



Carolina DX Association

W4WNT	Bill Turner	President
W4JG	Jack Guion	Vice-Pres.
W4NZC	Ken Cannaday	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Sysop
AE4PB	Jerry Moore	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

As The Pileup goes to press, the 3Y0C operation continues, and some of us continue to listen for him! The ARRL DX CW contest will occur on February 17-18 and the NC QSO Party comes along on February 24-25. I hope to hear lots of CDXA members in the DX contest.

Next month will be the Charlotte Hamfest at the Merchandise Mart. Stop by to meet the gang at the CDXA Booth in the Flea Market building. I expect Gary, K4MQG, will be around to check cards at the ARRL booth. Please remember to bring a check if you intend to pay your dues at the Hamfest. A check ensures there is a record of your payment and will help eliminate disputes if we fail to record the payment properly in the process of greeting people at the hamfest.

Joe Simpkins has arranged to get the PacketCluster nodes, rf and telnet, set up for member's only use and will be implementing that after final dues are paid up in March. He will implement the membership list that Ken Cannaday will develop from paid up members. For the time being, the 1200 baud, 2m, side of the

K4MD node is off the air and is expected to stay that way. Both the 440 Mhz and the telnet sides are working, however. The club still has 9600 baud TNCs available as well as 440 Mhz Phoenix and Mitrex rigs if you decide to move to 440 Mhz. Thanks for all the work you do on the node, Joe.

I've been exchanging e-mails with Jerry Moore, AE4PB about the CDXA website. Jerry has changed jobs and is not able to devote as much time to the website as before. He is looking for some helpers to learn the maintenance of the site and keep up with getting The Pileup in place each month and other upkeep activities. Here is a good opportunity to learn about websites. If you are interested, please contact AE4PB or me.

We had a great presentation on the K5K DXpedition by N4XP, Tom Harrell, at our January 17 luncheon in Charlotte. (See the writeup on the DXpedition inside The Pileup.) We are looking forward to the presentation by Mauro (IN3QBR) on his Laos operation at the Woodshed in Stanley, NC, on the evening of Feb. 13 at 7:00PM (See "The Back Page"). He will be bringing his logs and QSL cards. If you worked him, bring your log and get your QSL card on the spot. Hope to see lots of you there.

73, Bill

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)	

Around the Bands

Ron Bailey, AA4S, completed his quest for the 5 Band WAZ award recently when he worked JT1CO in Mongolia (Zone 23) on 80 CW for his 200th Zone. Ron worked JT1CO shortly after sunset on the long SE path. Zone 23 is one of the hardest zones to reach from “4 land”. Congratulations, Ron.

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, worked two all time new countries on 75 meters in early January. Working XW3QBR in Laos and BA4DW in China brings Gary’s 75 meter total to 336 DXCC Countries. Only 10 more countries on 75 meters for a clean sweep. (*Editor’s note: XW3QBR will be here to talk to us on February 13 at The Woodshed. See “The Back Page”.*)

Oops!

The contest results for the recent intraclub competition reported in the January 2001 edition of the Pileup contained two errors. The correct winner of the SSB Unlimited Assisted category is William T. “Todd” Brady, W4WTB. The correct runner-up of the CW Unlimited Assisted category is Ken Cannaday, W4NZC.

The masthead of the January 2001 Pileup did not reflect our new officers elected at the Christmas Dinner. Bill Turner, W4WNT is our new President, and Jack Guion, W4JG, is our new Vice President. *—The Editor*

CQWW—A Rookie’s Story

By Todd Brady, W4WTB

CQ Contest, CQ Contest!! For years those words made me **cringe!** Well, the easiest way for me was to turn the rig off, and that’s what I usually did.

Over last summer I finally installed a respectable antenna system. Busting the pileups became commonplace. A few months later I joined CDXA, which a couple of close friends, Jack Emerson (W4THE) and Kent Miller (W4MKM), encouraged me to do. When the October issue of the Pileup arrived, an article on contesting by Roger Burt, N4ZC, caught my eye. I hadn’t realized how much planning and strategy was involved in contesting. Being quite competitive by nature, I decided to give it a try.

