



# DXers

## Carolina DX Association

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

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Presidential Ponderings

The events of Sept. 11 have struck all of us with the realization that what used to be called "Fortress America" is more vulnerable than we believed. The heroic efforts of the New York firemen, police and EMS workers in the wake of the attack demonstrate how strong the country really is. The Red Cross has seen a tremendous increase in donations both in cash and blood. On September 11, they had 800 donors show up at Park Road and the wait was 5 hours at one point. The Park Road office in Charlotte was still receiving a very large number of donations when I was picking up cards a week after the tragedy. While the attacks were designed to tear America apart, I think they have united us more than I've seen in my lifetime.

On October 13 and 14, a Special Event station will be running from Discovery Place in Charlotte celebrating the museum's twentieth anniversary. Paul Ponak has organized a great event with certificates and QSL cards for those who con-

tact the station during the weekend. Hope to see you in the log. There are still a few operator slots available. See inside for details.

Going forward, CDXA will be holding its annual Barbecue at Frank Dowd's place on Saturday, Oct. 20. Frank lives on Lester Davis Road, off Route 84 east of Weddington, NC. Please advise Jack Guion, [w4jg@carolina.rr.com](mailto:w4jg@carolina.rr.com), of your attendance plans including the number of people who will be attending with you.

Ted Goldthorpe has volunteered to organize the internal CDXA CQWW "Contest Within a Contest" again this year. Further information is printed on the second front page in this issue. Thanks, Ted, for spearheading this event for us all.

The annual meeting in December will feature the election of new officers for 2002. For those of you who would like to participate in the operation of CDXA, here is an opportunity to jump in and get involved.

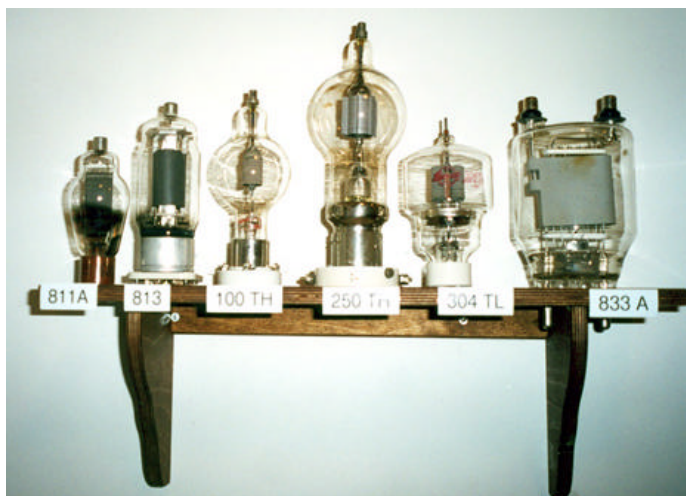
--73, Bill

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)	

## Tubes, Tubes and More Tubes

We have a “movement” in our midst. There is a lot more interest in collecting old radio “stuff” than any of us knew about until recently. Olaf Madsen, KF4TP takes painstaking efforts to restore old radio gear. His work ranges from returning old gear to fully operative status all the way to returning the exterior panels to pristine condition if the “guts” are too far gone.

Frank Dowd also has an interest in restoring some of the wonders of the past. Frank recently brought in a Globe King front panel that had been restored to its original likeness. At the luncheon of September 26, Frank brought along pictures of his collection of old transmit-



ting tubes. One is shown below.

More tubes to be shown next month. Do you know anything about these tubes???. Let us know.

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur’s Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each January. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ken Cannaday, W4NZC  
1929 Ewing Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28203

## West Virginia Members Elect New ARRL Section Manager

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 22, 2001--West Virginia will get a new Section Manager October 1. In membership balloting, Hal L. Turley, KC8FS, narrowly defeated incumbent SM O.N. "Olie" Rinehart, WD8V, 252 to 235. Rinehart has served as SM since 1994.

A ham for 35 years, Turley has been an Official Observer since 1995. He holds an Amateur Extra ticket and lives in South Charleston. His wife, Laurie, is KB8YZU; his daughter, Holly, is N8VUQ. A DXCC Honor Roll member, he's a past president of the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club and a member of the Potomac Valley Radio Club and the **Carolina DX Association**.

