

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

Greetings CDXA members....

There are three (3) dates you need to put on your calendar now for upcoming CDXA events

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4PQX	Bob Burton	Vice-Pres.
K4SQR	Jim Miller	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Assoc. Cluster Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

August 28. This is a Thursday evening event at John's Family Restaurant, a few minutes south of Charlotte off I-77 at 2002 Westinghouse Boulevard (about a mile west of I-77). A short cocktail period followed by dinner will precede a timely presentation by Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, on the "African Double Jump" DXpedition to Botswana and Lesotho in which Joe was a participant. The DXpedition is underway as you read this in early July.

October 18. CDXA Barbeque will be held at the home of K4DXA and KE4EHB—Ken and Beverly Boyd. The Boyd's have graciously opened their "ham estate" to us to enjoy this informal gathering of CDXA members.

December 6. CDXA Christmas Party at Red Rocks Café. This establishment was well received for its service and food at the Charlotte Hamfest dinner, and the event this year promises to be its usual fun-filled evening. You'll recall that Red Rocks is much closer to Uptown and should be convenient for most people.

Of course, more will be published on all three events as we get closer to them, but mark your calendars now.

TNX es gud DX.....

Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	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)	

Genaille Ascends Summit, Again!

Back in the November, 2002 **Pileup**, the Roving Reporter visited Dick Genaille, W4UW. In that same issue Dick asked us to call him anytime we had seen a few key entities spotted to enable him to earn DXCC CW Honor Roll status. Shortly after the May, 2003 issue went to press, your editor received a note from Dick that he had in his hands from ARRL a summary sheet showing that he had indeed earned DXCC CW Honor Roll status and that he should expect his Certificate to arrive soon.

Whether it was the “heads up” cry from fellow CDXAers which resulted in his earning the award, I don’t really know. Nevertheless, we’re all happy that Dick attained his goal in his 64th year of being an amateur. The new award sits beside his other two honor roll awards for mixed and phone. Congratulations, Dick, from all of your friends in CDXA!!

Goldthorpe Mines Gold

A “three-peat” in his pocket, Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, is leading the CDXA in ways other than as its elected President. You hadn’t heard? Turn to page 20 of the June 2003 issue of CQ magazine. There, at the top of the Rover heap in the CQWW VHF Contest for the third straight year sits Ted. It goes without saying that Itice, K4LVV, was right there alongside him. His score was only bested by two fixed stations in the all band grouping, and those stations were in the populous Northeast corridor.

Ted operated from only two grid squares, but they were good ones as he amassed 34,034 points. What will you do for an encore, Ted?

A Pilgrimage Recounted

By John Scott, K8YC

Way back in the 1970’s when I first became an amateur radio licensee, my Elmer told me “...you have to go to Dayton. It’s like the Mecca of ham radio.” I had listened and yearned, but had never taken the needed action. I made a modicum of an effort in 2002, but it was too late, and sleeping accommodations anywhere near Dayton were impossible to find. Also, I felt it would be better to make my first “pilgrimage” with someone who knew the ropes.

Enter 2003. At a CDXA luncheon in February, I told Roger Burt, N4ZC, I was interested in going to Dayton and was even willing to drive, but I wished to go with someone who was familiar with the Dayton scene. Rog, thankfully, had a line on a motel that didn’t cost an arm and a leg, and he offered to line up sleeping accommodations. It wasn’t 36 hours before Rog told me we were set for Hamvention week. Along the way, we heard Gary Dixon, K4MQG, was planning on making the trek, but he had a full car already. As always happens, plans change, and before too long, it was Gary, Rog, me, and Mauro (IN3QBR) lined up as travelmates. I was pumped! My first-ever Dayton, and I had some old pros as tour directors. To put some icing on the cake, our itinerary included a visit to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson Air Force base on the Thursday before the Hamvention got underway.

