



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

As I observed last month, the contest season is upon us. There seemed to be lots of activity during the CQWW Phone Contest. I heard W4YN, K4MQG, W4QA, and K4SLC on the bands working everyone they could hear. The CW portion is the weekend of Nov. 23-24, so I hope we'll have lots of activity then. Be sure to send your summary (text or WORD Document, please) to Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF and to the CQ contest website. Cabrillo files go to ssb@cqww.com and cw@cqww.com. Include your call and the mode in the subject line of your e-mail. Ted is providing a certificate for all CDXA members who make more than 500 contacts and send their logs into CQ identifying CDXA as their club affiliation.

I upgraded to CT Version 9.81 to get the Cabrillo file support for the SSB contest. It worked like a charm on my old DOS 3.1 machine after some initial fooling around to unzip the files on a newer machine and move them over to the antique computer.

W4WNT	Bill Turner	President
W4JG	Jack Guion	Vice-Pres.
K4SQR	Jim Miller	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
-	Lloyd Burt	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Many thanks to Jim Miller, K4SQR, for taking on the task of Secretary/Treasurer for CDXA. That leaves us with a need for a President and Vice President. Please give some thought to running for office, and contact Bob Burton, N4PQX, to discuss becoming a candidate. Many thanks to Jack Guion (W4JG), Ken Cannaday (W4NZC), Joe Simpkins (K4MD), and John Scott (K8YC) for their efforts as officers of CDXA. Always ready with a helpful ear are Ted (W4VHF), Gary (K4MQG), and Bob (N4PQX). As I've said many times before, this club runs on the highly creative efforts of all its members. The President just tries to get a word in edgewise once in a while.

The annual Christmas Dinner and Officer's Election will be held on Thursday, December 12 at John's Restaurant on 2002 Westinghouse Boulevard in Charlotte. Dinner is planned for 7:00 P.M. Please advise Jack Guion of your attendance plans and the number in your party.

Best of luck and conditions in the CQWW CW Contest,

—73 Bill Turner, W4WNT

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)	

Preparing your Contesting Software

Each year thousands of amateur radio contesters struggle with last minute changes to get their contest software “just right” for 0000Z on the appointed day. The reflectors literally surge with questions needing answers as zero hour approaches. Dr. Suess had an all encompassing explanation of this phenomenon. It is very technical, but it may help you as you prepare for CQWW CW.

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port, and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort, and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall, and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM, then quickly turn the computer off and be sure to tell your Mom.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
© Copyright 2002

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:

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

Happy New Year!

I went to the local strip mall last week. It was still October, yet there were signs on the lamp poles announcing “Season’s Greetings”. So, I guess it is not too early to start reminding you that CDXA dues are payable in January each year, and 2003 is no exception. Dues are \$15 per annum if you do not use the Cluster for DX spots or \$30 per annum if you avail yourselves of our Cluster network. As outlined in last month’s Pileup, you can now access the CDXA Cluster via telnet anywhere in the world.

It is more work for our treasurer, Jim Miller, if he must provide a personal invitation to remind you to remit your dues. So give Jim a break and put an item in your New Year’s resolution list to pay your 2003 CDXA dues promptly in January. Jim will even accept your 2003 dues now if you just can’t wait!

Changes to Young Mountain Node

Our two “gurus of the cluster”, Joe (K4MD) and Paul (W3GQ) are forever working on our spotting networks to make things better for you. As reported last month, Joe has made telnet access available to the K4MD node. This is a real plus in contests where a 1200 bit/second RF link sometimes gets overloaded and delays spots.

The Young Mountain node (W4DXA) was particularly prone to slowdowns since data interchange between that node and K4MD was via a 2400 bit/second digipeated link going through N4ZC’s QTH. During contests, queues developing in the digipeater were noted to cause delays as long as several hours. Joe and Paul set out to bypass the digipeater by having a telnet link between Paul’s QTH and Joe’s QTH with a 9600 bit/second RF link from Paul’s QTH to Young Mountain. This capability was operational during CQWW SSB, and Paul reported that there were few or no delays, except for those related to distributing spot activity from the node on Young Mountain to the 1200 bit/second users. If you simply must have improved performance, then consider a telnet link via the Internet to K4MD or moving up to a 9600 bit/second radio and TNC.

