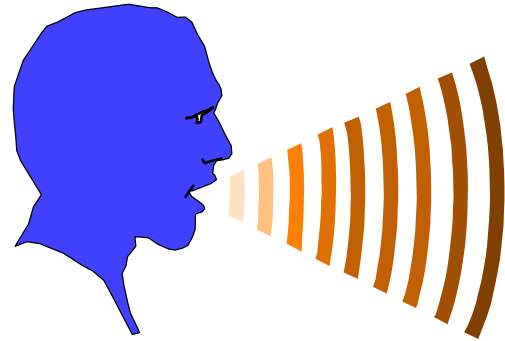
The five of us were treated like royalty for two weeks, because we were truly guests of the King. He had even made arrangements for us to fly to Jordan as first class passengers and to have passes to the cockpit made available so we could operated as aeronautical mobile while in flight. Wow, what a thrill.

While in Jordan, we were to have been the King's guest for dinner on several occasions, but political events and other events of state always caused a change of plans. Unfortunately, we never had the pleasure of a face-to-face visit with the King, JY1.

The King did furnish us with two Palace Mercedes-Benz cars and drivers while we were there. We were given tours of the country and were not allowed to spend money except in the local flea market. Virtually everything was paid for by the Palace.

Prince Rad, King Hussein's Uncle, spent a lot of time with us and also invited us to go over to the Island of Cyprus for a few days.

This was a wonderful trip and one that we will never forget. Several of the hams we met are still active on the DX bands, and I work them on a frequent basis. We talk about our most memorable trip.



Directions to *The Open Kitchen*

The *Open Kitchen* is located on West Morehead Street, west of I-77 and almost immediately west of Ericsson Stadium across I-77.

From the Hamfest location, the route to The Open Kitchen is as follows:

1. Get on Westbound US-74 (Independence Boulevard) going back towards downtown.
2. As you near downtown you will see a choice between the Brookshire Freeway (I-277 North) or the John Belk Freeway (I-277 South).
3. Take the I-277 South (John Belk Freeway) ramp and merge onto the John Belk Freeway which will take you around downtown, which will be on your right.
4. You will go almost 1/2 way around downtown and pass the Ericsson Stadium on your right, staying on I-277. About the time you pass the stadium, be prepared to watch signs carefully. You should probably be in the second lane from the left as I-277 becomes Wilkinson Blvd.
5. Stay straight on I-277 (Wilkinson) passing by exits for both Northbound and Southbound I-77. Immediately after the Southbound I-77 exit will be the Freedom Drive exit. Exit onto Freedom Drive.
6. Morehead Street will be the first major crosstreet. Turn right and look for the restaurant.

March, 2000

The Back Page

Mike Reigle, N4ZN has some Rohn HBX self-supporting tower for sale (he has 140 feet of it in various sizes, meaning various tower heights could be configured from this stock.). Mike lives in Charleston, and says the tower is in good condition.

The annual CDXA Charlotte Hamfest Dinner will be held at Charlotte's **THE OPEN KITCHEN** restaurant at 1318 West Morehead Street. The social period will begin around 7:00 PM with dinner service beginning around 7:45 PM. See you there!

John Scott, KA8FSM
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First Class Mail

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