We left Charlotte on Wednesday morning about 7:30 AM which put us in Dayton about 4:00 PM. After a breakfast at the local pancake house on Thursday, we spent almost the whole day at the Air Force Museum. It is a remarkable place, tracing the history of aviation with particular attention to its role in military matters. With the addition of a new viewing area, there are hundreds of thousands of square feet of indoor floorspace. Planes ranging from the “Wright Flyer”, to the XB70, to the F-16A are on display, including a particularly interesting display of many WWII craft used by the Air Corps. An annex holds other planes, displays about aircraft power plants, an Apollo space capsule, and two Presidential planes, including Air Force One used by at least eight Presidents. We left the museum in time for a must-do trip to Mendleson’s--a liquidator whose store is like a four story “ham’s junkbox”. If you can’t find it there, it

(Continued on page 4)

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:

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

ARRL June VHF Contest Happenings

By John Scott, K8YC

The AA4ZZ gang gathered atop the Blue Ridge again for this year's VHF contest. Some antenna work had to be done this spring. You'll recall the picture in the January, 2003 pileup showing the mast of the 6m beam at right angles to vertical after the big ice storm on the Ridge. Yet work did get done, as pictured below, and all



are awaiting contest results.

This year's contest crew (pictured below) consisted of Ken Boyd, Josh Fisher, Emil Pocock, Paul Trotter, Ron Bailey, Roger Webb, and Bill Fisher. Scott Douglass was there, too, but is not pictured.



John Scott decided to give his new mobile rig a try along with a visit to the State Zoological Park in Asheboro. It

started innocently enough with John and XYL Barb (KG4QEN) desirous of providing a few extra QSOs/ Gridsquares for the AA4ZZ gang. When the tour book suggested that one needs at least three hours to properly tour the zoo and only 2-1/2 hours were left in the zoo day, it looked like a trip from FM05 to FM06 (Greensboro) and thence to EM96 (Winston-Salem) was a warranted alternative before returning to our Cornelius home in EM95. (The zoo will wait for another day!) On Sunday morning, when John told XYL he was off for a short trip to EM94 to give AA4ZZ yet another grid square, Barb decided to go along to provide three extra QSOs. Okay, the gang had six more Qs from EM94. Well, what the heck, might as well go "cross country" to EM84 and then up to EM85 near Spartanburg while checking out rural South Carolina roads. Two operators, three bands, and seven grid squares netted the AA4ZZ gang 39 Qs. (Yep, missed a few!). And the odometer had about 400 more miles on it than Friday evening! Are hams wacky, or what?



Paul Ponak, AD4IE, got into the act by going to his chosen spot on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The picture above shows Paul's rig pulling out QSOs from the pileups.

Finally, Bill Turner took to the roads east of his Union County home to give contesters a choice of grid squares in his mobile setup. Rumor has it that when Bill poked his antenna up through the sunroof of his vehicle, the Homeland Security Office got a call from a person that somewhere east of Union County, NC there was a landlocked submarine with a periscope up and peering about the country side, and the person in the "sub" had a microphone to his lips giving out sensitive information via a secure radio link. Wowee, all on a contest weekend.

(Continued from page 2)
probably wasn't made!

Then came the reason I wanted to go to Dayton with someone who knew where to "hang out". On Thursday evening, the DX crowd meets in the lounge of the Crowne Plaza (headquarters of many Hamventioners) to renew old acquaintances. Here I ran into a number of callsigns I recognized from various contests.

On entering the lounge, I noticed Mauro immediately move towards a far window marked by several fellows in brilliant yellow shirts emblazoned with the IH9P logo. This was the gang--Mauro was one of them--who had completed a 53 Million point effort in the Fall 2002 CQWW SSB contest from Italian Africa. It wasn't long before I went over to check things out, and I met a wonderful group that just seemed to grow as more chairs were pulled into the group. It wasn't long before talk of dinner ensued, and riding on Mauro's coattails, our entourage was invited to join the IH9P gang for dinner. What a dinner it was! Following dinner, we were surprised to learn that our "host" was treating us to dinner. In exchange for dinner, we were told we were a captive audience and "had to" listen to his most interesting recount of an underwater collision between a US and Soviet submarine which occurred in the 1960's when our host was a communications officer aboard the US submarine. Even more interesting was the fact that with the thawing of the cold war, our host had been a visitor to St. Petersburg, Russia to meet the submariners from the Russian submarine with which the collision had occurred. That meeting made for some interesting exchanges, as you might imagine. Following that wonderful presentation, we were treated to an audio-visual presentation on the IH9P contest effort. At evening's end, I couldn't believe I had experienced such wonderful events, and the Hamvention hadn't even officially begun!