Votes were counted August 21 at ARRL Headquarters. All terms are for two years beginning October 1, 2001.

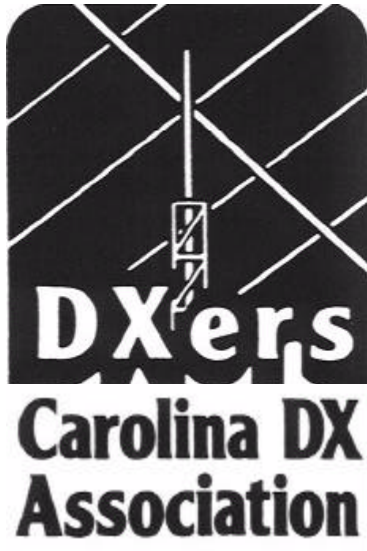
*(Hal's also an avid DXer. In a note to me he tells me he's only missing North Korea and Andaman/Nicobar. Our congratulations to Hal. –The Editor.)*

## Operators Needed - Discovery Place Special Event Station

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, still has a few operator slots for the Special Event station honoring the 20th Anniversary of Discovery Place. These slots consist of a two hour operator session at Discovery Place and are available for Saturday afternoon and Sunday afternoon. The station will be operating from 1000 EDT on Saturday, October 13 to 1600 EDT on Sunday, October 14, 2001. Evening operation will be curtailed with the closing of the museum on Saturday—probably about 1800 EDT.

Discovery place has a Ten-Tec Omni-VI+ HF rig connected through a Hercules II (500 W) linear amplifier to a Mosely Pro-57 Yagi about 90 feet above the streets of downtown Charlotte. A Ten-Tec Pegasus computer controlled radio is also available for PSK31 and CW operation. Six meter, two meter and 440 MHz rigs are available. Paul can advise you what slots are available for those rigs and what plans are laid for their use. If you're a satellite guru, there is even a satellite rig connected to an AZ-EL rotator!!

If interested in helping, give Paul a call at 704-332-1882 or email him at [ad4ie@w4bfb.org](mailto:ad4ie@w4bfb.org).



# The Pileup

## Second Front Page

“The Contest Within a Contest”

**Carolina DX Association & CQ WW DX Contest**  
*.....together again.*

**Phone: October 27-28**

**CW: November 24-25**

Competition is open to all CDXA members participating in the Single Operator Category, within the continental United States. Operating rules—‘The 2001 CQ WW DX Contest’—are presented on page 52 in the September 2001 issue of CQ magazine.

(Or visit the CQ website at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com> for complete details.)

### Categories for both Phone and CW (16 Awards)

#### **UNLIMITED**

*(Scores in excess of 500,000 points)*

Unassisted Champion      Assisted Champion

PLAQUES

Unassisted Runner-up      Assisted Runner-up

CERTIFICATES

#### **LIMITED**

*(Scores up to 500,000 points)*

Unassisted Champion      Assisted Champion

PLAQUES

Unassisted Runner-up      Assisted Runner-up

CERTIFICATES

Copies of Summary Sheets must be received by Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, no later than November 27, 2001 for Phone entries and December 29, 2001 for CW entries. PLEASE, do not fail to list your Club Affiliation: CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION on your Summary Sheet(s). All entries will be posted on the CDXA website and all winners will be featured in future editions of the Pileup. If time permits, the winners of the Phone portion of CQ WW will be honored at the Christmas banquet.

## A5ØA - Bhutan Amateur Radio Club Created

*(This release provided by Dr. Glenn Johnson,  
WØGJ on September 14, 2001)*

October 26, 2001 marks the inaugural day for the Bhutan Amateur Radio Club (BARC).

Amateur Radio was officially allowed in the Kingdom of Bhutan in early 2000 with two DXpeditions: A52A and A52JS together making over 100,000 contacts for this most needed entity. There have been several individuals and group visits to Bhutan since.

Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, a member of the A52A DXpedition, returned in January 2001 for medical work and also taught Bhutan's first amateur radio classes. A total of seven Bhutanese were officially licensed after passing written and Morse exams! The primary purpose of the club is to foster amateur radio interest in the young Bhutanese and also to enable the club members to be active on the air. One other purpose is to promote the understanding of radio communications.

ICOM America has donated an ICOM 756Pro for the club and it will be used as the main radio at the Bhutan Ham Centre for visiting hams. An anonymous donor has donated seven complete stations for the BARC members to check out and use. Mr. Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound, has donated several headsets and accessories. ICOM Japan previously donated an IC-746 during the A52A DXpedition. The A52A team and Dr. Glenn Johnson, WØGJ, have donated several antennas for the club.

The officers of the new club are:

President: Mr. Thinley Dorji; Director of the Bhutan  
Telecommunications Authority (BTA)  
Ministry of Communications

Secretary: Mr. Phub Tshering; Executive Engineer  
of the BTA

Member: Mr. Thinlay Wangchuck; Ministry of  
Trade and Industry

Mr. Yasuo (Zorro) Miyazawa (JH1AJT) and Dr. Glenn Johnson (WØGJ) are Honorary/Founding Members, and have been issued special lifetime callsigns of A51A and A51B, respectively.

To celebrate the formation of the Bhutan Amateur Radio Club, A5ØA will be active as a multi-multi entry in the CQWW SSB Contest October 27-28. A team of

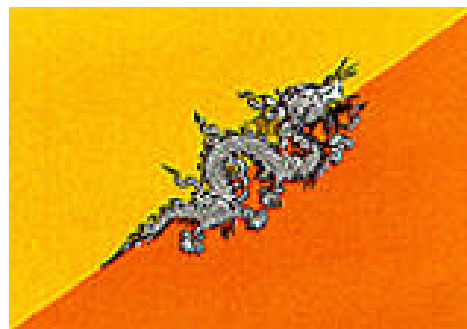
U.S. operators will be helping the licensed Bhutanese hams learn to operate in a contest environment from the Bhutan Ham Centre, operated by Yeshey Dorji, A51AA. Before and after the contest the U.S. hams will concentrate on the low bands, WARC bands and new modes.

Expect A5ØA to be active in future contests and special events in Bhutan. See <http://www.qsl.net/a51aa> for information on visiting Bhutan. U.S. Operators: (October 23 - November 1, 2001) with their Bhutan callsigns in parentheses will be: Dave Anderson, KW4DA (A52DA); Chuck Brady, N4BQW (A52CB); Pat Cahill, NØADQ (A52PC); Glenn Johnson, WØGJ (A51B); Stewart Lewis, WØSHL ( A52SL); Ken Nollet, KØEN (A52ED); Steve Towle, WØHT ( A52ST).

Bhutan Operators are: Yeshey Dorji, A51AA; Kesang Namgyel, A51KC; Parop Kinley, A51PK; Pema Rinzen, A51PR; Dorji Yeshey, A51YL; Wangpo Dorji, A51WD.

QSL via: A5ØA Bhutan Amateur Radio Club  
(BARC); P.O. Box 88; Thimphu, Bhutan

At least two greenstamps required for return postage.



**The Bhutan Flag**

### Planning a Special Event?

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, writes that there is a website which shows 1x1 calls granted for Special Event Stations. It explains the enabling rulings which permit issuance of 1x1 callsigns and lists callsigns used and applied for by date used. These callsigns are issued for use over a period of only about 15 days. The URL for this site is: [ncvec.spindle.net](http://ncvec.spindle.net). Thanks, Paul, for this information.

## VHF Contesting by the Pros!

By now we all know that the AA4ZZ mountaintoppers run a good ship. A large part of their success is station setup. Paul Trotter shared with your editor the basic station setup as shown below in Figure 1.

