



Carolina DX Association

N4PQX	Bob Burton	President
W4WNT	Bill Turner	Vice-Pres.
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Sysop
AE4PB	Jerry Moore	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

It's time again for the fall contests. I hope everyone is busy getting their stations ready as once again we will be having a CDXA intraclub contest. We're still working out all of the details, but there will be different rules this year, which should give everyone a fair chance at winning one of the categories. Look for the complete rules in the October edition of the Pileup. Get your station contest-ready now.

Time is also counting down on another item. Submissions for DXCC must be at ARRL HQ no later than September 30th to count for this year. The new ARRL field checkers are ready to assist, so if you have cards to check contact W4FC, K4MQG, or K4CIA depending on who is closest to you. Remember a submission each year assures you of receiving the DXCC Yearbook.

I'm sad to say that we do not yet have a Fall Event scheduled. We have been unable to find a location for the now traditional fall BBQ, so if you have a suggestion please let your officers know.

We are still looking for a replacement for Gary's position as Secretary/Treasurer for the CDXA. Gary will be "retiring" from the position this year, and we would prefer an early election so the logistics of member dues can be handled appropriately at the end of the year. Step up now and provide a service for the CDXA.

For those of you who got in on the Land's End shirts, I'm sure you are all pleased with the outcome. It seems that once many saw them at the Wednesday luncheon, they wondered why they didn't get one. The good news is the CDXA logo is set up at Land's End for as long as they are in business. This means you can purchase shirts or other items they embroider at any time. The only catch to this is there needs to be a minimum of six items total to avoid an "extra" logo fee on top of the standard logo fee. This is because they do have to set up the machine and have chosen a minimum of six items as the break even point for production. If you are now interested in a shirt after seeing them, let your officers know, and we'll try to set up another order period with Land's End if there is enough interest.

Until next month...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 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, 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)	

Roving Reporter Visits Salisbury

The Roving Reporter found his way to Salisbury, North Carolina during August to sit at the cracker barrel (no pot bellied stoves in NC in August!) to chat with Henry Elwell, N4UH, one of the CDXA's Life Members. He is affectionately known as "Uncle Henry" in CDXA circles.

Roving Reporter (RR): How did you get the moniker "Uncle Henry"?

Henry Elwell (UH): Well, I do have a few nieces and nephews. (HI HI). When a fellow gets to be 81 years of age, that is highly possible. I actually had a "2" call when I lived in New Jersey. When I moved to North Carolina, I figured I ought to have a call from the 4th call area. Since I had nieces and nephews and the N4UH call was available, I chose it as my callsign. My QSL card has "Uncle Henry" highlighted for the "U" and "H" in my call.

RR: When were you first licensed?

UH: I was licensed in 1936 when I was 16 years old.

RR: What attracted you to "hamming"?

UH: There was an amateur radio operator who lived across the street from me in Roselle, New Jersey. He was a DXer and contester. Every time he got on the air, all the lights in the neighborhood blinked on and off. I became quite interested in what caused that. There was another friend of mine who also became interested. We decided to become hams. We drilled each other on the theory, and then went over to the Federal Building in New York City to take our examinations. There were no VE's then, you know.

RR: What was your first rig?

UH: My first rig was a home brew three tube regenerative receiver. It worked pretty well, except when my neighbor across the street was operating. Then the regenerative receiver went nuts. I went through several different rigs with Hartley oscillators and eventually crystal controlled oscillators. Finally in 1937, I built a superheterodyne receiver which had been detailed in an issue of QST. I was in the big time then!

RR: In an issue of *The Pileup* several years ago, I recall your writeup on your rhombic antenna. How did you get interested in rhombics?

UH: In about '35 or '36, QST had an article on rhombics. My family had enough land in Roselle, so I strung one up. It worked pretty well. I've maintained that interest in rhombic antennas ever since. When I retired from Bendix Aerospace in 1977, my wife, Millie, and I decided to move to North Carolina. Millie's requirement was that we have a house of her chosen design, and my requirement was that we have enough land to put up a rhombic. We met both of those requirements. (Editor's note: The February 2000 and March 2000 editions of *The Pileup*, available on the CDXA website at <http://www.cdxa.org>, will show you how well the rhombics do in getting into Europe. And, for the record, Henry's Millie is not the same Millie Henry of "The Adventures of Millie and Mike".)