While driving to the Hara Arena on Friday morning, Roger pulled out the program from the previous year to allow me to get the lay of the land. He explained that Hara was made up of several connected exhibit areas as he passed the map in the program booklet to me. He wasn't kidding, but as I turned the page I saw that the exhibit areas were but a small portion of the hugely expansive flea market area. On the first morning, Roger escorted me to the forum area where we listened to a forum on grounding. He also remained with me for the

presentation, and then he gave me a personalized tour of the layout. I'm glad he did, because I was overwhelmed with the overall size, and it took me the better part of two days to finally get a sense of where I was. During our walking tour, we kept running into old friends of Roger, as well as my Elmer who had returned to Dayton yet again. It was like meeting the "Who's Who of Amateur Radio."

I had been told that the DX and Antenna forums were not to be missed, so Roger and I made our way to the DX forum later on Friday. The forums WERE great. And the surprises were wonderful. In the DX forum, sitting right behind me was Nigel, G3TXF, who had provided me a "new one" from Chatham Island the year before. The antenna forum highlight was seeing the nine-element 160 meter phased array built in a midwest cornfield using nine 105 foot tall Titanex verticals, 30 miles of radial wires, and some 3 miles of 1-1/2 heliax feedline to provide the phasing harnesses. Wow, we hams do operate "on the fringes" at times!

With so many interesting forums, I didn't even get all the time I needed to visit all the exhibitors. I did manage to win an Icom V-8000 VHF radio as a doorprize, buy some needed parts from DX Engineering to dress up my Moxon Rectangle homebrew antenna, and find some needed power connectors for my mobile rig. And you know what, I didn't even get a minute outside to see the huge flea market. Guess, I'll just have to go back next year!!

The Native American Almanac

(Source - Arlene Hirshfelder and Martha Kreipe de-Montano. 1993. "The Native American Almanac - A Portrait of Native America Today" Prentice Hall General Reference. P. 232 - 234. I had read of the WWII CODE TALKERS in Smithsonian several years ago, but was not aware of similar use of Native Americans in the First World War. —The Editor)

WORLD WAR I - CHOCTAW CODE TALKERS

In the closing days of World War I, fourteen Choctaw Indian men in the Army's Thirty-Sixth Division, trained to use their language, helped the American Expeditionary Force win several key battles in the Meuse-Argonne Campaign in France, the final big German push

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

of the war. The fourteen Choctaw Code Talkers were Albert Billy, Mitchell Bobb, Victor Brown, Ben Caterby, James Edwards, Tobias Frazer, Ben Hampton, Solomon Louis, Pete Maytubby, Jeff Nelson, Joseph Oklahombi, Robert Taylor, Calvin Wilson, and Walter Veach.

With at least one Choctaw man placed in each field company headquarters, they handled military communications by field telephone, translated radio messages into the Choctaw language, and wrote field orders to be carried by "runners" between the various companies. The German army, which captured about one out of four messengers, never deciphered the messages written in Choctaw.

During the annual Choctaw Labor Day Festival in 1986, Chief Hollis E. Roberts presented posthumous Choctaw Nation Medals of Valor to the families of the Code Talkers. This was the first official recognition the Choctaw Code Talkers had been given. On November 3, 1989, in recognition of the important role the Choctaw Code Talkers played during World War I, the French government presented Chief Roberts with the "Chevalier de L'Ordre National du Merite" (the Knight of the National Order of Merit), the highest honor France can bestow.

A January 23, 1919, memorandum from the commanding officer of the 142nd Infantry headquarters to the commanding general of the Thirty-Sixth Division revealed some of the code: "The Indian for 'Big Gun' was used to indicate artillery. 'Little Gun shoot fast' was substituted for machine gun, and the battalions were indicated by one, two, or three grains of corn."