When the contest began, I felt like a kid starting his first little league baseball game. Excitement and butterflies all at once. But I knew exactly what to do, or so I thought. My first hour was search and pounce. Hey!

I’m doing OK. I worked 34 stations the first hour. By the end of 3 hours I had made over 100. I could feel myself getting tired and thirsty. I thought to myself, this is not as easy as I imagined it would be. In order to increase my contact rate, I decided to change my approach, find a frequency, and go to “running”. Well, easier said than done in CQWW!! I guess I wasted 30 minutes just trying to find a clear spot. When I finally did, the runs were short lived. Frustration began to set in, but my competitive nature insisted I push on. At that moment, I realized why many people today consider

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Kingman Reef Revisited

On Wednesday, January 17, the CDXA luncheon crew were treated to a slide presentation of the recent Kingman Reef DXpedition (K5K) by Tom Harrell, N4XP, one of the DXpedition co-organizers.

The original intent of the K5K crew was to go to a different venue, but another group chose that locale. Plans were altered to go to Kingman Reef since it was high (number 16 overall and number 2 in EU) on the list of most wanted DXCC entities. Kingman Reef, a US possession, is under the auspices of the US Navy, having served as a refueling stop for seaplanes in World War II. Permission to visit and operate was obtained from the US Navy after extensive negotiation. Planning for the event started 2-1/2 years ago. Yet, changes were being made up to the minute the international team departed Hawaii via commercial aircraft for Christmas Island where it was to meet a boat chartered to take the team to Kingman. However, bad weather delayed the arrival of the boat and the team experienced almost a three day delay. During this time the team operated as T32R on numerous bands on both CW and SSB. The boat safely arrived, loaded up, and departed with the team, save one, for Palmyra, the first stop enroute to Kingman Reef.

The chartered boat, the *Machias*, is well known among DXpeditioners for ferrying hams to rare DX locations. Its captain, Bill Austin, is one of the most knowledgeable skippers in the Pacific. The *Machias* is a 59 foot, 50 ton steel schooner converted from a fishing boat. At Palmyra Atoll the team was joined by the last team member, KH6ND/KH5. From there, the last 36 miles to Kingman began.

Approach to Kingman was extremely deliberate because of the surrounding reefs. With lookouts on the bow and

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along each side of the slow moving boat on watch for coral heads, finding the reef and entry into the Kingman lagoon took over two hours.

Fifteen operators, including two Europeans and one JA were on the team. Because Kingman is so high on the most wanted list in Europe, a primary goal was to make sure there were many European QSOs. The boat stayed with the team during the entire visit to provide logistical support in the way of cooking and fuel and also to establish a "safety net". All needed equipment was brought to the reef in inflatable rafts.



Generator? I thought you brought it...

(Printed with permission of OH5YW)

reduced the danger inherent in transporting high volatility gasoline for fuel. The diesel generators were muscled off Zodiacs to the reef at high tide by 6 and 7 members of the team!

High winds and intense rains for the first 2-1/2 days allowed for only survival conditions ashore. Tents had to be staked into the shell-based reef with rebar and then strapped down with heavy line to additional rebar to prevent them from being blown into the sea.

Antennas were a Battle Creek Special on 160, Force 12 2 element vertical arrays on 10 through 20, conventional verticals on 30 and 40 meters and a K9AY vertical on 80m. A Cushcraft A3 was erected but not used to any great extent. The Force 12 vertical arrays, which are not yet commercially available, worked marvelously and could be "steered" by switching the director to a reflector, allowing long path operation.