On another front, Paul has now made the Buckmaster HamCall database available on the W4DXA node. To display name and address information simply type “SH/Buck <callsign>” at the prompt, and you’ll get the name and address returned if it’s on the Buckmaster CD-ROM.

More on Zone 29 and the South Pole

In the October 2002 Pileup, your editor mentioned that a number of zones meet at the South Pole because of the convergence of the lines of longitude at that locale.

One of our resident checkpoints, Gary Dixon (K4MQG) provided me with the authoritative information on CQ zones as outlined in Section 8 of the CQ WAZ rules:

Antarctic notes:

The boundaries of CQ zones 12, 13, 29, 30, 32, 38 and 39 converge at the South Pole. Stations KC4AAA and KC4USN are at the South Pole, and will count for any one of the listed zones. Most Antarctic stations indicate their zone on the QSL card.

A few stations and their zones are 4K1A 39, 4K1B 29, 4K1C 29, 4K1D 36, 4K1E 29, 4K1F 13, 4K1G 30, 4K1H 32, 4K1J 13, 8J1RL 39, CE9 13, DP0 36, FT-Y 30, HFJPOL 13, HL5BDS 13, KC4AAC 13, KC4AAD 13, KC4AAE 29, KC4USB 32, KC4USV 30, LU-Z 13, VK0GM 29, VP8ME 36; YB8ANT 36, and ZL5AA 30. The list changes frequently. Questions regarding the zone of a particular Antarctic station should be WAZ Checkpoints.

Ed Swiderski in Winston-Salem and Gary Dixon are both WAZ "checkpoints" for the WAZ awards. As I read the above notes, the only location which allows you to choose the zone needed for your award is a station ON THE South Pole such as KC4AAA, but that may help someone! —*The Editor*

A Little Help Needed

By Dick Genaille, W4UW

I'm at a point where I need a couple of more entities to make CW Honor Roll, and I would appreciate any help I can get from some of the ardent DXers among us!

I have seen reports in various publications that indicate upcoming activity in several of the entities I would like to work. If you happen to hear or see any of them spotted, I would appreciate a call at whatever time it is with details. The entities and conditions mentioned:

SV2ASP/A, Mount Athos will be back in the fall/winter season. Don't know if Monk Apollo works CW, however.

FR5KH/J Juan de Nova for the next four months

strictly CW when he makes a side trip from Reunion Island!

ST0F Sudan whose documentation has been approved by the ARRL DXCC desk. This one is shown on the ZS4TX web page and I have sent an email to ZS4TX about a possible schedule.

Thanks for your help, in advance. My phone number is (336) 765-4697. Vy 73 Dick Genaille, W4UW

(See elsewhere in this issue for the ROVING REPORTER's visit to Dick's QTH. —The Editor)



Annual Meeting Dinner

Mark your calendar now for the CDXA Annual Meeting Dinner. The date is Thursday, December 12, 2002. The time is 7:00 P.M.

This year's dinner will be at John's Restaurant on 2002 Westinghouse Boulevard in Charlotte. Entree choices will be Prime Rib, Grilled Chicken Breast, or Broiled Fish. Accompaniments are salad, potato, dessert, and beverage. Price is not to exceed \$15 per person. Alcoholic beverage service is not available at John's.

Election of Officers will be an order of business to be conducted at the meeting. Candidates for President and Vice President are still being sought at this time. Also on the agenda will be the awarding of the winners of this year's "Contest Within a Contest" for CQWW. This is a fun event that is a great chance to renew old acquaintances.



No, I don't collect QSL-cards any more...

Roving Reporter finds Dick Genaille, W4UW

In the September, 2002 issue of the Pileup, some additional members were recognized for DXCC awards other than the basic DXCC/Mixed category. One of those members was Dick Genaille, W4UW, who had appeared in almost every category imaginable. The Roving Reporter was dispatched to meet with Dick to find out more about him.

Roving Reporter: Well, Dick, your presence in many of the award categories suggests you've been at this "hamming" game a long time. When did you first become licensed?

W4UW: The year was 1939, in the late depression years.