The Choctaws were recognized as the first to use their native language as an unbreakable code in World War I. The Choctaw language was again used in World War II. Choctaws conversed in their language over field radios to coordinate military positions, giving exact details and locations without fear of German interception.

(And we thought "Q" signals were cryptic! -Editor)

CDXA Reflector is Working!

On 5/29/03 at 9:10 AM, Bill Tippet wrote, "My TS-930S has developed a problem with the VFO encoder which I understand is a simple fix by realignment using a scope. Unfortunately, I don't own a scope. Does anyone know someone locally who could do this? Prefer-

ably close to Albemarle but Charlotte would be OK?"

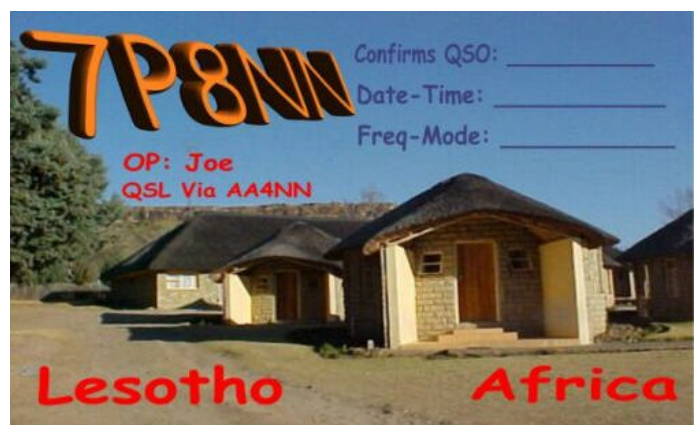
At **9:53 AM** on the **same day**, WB4UNA replied, "Bill, if you take the top and bottom covers off the 930 and turn the radio upside down and look in the middle of the radio, behind and under the VFO knob, you will see two small pots...these are the 2 pots that control the encoder...sometimes you can move these just a little and the problem will go away...you might have to spray a good cleaner on them before you move them...they become dirty and by moving them just a little back and forth you will make contact again and all is well....good luck."

Bill's reply at **10:57 AM** on the **same day** was, "Wow...thanks Randy! That worked like a charm!"

The alternative? Bill could have packed up the gear, sent it to the repair station along with a \$100 bill and maybe he'd get the rig back in two weeks, if lucky. If you've got a problem, try using the CDXA reflector. There's a whole bunch of learned hams out there in CDXA-land waiting to help you.

Botswana and Lesotho Await Your Call

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, boarded a plane on the morning of June 25 with Margaret, headed for the southern end of the African continent for the "African Double Jump!!" He is participating with Fabrizio, IN3ZNR, and Aldo, IK2ANI. Joe's callsigns will be A25NN and 7P8NN in Botswana and Lesotho, respectively. There haven't been a lot of stateside spots for Botswana through Saturday, July 5, so lets hope that operations from Lesotho on July 7-11 will be improved. If you're lucky here's the QSL card you'll get from Joe! (See www.africanjump.org)



The Back Page

Don't forget to look for **Joe Blackwell**, AA4NN, operating as **7P8NN** from Lesotho on July 7-11, 2003.

Got a good story to tell? Send it to the Editor of the Pileup. Summer months are always a little "thin" for news, so why not become a contributing editor? Home address and email address are on the CDXA website in the roster section.

Upcoming **Contest** activity:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Contest</u>	<u>Comments</u>
July 12-13	IARU HF World Championship	April 2003 QST (See: www.iaru.org/contest.html)
July 12	FISTS Summer Sprint - CW	See: www.FISTS.org
July 19-20	CQWW VHF Contest	See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com
July 19-20	North American RTTY QSO Party	See: www.ncjweb.com
July 26-27	RSGB IOTA Contest (CW/SSB)	See: www.rsgbhfcc.org (July 2003 QST, Page 94)
Aug. 2-3	North American CW QSO Party	
Aug. 9-10	Worked All Europe CW Contest	
Aug. 16-17	North American SSB QSO Party	

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First Class Mail

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