The reef is 450 long by 54 feet wide at its widest part. It is no more than about three feet above sea level, and can be under water if seas are running. Learning from other reef-based DXpeditions how precious water can become, this crew purchased a reverse osmosis water purifier to produce over 200 gallons of water per day. These assets remain available for future expeditions. Six 5 KW diesel generators provided the power and

The team made almost 81,000 QSOs and felt it would have reached an all time high QSO count if not for the high winds and rain preventing radio operation at the beginning. The USA could be worked almost 24 hours per day, and 20% of the QSOs were with Europe. Just under 1000 QSO's on 6M and 1400 on RTTY were also made.

All team members paid their own way for travel expenses. The budget for boat charter, food, fuel, and other expenses amounted to some \$71,000. The team is still short of donations to cover budgeted expenses. If you have K5K in your log and would like to lend a financial hand for getting this "rare one", donations are still being accepted. Direct your donation to:

Tom Harrell
2011 New High Shoals Road
Watkinsville, GA 30677

Make checks payable to: *Kingman Reef/Palmyra DX Group.*

Tom indicated that QSL card printing is just nearing completion and cards should be appearing by the end of February. (The K5K DXpedition is the topic of a forum at the upcoming Charlotte Hamfest. —*Editor*)

You Never Know in Ham Radio....

Here's a note Joe Simpkins received in early January. We are truly an International community:

"From: Doug Woolley [mailto:zp6cw@hotmail.com]
Subject: Your online packet system, Your call, K4MD

Just had to write you when I saw your call. Harvey Savage was a dear, dear friend of mine, he had K4MD originally. He was the one that thought up SKN on New Years long ago. He also built using diodes CW keyboards and in his later years built that sophisticated Heath transceiver, and it worked beautifully. So many memories come back when I see the call K4MD.

Now to your packet thing. I just obtained, out here in the sticks yet, a 24-hour always on Internet service. Very costly but connects me to the real world.

I have been to your packet system and it's super neat, did not know it existed. Question is, to access this I must pay for the service?

Anyway hope I can be a frequent user. Just had to drop you a line because of fond memories of K4MD.

—73 Doug ZP6CW, Caacupe, Paraguay"

Roving Reporter Visits Winston-Salem

The roving reporter ventured up to the northern reaches of CDXA territory to Winston-Salem to talk with Henry Heidtmann, N4VHK. You'll recall in last month's Pileup Henry proudly reported as trustee of the Winston-Salem Contest Crew club station, W4WS, that the "Contest Crew" had placed 3rd in "4 land" and 15th nationally in CQWW SSB in claimed score.

RR: How and when did you get started in amateur radio?

HH: I'd always been interested in amateur radio since my grandfather, W2DZO, gave me his Hammarlund HQ-160. I took a licensing course when I was quite young, but I became "turned off" by the examiners and never sat for the exam. In the late 1980's there was a Field Day event at Wake Forest, and I became captivated again with ham radio. I was licensed in 1989. My wife bought me an EICO 723 CW transmitter at the Elkin hamfest, and off I went.

RR: I visited your website at <http://sum-mitschool.com/faculty/w4ws.html> and was impressed with your "kiva" and contest station you've created. How did that come about?

HH: I became active in the Forsyth County Amateur Radio Club which has a station in the American Red Cross headquarters here. The station setup was really quite good, but access to it on weekends when most contests are run left a lot to be desired. A few of our number wanted to do some contesting. None of us really had great gear by ourselves, but collectively we were reasonably equipped. Our first efforts were not fixed-base operations but rather somewhat like DXpeditions. The real joy was in the camaraderie we felt when working a contest as a group. Reliving our contest activities at the local "watering hole" (Prince's on the Park) after a contest was every bit a part of the contest. Our goal in those early days was not to be world beaters, but to better our score from the previous year. I visited N4ZC's contest setup sometime in about 1995 and I decided we needed a permanent station setup. In 1996-97, my backyard and a small outbuilding became the shack or "kiva". (Southwestern Native Americans had kivas which were places of sacred seclusion for tribal leaders.) In 1997 we applied for and received the 1x2 call, W4WS, as our contest club callsign. Last fall we put up a Force 12 C3E at 60 feet to complement our Force 12 C4XL at 40 feet, a 3 element 15m monobander, 2 element delta loop (strapped to my son's

swingset...), a full wave 80 meter loop, and shunt feeds for 80 and 160 meters. With networked computers and CT ready to go, we have a real contest station now!