RR: With such a long perspective of amateur radio, what would you say have been the most significant changes over time in the hobby?

(Continued on page 3)

GRIZZWELLS®

by Bill Schorr



(Continued from page 2)

UH: In terms of change, I'd have to rate the arrival of single sideband as the top change from an operating perspective. I heard my friend on the air right after he went SSB. I told him he sounded funny, and I had trouble tuning him in. He told me to zero beat him using my receiver's beat frequency oscillator, and there he was—clear as day. From the viewpoint of building and maintaining equipment, the introduction of large scale integrated circuits created quite a change. The last radio I was really able to maintain myself was my old Kenwood TS-520. After that, one could really no longer do board level repairs with much ease.

RR: Thank you, Henry, for sharing a little of the lore of ham radio over the last 64 years.

Discovery Place Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy explaining your interest in amateur radio to friends? Are you looking for a way to give something back to the community? Do you want to do both at the same time? Then call Mac Wood, W4PVT, and make yourself available as a volunteer operator for the radio room at Charlotte's Discovery Place Science Center. And, by the way, you can use your own callsign to collect DX while enjoying your operating time.

The room is staffed with volunteer operators from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM each day Discovery Place is open—363 days per year. Shifts are 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, or all day if you prefer. Mac can always use help for weekend slots, and having a few substitutes on call helps keep the room open to the public when one of the “regulars” just can't make it in.

Gear? A Ten-Tec Omni VI+, Hercules II (500W) linear, auto-tuner, Mosely Pro-57 Beam, 80 and 40m inverted vees, Kenwood TS50 six meter rig, APRS, PacketCluster, Ten-Tec Pegasus equipped with PSK31, 2m/440 satellite radio with AZ/EL antenna should keep you busy between the times you get to talk to people about radio.

If you want to know more, you can also talk with these CDXA members who are currently volunteers: Bob Southworth (KI4VY), Bill Turner (W4WNT), Paul Ponak (AD4IE), John Scott (K8YC), Mack Wood (W4PVT), and Ken Boyd (K4DXA).

CDXA members have a long history of support for the Discovery Place radio room. The following current CDXA members are listed as founders of the radio room:

Frank Dowd, Bill and Joey Parris, Ted Goldthorpe, Ervin Jackson, Jack Guion, and Bob Southworth.

The radio room is a perfect vehicle for informing the public what amateur radio is all about. It regularly gets the highest marks from visiting school classes which come through Discovery Place. Why not become a part of it?

Announced CQWW Phone Operation

K4ZA will be returning to St. Martin for the CQ WW phone contest this October. This year, however, he will operate from the FRENCH side of the island--as FS/K4ZA. He will once again be SOAB, so please attempt to work him on all six HF bands, spot him on the PacketCluster whenever possible, and do your best to support this operation.

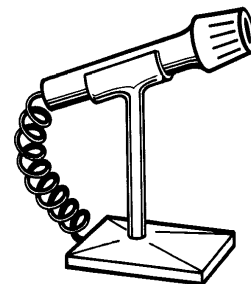
N4ZC will also be going to the island and plans to operate from the Dutch side, although not as seriously, with some CW, WARC-bands and 6M activity as well. Roger also plans a side trip to Anguilla. Don may also operate from PJ8/K4ZA outside the contest, as they are staying on the Dutch side of the island, courtesy of Mort, W1UQ/PJ7UQ.

Not just for Nerds.....

The September 2000 edition of SAIL magazine finally got it right and cited something we've all known for quite a while. The front of the magazine has a section of general interest, short subjects—including a periodic update on what's “hot” in technology.

So what's hot in September, 2000? HAM Radio!! The item asserts, “HAM RADIO: Not just for nerds, the amateur-radio link continues to save cruiser's lives, and the weather and passagemaking nets are better than ever.”

Well I'll be darned. I DID know that.