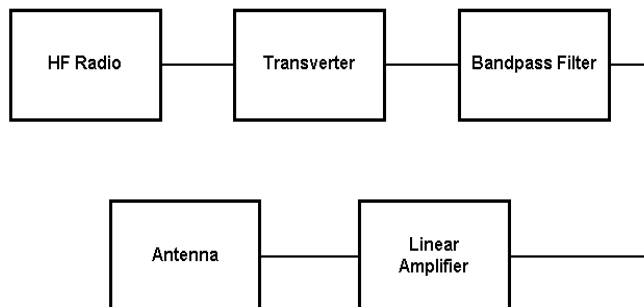


Figure 1 - Basic VHF Contest Station

Most VHF contest stations use a standard HF radio. The reason for that is that multimode transceivers designed for FM and SSB use have fairly broad front ends which would be overwhelmed with all the signals impinging on a mountaintop setting. The conventional HF rig, without FM capabilities is a very sensitive, narrow bandwidth receiver. The transverter translates transmitted and received signals from the VHF contest band to the HF band and is specially engineered to do that well, but at conventional power output levels. The bandpass filter further ensures only the signal of interest for the band being used gets into or out of the transceiver. This is particularly important in VHF/UHF contesting where operations can be simultaneously occurring on 6m, 2m, 1.2m, and 70cm. Again, this is doubly important on mountaintops where line of sight signals are prevalent. The linear amplifier provides punch, and a good beam allows one to really reach out. The 41 foot boom on the 6 meter beam recently put up at the AA4ZZ site, gives the crew a long arm.

We can always tell when a VHF contest is coming up at the CDXA luncheons, because the “regular VHFers” usually have a post-lunch meeting to get all their gear in order. Since most mountaintopping is done from other than one’s home QTH, a VHF contest often seems like a field day excursion. We’ll anxiously await the results of the recent VHF contest by this group. We hear they had another good outing.

## Roving Reporter Visits W1WW

This month the Roving Reporter ventured no further than Rock Hill, SC, to visit with George Felber, W1WW. Your reporter noticed this “One Lander” when he reported his DXCC entity count after last April’s DX listing was published. Born in 1917, I figured George probably had a few interesting anecdotes worth hearing!

**Roving Reporter:** How long have you been “hamming”, George?

**W1WW:** I received my Federal Radio Commission License on July 8, 1933.

**RR:** What got you started in amateur radio?

**W1WW:** An article in Popular Mechanics featured building a homebrew two tube broadcast receiver. Almost everything was “homebrewed” then. One day I was on the high end of the tuning range for AM and I heard a guy calling “CQ, This is W2ART, W2 Amateur Radio Telephone”. He was on 160 meter phone. That kindled my interest in ham radio. I took a few turns off a coil, and found I could tune in 160 meters.

**RR:** What was your first rig?

**W1WW:** A Hartley oscillator using a ’45 tube with about 5 watts input. I don’t recall the full designation, but this tube was an overgrown triode.

**RR:** What was your favorite rig?

**W1WW:** I most enjoyed a war surplus BC610-E driven by a Hallicrafters 32-A transceiver with 750 watts input and a 3 element beam. This put out a fairly decent signal in the 1950’s. The Hallicrafters rig provided a stable source of RF signal and the BC610-E acted as a linear and AM modulator. The BC610-E was notably not a stable RF carrier source!

**RR:** What part of operating do you enjoy most, and why?

**W1WW:** I really enjoy working DX and ragchewing. To me it is a form of relaxation.

**RR:** What is your favorite mode?

**W1WW:** CW. It will always get through, regardless of conditions.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Sonja's Reflections or "Just One More Guidebook, Please"

by Sonja Kennedy, XYL of N4SU

*(Last month's Pileup included a Roving Reporter interview with Dave Kennedy, N4SU. Dave's XYL, Sonja, told the story so well in an April, 1963 issue of QST, that your editor decided to let that story stand of who Dave is. This is the conclusion of Sonja's article.)*

At first the long hours Dave spent in the chummy confines of the ham shack made me wonder if already the happy glow of our life together had worn off. Now, I'm sure this was not the case; instead the "ham bug" was reinfesting Dave with a more intense determination for working all the DX available. As the QSL cards began to arrive from all sorts of far off places, my interest was genuinely aroused. Until this time, the noises and general nuisance value of the contraption seemed to be all that had claimed my attention. Even today, after more than three hundred countries verified, I still am excited when a new card makes the scene. The QSL cards are priceless (to a ham) because they are most always impossible to replace. At first it was a jolt when I realized that when we were transferred, the movers were entrusted with all of our belongings, except the QSL cards and our sterling! Now, we have become so callous as to entrust them with *everything*, except the cards. After all, the sterling may be replaced! Often, I have wondered about the order of removal of valuables from a burning home inhabited by a ham. I surely hope the wife and children would at least be carried out *with* the QSL cards!