RR: Besides W4WS' recent success in CQWW SSB, how has the station been doing in other contests?

HH: We decided last spring to enter the 2000 ARRL International DX Phone Contest. It was unlike all our contests to date because scheduling conflicts of our members dictated that I would have to work the contest alone. I am a musician besides being a teacher, and I had scheduled a gig in the middle of the contest that was to take me away for four hours. I didn't expect much, but braced for battle nevertheless. I met with success beyond my wildest imagination. I finished with 1,456,389 points and second overall in the W/VE category. I had 1551 QSOs and 313 multipliers. That performance set a new record for "4 land" also. I've just recently received the award from ARRL, and all of us in "The Crew" are thrilled with how well the station has come together.

RR: You mentioned to me that you usually enter contests under the CDXA "banner". I noticed CDXA had a little over 3.5 million points in that contest, and you accounted for over 40% of those points. Thanks for helping to put CDXA "on the map" in that contest!

HH: It's all a part of that feeling of being part of a group. I'm happy to do my part. Just wish I could get to see more of the group on a regular basis. I do enjoy using the PacketCluster, but don't get much "personal" contact that way!! Any CDXA members who would like to have some fun in a multi-, c'mon up and see us here! (We usually have a mean cookout before and after most events...)

RR: Perhaps the CDXA should have an evening meeting in Statesville to round up the folks from the northern tier. We'll have to work on that. Hats off to you for inspiring hams to find all they can in the hobby in Winston-Salem. (Is this an idea worth pursuing? Write the Editor with your thoughts. —Editor)

AA4NN Wins Ham-Purity Contest by Default

Joe Blackwell won the "ham-purity" contest on January 24 as announced in last month's Pileup and won a free lunch from the Editor in the process. Joe was 60% ham (40% pure). Nobody else took the test!!!

From the DXCC Field Desk

By Gary Dixon, K4MQG

Most of you DXers probably have at least two new DXCC entities to turn in for DXCC Credit in 2001. The two all time new DXCC entities activated in 2000 were the Chesterfield Islands, TX0, and East Timor, 4W, but credit for these entities could not be counted until October 1, 2000.

These new entities, along with any other cards, can be checked at the Charlotte Hamfest on March 10 & 11. Bring along the proper paper work filled out in advance. Wayne Mills, N7NG/1, from the ARRL Headquarters will be here permitting those cards not field checkable to be fully endorsed.

The Multi-National DXpedition for North Korea, P5, planned for early January was cancelled by the North Korean Military. No date has been yet planned for another operation. Watch the DX bulletins.

The DXAC has received a petition to delete XX9 (Macao) from the DXCC country list, but the ARRL and DXAC have decided to do nothing pending action by the National Amateur Radio Society of Macao which has applied to Region III for IARU Membership Status. It is better to do nothing at the moment. Hang onto your QSLs.

I will be glad to work with anyone to assist them in getting their DXCC QSL's cards checked this year. I am at the weekly Shoney's luncheon in Charlotte on most Wednesdays and would be glad to check cards for anyone. Since I retired on Dec. 31, I can now show up early and leave late. Hi Hi —73, Gary, K4MQG

Three strikes & you're out. WRONG!

The weekend forecast for the NC mountains was the pits—Winter Storm Warning. One member of our group asked, "How do you spell STUPID?" Of course, he was referring to our up-and-coming participation in the ARRL VHF contest (January 20-21). The group, operating as AA4ZZ, consisted of AA4ZZ, K4DXA, K4MQG, W4GRW, W4MW and W4VHF.