1999 ARRL 10-Meter Contest

The September, 2000 edition of QST showed the results of the 1999 ARRL 10-Meter Contest. The Carolina DX Association placed in the 11th position in the Medium club category. With only six entrants and 4.4 million points, CDXA was only 2.3 million points behind the 7th place entry which had 18 entrants.

We were probably aided by Don Daso (K4ZA) working N4ZC's station for 1,842,650 points in the Mixed, High Power category and Bill Tippett's (W4ZV) 1,090,726 points in the Phone, High Power category. Both were mentioned as members of the "Top Ten W/VE" operators.

Contesting is a wonderful way to reach that "new one". My personal experience is that contesting stations are at least as good if not better in responding to a QSL card. Even if you don't plan on spending the full 48 hours in a contest, you'll find your operating skills are sharpened by working a contest. And, if you do work a contest, why not submit your entry in the name of the CDXA to get us into the top ten as a club. –John Scott, K8YC

DXCC Counts Updated

Your Editor used the August 2000 QST DXCC listing to provide an updated view of how some of the CDXA members are doing in their pursuit of "top dog" status. The listings only show the counts of DXCC members within 10 entities of having all 332 authorized entities as of March 31, 2000. Some members have provided me a more current "unofficial" count, pending affirmation by authorized checkers. I wish I could list the counts of all 135 or so CDXA members, but the organization of the listing in the Honor Roll renders that task beyond my patience. If you'd like to have your count shown in the next round, please drop me a line at jascott@ix.netcom.com or get my postal address as shown on QRZ.COM.

Several members deserve honorable mention for their persistence in recent months. Bill Parris (AA4R) and Gary Dixon (K4MQG) each added THREE new entities from the count I had in May to bring their totals to 331 and 330, respectively. Steve Reichlyn (AA4V), Richard Moser (K4DJ), and E.V. Hicks (K4HJE) have each added FOUR new entities to bring their totals to 329. Bud Brown (W4CZU) wins the brass ring, however, for adding FIVE new entities and bringing his total count to 330. Adding three to five entities when one gets in this league is surely a sign of commitment. Congratulations

to all of you. With 15 members at 330 entities or higher, perhaps we ought to put our own DXpedition together for North Korea so we can be the club with the highest number of "Top Dogs". The current status is as follows:

Callsign	Name	All	Active
AA4R	Bill Parris	347	331
AA4S	Ron Bailey	354	331
N4MM	John Kanode	360	331
N4XO	David A. Rawley	371	331
W4ZV	Bill Tippett	371	331
WA8WV	Dave Ellis	342	331
K4BVQ	Frank Dowd	370	330
K4CEB	Larry Sossoman	358	330
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	339	330
K4MQG	Gary Dixon	366	330
N4SU	David Kennedy	383	330
W4CZU	Bud Brown	345	330
W4MBD	Bob McNeill II	344	330
W4MPY	Wayne Carroll	339	330
W4UNP	Bill Jennings	341	330
AA4V	Steve Reichlyn	349	329
AK4N	Grady Robinson	339	329
K4DJ	Richard Moser	359	329
K4HJE	E.V. Hicks	357	329
N4UH	Henry Elwell	358	329
W4UW	Richard Genaille	341	329
W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	342	329
W4WMQ	Murphy Ratterree	342	329
K4SI	Bob Cranford	334	328
N4ZC	Roger Burt	354	325
WA4PLR	Pete Eldridge	333	323
K4ZA	Don Daso	328	322
W4IX	Jerry Hagen	356	322
WA4OBO	Ken Winston	333	322
K4QVK	Arlin Wilson	330	317
N4PQX	Bob Burton	315	313
W4MKM	Kent Miller	315	310

Letter to the Editor

From Kent Miller (W4MKM) in Lexington:

“Your question about countries totals in the April issue of the Pileup prompted me (in June) to gather up the cards I had and send them in to the DXCC desk for evaluation. I am glad you raised the question, or I would probably have continued to just throw the cards in the box and give it little further thought.

The last submission I made was in 1978, when I sent in 102 cards from contacts on 75 meters in 1976-77. I had then done no further DXing until early 1996. I was pleased to receive 5BDXCC award this month and credits for 315 countries confirmed (310 active-5 deleted). So should you publish another list in a future Pileup, place me there near the bottom of it—HI. I just wish now that I had been DXing, rather than rag-chewing, back in the 50' s and 60' s when I could have picked up some of those now deleted countries. 73, Kent—W4MKM”

Congratulations to you Kent, and thanks for the note.