RR: Those were pretty lean years. How does one get started in a hobby like ours when money is as tight as it was then?

W4UW: I guess that's some of the charm of ham radio from the beginnings of the hobby. We built a lot of our own equipment. In my case, when I was about 9 or 10 years of age, my aunt gave me the "Book of Knowledge". This book provided a lot of do-it-yourself science projects to encourage kids to learn about science. One of the projects was entitled, "A Crystal Radio Receiving Set". You've probably seen some of those old projects—you know the crystal set where you wind the inductor around a cardboard Quaker's Oats container. Well, I managed to get my coil wound with some well placed assistance from my Dad. With the addition of my galena crystal, I could pick up a lot of the stations around New York City from my New Jersey home. What a miracle! Here's this unpowered crystal set able to pick music and voices out of the air. I used to pull my set out from under the bed after my parents thought I was asleep and listen to the radio stations.

RR: Obviously, your interest didn't end there.

W4UW: That was just the beginning. It wasn't until later that I became a licensed ham. I began "hanging out" at the radio repair shop. Those guys were always willing to answer questions. They gave me an 864 tube so I could build a one tube regenerative receiver. However, as a young boy in the depression years, I found the "A" battery for the filament and the "B" battery for the plate were awfully expensive. So, I built a battery elimi-

nator. I became a Boy Scout and got pretty good with semaphore coding. Unless you were really good, one was usually a sender or a receiver, since as a receiver, you'd see a mirror image of what you'd know as a sender. I was basically a sender, and when I was selected to receive, I copied everything backwards! That interest in code, sparked my interest in ham radio when I got to high school physics. I soon found myself at the FCC office at 90 Church Street in NYC. Yet, I failed that first code test. A friend gave me a homemade superheterodyne receiver which enabled me to hear more code. I took the code test again, and in 1939 became first licensed as W2MRK.

RR: Did you have any contemporaries as hams?

W4UW: Sure. For a while we even had a little "bootleg" net on 60 MHz that we ran for our radio club. We used "callsigns" based on our city, zone, and station number. We shut that down quickly, however when we heard some "officials" on the radio talking about the unusual emissions in our area. That same group used to journey over to Cortland street in lower Manhattan to get radio gear. I bought a Minuteman receiver kit at Eagle Radio—a super-regenerating receiver with coils for 10, 5, and 2-1/2 meters—and was really hooked when I heard a ZL on 10 meters one night.

RR: What was it like operating at that time?

W4UW: Most of the transmitters among my group of friends were crystal controlled. So, you threw out your callsign and then listened up and down the band for someone returning your call. Very few had the same transmit frequencies on their crystals. I guess this would be the first form of operating "split". All that changed with the onset of WWII.

RR: What happened then?

W4UW: The government imposed "radio quiet" for the duration of the war. I recall doing some radio listening on December 7, 1941. I heard a frenzy of calls among some K6's but didn't really get a clear sense of what was happening. I had a date with my girlfriend, and we went to a movie. When we got out of the movie, we learned that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. As it turned out in the years to come, my experience in radio altered the course of my life in many instances.

RR: Could you trace some of those events for us?

W4UW: I had taken some coursework in commercial art after high school. My father was a jewelry designer in Manhattan, and I joined him for a while, but not a lot of people were buying jewelry because we weren't far removed from the depression and there was a war going on. I saw a job listed for an electronic technician at the Western Electric plant in Clifton, New Jersey. They were building SCR274N Military Transmitter / Receiver sets. From a sea of applicants, it was learned that I had some electronics experience. I passed an oral qualifying test and was hired as an inspector. A month after that, I got my "greetings" from my draft board.