Friday afternoon—on Rich Mountain, near Boone—the pulley broke on the 6M foldover tower; the beam was destroyed. STRIKE ONE! But, we arranged for another beam and we got it. Saturday AM we awoke to snow, sleet, cold and fog. No one's crazy enough to put up antennas in these conditions. STRIKE TWO! We did anyway. Then the rotator on the main tower—



The Old Master VHFer, W4VHF, asks "What are we doing here on this mountain top in winter?"

which had been previously checked out—didn't turn. STRIKE THREE! We lowered the tower, gave the cowlings of the rotator a healthy licking, and bingo, it worked? It was frozen.

Guess what? All radios were on the air at the beginning bell and Murphy didn't strike again during the 32-hour event. AA4ZZ logged over 625 QSOs with a slew of multipliers and a score approaching 100K. Thanks to all CDXA members for the QSOs. --- Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF

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CQWW—A Rookie's Story (Cont'd)

contesting a "Radio Sport".

So went the first few hours in the CQWW DX contest. If you have a competitive nature, you should enjoy contesting. It requires skill, strategy, patience, endurance, and most of all, desire. I never dreamed I would like it. My first contest was quite a thrill. I hated contesting, or so I thought. But as the old saying goes, "don't knock it until you try it." After CQWW, I had a totally different outlook on contesting. Now I can hardly wait until the next one. Thanks to the CDXA and an article by N4ZC, I've now found a new love—Amateur Radio Contesting. Give it a try guys, you may be surprised. It's actually a lot of fun. And for all you DXers, I worked 135 entities in 2 days. DXCC in a weekend—AMAZING!!

(Todd produced 943,325 points in his first contest. That resulted in his winning the CDXA Intraclub contest category for Unlimited/Assisted/SSB. FB, Todd, and thanks for sharing your enthusiasm. —The Editor)

The Back Page

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT: On Tuesday, February 13, 2001 at 7:30 PM, the CDXA will host a special event speaker "Mauro", IN3QBR. Mauro has recently returned from Laos where he operated as XW3QBR, and he will speak about that DX-pedition. Mauro will also bring station logs from Laos (XW3QBR, XW3ZNR) and Cambodia (XU7AAY, XU7AAZ) and prepare QSL cards at the dinner for all who worked these stations.

Roger Burt (N4ZC) is organizing the event which will be held at The Woodshed Restaurant, 210 South Main Street, Stanley, NC. Dinner will be ordered from the menu starting at 7:30 PM. Earlier arrivals are okay, but ordering won't begin until 7:30. Please notify Roger by phone or email whether you will be attending. If you cannot attend the event and wish a QSL card, send your log information along with a SASE to Roger Burt to arrive at Roger's QTH before the event. Cards will only be prepared by Mauro while here, so make sure your SASE arrives at N4ZC's QTH in plenty of time.

Charlotte Hamfest Coming!! Don't forget the 2001 Charlotte Hamfest and Computerfair is coming on March 10-11. This is an opportunity to get your QSLs checked for DXCC credit, look for that needed thingamajig, attend forums, get an eyeball on other CDXA members you've only heard about, and join in on the fun at the CDXA dinner party on Saturday evening.

Last Call!! CDXA dues for 2001 are payable NOW. Please remit \$30 to Ken Cannaday at the address shown below.

Coming February Contests

Dates	Contest	Details Available
Feb 3-4	North American Sprint, Phone	February QST, Pg. 111
Feb 3-4	Ten-Ten Int'l Net Winter Phone QSO Party	February QST, Pg. 111
Feb 10-12	North American Sprint, CW	February QST, Pg. 111
Feb 17-18	ARRL International DX Contest, CW	December QST, Pg. 110
Feb 24-25	CQWW 160-meter SSB Contest	January QST, Pg. 99
Feb 24-25	North Carolina QSO Party	February QST, Pg. 112

(Note: For NCQSO, dates incorrectly listed in QST article. Date above correct per website.)

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC
1929 Ewing Avenue
Charlotte, NC 28203

w4nzc@att.net

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W4NZC at once, please.