PacketCluster TNC Parameters

By John Scott, K8YC

I sometimes get disconnects from the W4DXA PacketCluster even after we put up the new hardline this spring. Could it be my setup? I found Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, was also experiencing intermittent disconnects from time to time.

I looked over my MFJ-1270C TNC manual to interpret the various commands and what they do. I found a number of parameters which seem to overlap in function. As newer features of the TNC's were developed—PERSIST and PPERSIST being but two of them—they often add to, not replace, earlier features. This can lead to spurious operation.

Paul and I conducted a few experimental connections with each other and delved a bit into the nuances of the parameters. A few things which popped out:

- For an MFJ-1270C TNC, if ACKPRIOR is ON, the PPERSIST function will NOT work properly. (Stated in a supplemental addenda to the TNC!)
- The DWAIT timer is defeated if ACKPRIOR is ON.
- My DWAIT timer was set for 0, while for normal packet operations, MFJ suggests it be 33. However, with ACKPRIOR set to ON, DWAIT is dis-

abled.

I also noted that the W4DXA node sometimes takes up to 15 seconds to return the “prompt” (e.g., K8YC de W4DXA 2-Sep-2000 1118Z Type H or ? for help>) after the initial welcome message is received. If I issue the first command before that prompt is received, I seem to have trouble. Needless to say, I now await the prompt to ensure I have been duly registered as an active user.

I've turned off ACKPRIOR to enable PPERSIST, and now have my DWAIT timer set to the recommended value of 33 (330 ms.). My connections seem to have stabilized. Paul, W3GQ, reports improved stability since changing ACKPRIOR to OFF on his PC's TAPR card.

For the W4DXA node, you might try connecting to DXY (W4DXA's alias) since some seem to find connecting that way to be more stable. (Beats me?!)

So, if you're having trouble staying connected, first be sure you are using the recommended settings as posted on the message center on the CDXA PacketClusters. Then, read the manual for your particular TNC verrrrrry carefully for noted exceptions. If you're having any connection problems, I'd like to learn about them. Maybe we can all learn more together.

CQWW Intraclub Contest

To promote intraclub competition and raise our score as a club in the coming CQ WorldWide contest, the club is planning on running a contest within the contest. Here are some of the ideas being kicked around:

- o Contest awards available to stateside operators only for obvious reasons.
- o Entries must be made to CQ for consideration in the CDXA competition to promote higher club scores.
- o Awards to be a certificate for the following categories for each of the Phone and CW contests:

Over 500K points, Assisted & Unassisted,
Winner and Runner-up (4 Certificates)

500K or fewer points, Assisted & Unassisted,
Winner and Runner-up (4 Certificates)

This is not cast in stone. The idea is to have a friendly competition and raise our club's visibility nationally. Let the officers know if you have any other preferences.

The Back Page

The Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society VE team will be conducting a “paper upgrade” session at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at the East Baptist Church. This session is for those who possess proper Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (C.S.C.E) and who wish to upgrade in accord with the FCC's recent license restructuring.

Need a G5RV antenna? An Electronic Technician Chief in the Navy, Mike Kendall, sent an unsolicited notice to your editor citing the antenna's availability for \$18.00. If you'd like to see a picture of the antenna and learn more about it, visit his web page at: <http://my.cybersoup.com/ke6cvh>. An email address is provided on the web site to contact Mike. Your editor, of course, has no financial interest in this venture—just passing along the information.

Did you let Gary Dixon know whether you will take the Pileup exclusively from the website? More dues money will stay in the coffers for club use if we can negate the need to mail the publication to you. The plans at this stage are to send you an email notifying you that the latest edition is on the website for downloading.

Need a listing of the full PacketCluster commands and what they do? Go to <http://www.his.com/~feidt/> and look for the PacketCluster section on the home page. The entire command set is there. If you don't have access to the Internet from home, most libraries now have Internet connections.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify K4MQG at once, please.