I investigated enlisting so I'd have a choice in my military career, and I took and passed the "EDDY" test of the U. S. Navy. This was a qualifier for becoming an electronics technician. I packed off to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to be sworn in. They put a .45 Cal Automatic in my hand and told me to go to Pier 92 on the upper west side to guard the SS Normandy which had been capsized in its berth because of sabotage. I wasn't even issued clothing or a berth, and I was told to go home that first night. You can imagine my family's surprise when their son came walking down the street on his very first day of induction! As soon as things got sorted out, I was directed to go to the Bliss Electrical School in Maryland for radar training. The Commander there was a seagoing officer, and he chafed at the lack of military protocol at this school. As it turned out, I had been a bugler in an American Legion drum and bugle corps. I became the bugler and lent some military polish to flag raisings and lowerings. To return the favor, the Commander gave me my choice of assignments, and I became an instructor of radar technology in Corpus Christi, Texas. I was recommended for the V-12 officer's training program and was sent to SMU and also to the University of Texas. From there I went to San Diego and was preparing to be shipped out when the Japanese surrender occurred. Nevertheless, I was sent to Kwajalein Atoll. Again, as a person with radio experience and a first class radiotelephone ticket, I was singled out to work on the Armed Forces Radio Service as the petty officer in charge of radio station WXLG.

I did have a choice on Kwajalein to stay or go home, and I chose to return home at war's end. I looked to go back to work at Western Electric Company upon my return, but there was a strike going on. When the strike ended, I reported to the Veteran's Reception Center at Western Electric. There were lots of people looking for jobs, but again, because of my radio experience, I received some preferential treatment and was placed in an engineering group writing specifications for telephone exchanges. I convinced

my bosses that my experiences were better employed, and they agreed. That began a 37 year career consisting of field engineer with the USAF, working on navigation and bombing equipment, and with the Army on the Nike-Zeus anti-ballistic missile system. I also engineered communications for U.S. Navy underwater sound detection stations. It is pure coincidence that my callsign has a UW (underwater!!) in it, however!

RR: Wow, Dick, that's quite a string of events hinging on your start in radio as a teenager. With all the gear you've seen and used over the years, what was your favorite?

W4UW: I guess I'd have to put a Yaesu FTDX-400 at the top. It was a radio with which I made the transition from AM to SSB. I bought it in Japan for one-half the price you'd find it for in the USA, and it was always one of my favorites.

RR: One last question. What's your favorite mode?

W4UW: I began with a lot of CW work. In fact, I was an official relay station in the traffic nets. Once I got into phone work, I didn't go back to CW too much. When I needed the tough ones as I neared the DXCC Honor Roll, I pounded the brass however!

RR: When I looked back at the September 2002 Pileup, you had 324 countries on CW. That doesn't seem like you've stayed away from CW too much, Dick. Thank you very much for sharing a little of the history of both amateur radio and our country. I'm sure our readers— young and old—will find it interesting.

Early Results of CQWW Promising

Our "Contest Within a Contest" has at least two primary purposes: (1) spurring interest in contesting as just one more facet of amateur radio, and (2) improving the standing of CDXA in club scoring.

Listening around the Wednesday lunch indicated our internal contest is meeting its goals. Tom Wright (KT4HN) and Duren Johnson (KG4NYV) made their first serious contest efforts and finished with a half million points (plus or minus). Bob Burton and Paul Sturpe were at over a million points each. I heard that "Uncle Henry" (N4UH) had his rhombic "cooking". Best of all, Todd Brady, W4WTB, an admitted contest "newbie" in the February 2001 Pileup, had over 2.5 million points—a fine effort.

The Back Page

There will be no **Pileup** next month as the editor takes his biannual hiatus from deadlines.

Don't forget you still have an opportunity to get a certificate in our annual "**Contest within a Contest**". Work a total of 500 QSOs in either or both CQWW contests (SSB or CW), submit your entry as a member of CDXA to CQ Communications, and let Ted Goldthorpe know your score(s), and a certificate is heading your way. If you're the top scorer in either contest, you will be given your choice of a CDXA embroidered shirt, too.

Dues are payable any time between now and January. Details are on page 2, inside. Jim Miller's address is shown below and in the masthead of the publication on page 2.

Plan on attending the **CDXA ANNUAL MEETING DINNER** on Thursday, December 12. Details are inside on Page 3.

Upcoming contests:

Date	Event	Comments
Nov. 16-18	ARRL SSB Sweepstakes	
Nov. 23-24	CQWW CW	Details on CQ Magazine website
Dec. 6-8	ARRL 160m Contest	
Dec. 14-15	ARRL 10m Contest	

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

k4sqr@juno.com

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify K4SQR at once, please.