Dave was enjoying the combination of antennas provided by the five telephone poles, but then we were transferred to Cleveland, a smaller lot and much nicer house. Sure enough, the antenna designer came up with a great solution! A lovely windmill tower proved to be a tremendous improvement over the scattered poles. It seems I do recall a temporary pole that cracked in two as it was being raised with the help of a nervous winch-truck operator and assorted neighbors. In the spring, when the tower and antenna were in solid operating condition, a slight congestion in the selsyn motor area was detected! A pair of lazy robins had selected that nice cozy spot for a nest. They really had a good thing going as the sun warmed the metal covering and helped to

hatch their eggs, so both Mom and Dad Robin could roam around quite extensively. Dave agreed to permit the birds to raise their young and then planned to remove the nest. A trip out of town delayed the evacuation just long enough for a pair of starlings to move in and get quite settled. The presence of these eggs did nothing to Dave's sense of wildlife preservation, so against the screaming protest of our pre-schooler, the eggs were destroyed and the motor installation made bird-proof!

Aside from the complaints from our neighbors who had become new TV set owners, the ham business was quite calm under the tower. Highpass filters attached to the neighboring TV sets seemed to cool off the complainers. On occasion, though, I was forced to sympathize with Dave because the objectors were unreasonable. Sympathizing with both sides was nerve-wracking, but necessary at times; especially when complaints were raised and Dave happened to be out of town or the receiver had been laid low by a mouse. Yes, indeed, a mouse did crawl in amongst the red-hot wires and managed to get itself fried to a rather vital part of the receiver, which caused an awful mess and ten days of total idleness! Take it from me, the inactivity is much worse than the long hours of operating.

We're happy to be in Cincinnati now, as we have a better antenna location and a roomier house, in that order. While we were renting here for ten months, Dave spent many hours shielding and rebuilding the various gadgets so they would be ready to roar when moving day arrived, or at least shortly thereafter! It certainly was no surprise to me when an additional twelve feet of tower was added in our new location. Now, I shall take Dave's word for it. We have been reminded by an occasional neighbor that this yard contraption is not an ornament, which is true, but it is almost transparent if you look at it that way. On our present ridge, the antenna engineer seems to have been plagued by more "Act of God" types of damage than ever before. Sleet, wind, heavy snow and ice have managed to take their toll; however with a bit of patience and sunshine, repairs are made with a minimum of mumbling and moaning.

When Dave is away I'm in charge of keeping the antenna aimed in the proper direction; into the wind, I believe. This very minor accomplishment is the extent of my operating ability in the ham shack. Perhaps it would be helpful if I were more interested in becoming a steeplejack, because I could climb up the tower and

chase the squirrels from the premises, as I notice they have found another way to build their nest up there. Last fall, Dave squirrel-proofed it, he thought, but evidently this breed of squirrel enjoys chewing wire mesh. On second thought, even if I were adept at climbing the tower, I'm sure I'd be no match for a wire-chewing squirrel.

So, the ham rig may take lots of time; may be a sizeable and continuing investment; may be noisy; may make you feel as if you've lost your charm; may interfere with TV and even a stereo loudspeaker; and of course, may result in cold meals on occasion—these are quite minor in the long run. After seventeen years of being W8BRA's (Dave's old callsign—*Ed.*) XYL, I'm most thankful that Providence prevented me from writing the article I had planned sixteen years ago. I should feel most ashamed today, if I had. Now, I know the symptoms of the "ham bug" bites will mellow as rapidly as the agitation from the XYL decreases. Ham wives have a perfect opportunity for developing skills and enjoying all sorts hobbies, even Ham Radio! No, I'm not a traitor to the YLs and XYLs, I've just found that even a slight interest in the hobby makes it easier to lean with the mad comings and goings in the ham shack. I even find myself referring to the tower as "our" tower. If only there had been a guidebook to help us seventeen years ago, think of all the griping, time and energy I might have saved!

—*Sonja Kennedy*

*(Dave writes.... "Attached is a photo of Sonja and Tom Christian taken on 9 Feb 2000 aboard M. S. Crystal Symphony anchored off Pitcairn Island. I had a VR6TC QSL from 1957 with me, from my W8BRA days in Ohio. We were celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary on that cruise which also included Easter Island." )*



*(Continued from page 5)*

**RR:** What would you say are the most significant changes you've seen in Amateur Radio?

**WIWW:** The change from homebrew gear to all the commercial Japanese radios. We used to build most of our own gear. Today, it's hard to find parts for some of the older radios. After the war, electrolytic capacitors were readily available for next to nothing. With today's solid state rigs, finding a 450 microfarad, 400 volt capacitor to rebuild a tube-type power supply is a real chore.

**RR:** What was your proudest achievement in homebrewing?

**WIWW:** Incorporating a Collins permeability tuned oscillator into my homebrewed driver was the best. I eliminated the need for crystals and still kept comparable stability. Installing it was a real challenge!

**RR:** You've a great grasp of RF electronics. Did you do any of that during WW2?

**WIWW:** No, it's all been self-taught. I was trained as a mechanical engineer at the Newark College of Engineering (NCE) in New Jersey. Interestingly, "Uncle Henry" (N4UH), also a member of CDXA, and I were at NCE at the same time. When the war started I was with American Can Company, and we became a torpedo supplier to the Navy. Involvement with packaging machinery and torpedo manufacture placed me in the "critical skill" category for the duration of the war.

**RR:** When did you start chasing DX?

**WIWW:** I earned my WAC certificate on May 15, 1947. My DXCC certificate, number 530, is dated July 21, 1949.

**RR:** Wow! That was not long after amateurs were allowed to get back on the air following WW2. Thanks, George, for giving us all a glimpse of amateur radio over the years.

*(I'd sure like to get George (WIWW), Dave Kennedy, (N4SU), Henry Elwell (N4UH), Al Guin (W4ZQB), Bob Southworth (KI4YV), and Pete Eldridge (WA4PLR) all in a room with a tape recorder so we could capture about 300 cumulative years of ham radio experience!!! —The Editor)*

## The Back Page

Put October 20 on your calendar for the **CDXA Barbeque**. It will be held at Frank Dowd's place starting at 5:00 PM. Details are on a flyer inside this issue. Reservations required with Jack Guion, W4JG.

The **Contest Within a Contest** is back for CQWW DX Phone and CQWW DX CW. Yes, plaques and certificates will be awarded for 16 lucky winners again this year. Two contests, two categories of entry (unlimited and unlimited), two modes of operation (assisted and unassisted), and winners and runners-up awards provide for many opportunities to get a little "hardware". You must be operating stateside and you must submit your entry to CQ as a member of CDXA. (The idea here is to promote the club score, too!) See The Second Front Page on page 3, inside, for details.

### Upcoming Contests:

Date	Contest	Comments
Oct. 14	North American RTTY Sprint	
Oct. 27-28	CQWW DX SSB Contest	See CQ Magazine Website or Page 113, Oct. 2001 QST
Oct. 27-28	Ten-Ten Int'l Net Fall CW QSO Party	Page 113, October 2001 QST
Nov. 3-5	ARRL CW Sweepstakes	Page 114, October 2001 QST for rules
Nov. 17-19	ARRL Phone Sweepstakes	Page 114, October 2001 QST for rules
Nov. 24-25	CQWW DX CW Contest	See CQ Magazine Website or Page 113, Oct. 2001 QST

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**Charlotte, NC 28203**

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**First Class Mail**

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