



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Annual Meeting/Christmas Party is Around the Corner

Do you recall what you were asked to do in July, 2003? If you did what you were asked, you'll find a circle around the date of 6 December on your calendar marked for the CDXA Annual Meeting/Christmas Party. Yep, December is around the corner, and Bob Burton has set things up for a gala evening at Red Rocks Café. Red Rocks served as our host for the 2003 Hamfest dinner, and everyone enjoyed the event because of the wonderful hospitality shown by the Red Rocks staff and its convenient location.

Social hour will begin at 6:00PM with a cash bar. Dinner orders will be taken at 7:00PM. On the menu are sirloin, salmon, or chicken entrees with salad included. Cost will be \$21 to \$24 per person—tax and tip included. Red Rocks Café is at 4223-8 Providence Road, one block north of Fairview near the corner of Providence and Old Sardis Road. (This is the Strawberry Hill Shopping Center.) If you get lost call (704) 364-0402.

A slate of officers will be proposed for election, and nominations may be made from the floor. Award recognition for "Contest Within A Contest"

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

are expected to be available. Please RSVP to Bob Burton (bob.burton@mckesson.com) with number in your party by November 29 so a headcount can be provided to Red Rocks in advance. Food selection will be made at the event. See you there!



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)	

## Time for Your Dues Payment!!

Yessiree, it has been one whole year since you've paid your dues. Under club bylaws, dues are payable each year in January for the calendar year. Dues are \$30 per year for members who use the CDXA DX spotting network (PacketCluster) or \$15 per year for members who do not make use of the network. Please save our treasurer, Jim Miller, the effort of asking you individually for your dues, and send your dues to Jim any time between now and mid-January.

Dues paying members this year will receive a 3 inch x 4 inch vinyl decal of the CDXA logo. Its just the thing to stick on your car window or bumper to identify you as a CDXA member. Additional decals will be available for \$1.00 each and will be available at the CDXA Annual meeting on December 6, 2003.

Dues money is used for several activities. This past year CDXA donated at least \$500 to several DXpeditions—the people who give us the “new ones”. Prizes have been awarded in our annual “Contest Within a Contest” to encourage participation in contests as a club. This past year you've also seen an improvement in our website to the point that it is now one of the better ham radio websites anywhere. Money is spent as needed to keep the CDXA repeater in Fort Mill on the air, and dues from spotting network users helps to keep our spotting network alive and well. We're fortunate to have the likes of Joe Simpkins and Paul Sturpe donate their time to keep the spotting network humming. And, our hat are off to you—our members—who've agreed to take **The Pileup** via email to save both postage and printing costs so we can increase our support for all our activities without a dues increase.

### 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

## World War II – Navajo Code Talkers

*(In the July, 2003 and October, 2003 issues of The Pileup, were excerpts of an article regarding the Choctaw Code talkers of WW I and the Comanche Code talkers of WW II, respectively. While the Comanche tribal members operated in the European Theater of Operations, the Navajo tribal members operated in the Pacific theater. Here is their story in this final installment of the story about code talkers.)*

The Navajo code played a crucial role in the U.S. victory in the Pacific during World War II. Breaking codes as fast as they were worked out, Japanese cryptographers never broke the code based on Navajo, virtually an unwritten language in 1942. The idea originated with Philip Johnston, an engineer raised on the Navajo Reservation where his father had been a missionary. Worried about U.S. military setbacks because of communication leaks, and confident that few people in the world understood the complex syntax and tonal qualities of Navajo, he suggested that the Marines use the language as the basis for a code. One word, spoken in four different alterations in pitch or tone of voice, had four different meanings. After staging a demonstration in which several Navajo friends transmitted English into Navajo and back into English, the Marine Corps authorized an official program to develop and implement the code. Twenty-nine Navajos fluent in Navajo and English, some only fifteen years old, constructed and matered the Navajo code, which they transmitted in simulated battles. Twenty-seven Code Talkers were shipped to Guadalcanal, while two remained behind to train more Code Talkers.

The Code Talkers devised an alphabet to spell out words for which no code terms could be devised. They used words, many taken from nature, that had logical associations with military terms and names of places. Thus, the code word for observation plane became ne-ahs-jah, or "owl" in Navajo; besh-lo or "iron fish" was the word for submarine. The Navajo word for potato meant grenade and a whale signified a battleship. The Navajo word for America (Ne-he-mah) meant "our mother" and clan names were used for military units. By the end of the war, 411 terms baffled Japanese cryptographers who were unable to decipher a single syllable from thousands of transmitted messages.

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## CWAC—Phase One Down, Phase Two To Go

The annual “Contest Within a Contest”—CWAC for short—is currently lavishing at “halftime” in football parlance. With the completion of CQ World Wide Phone contest on October 25-26, we now await CQ World Wide CW contest on November 29-30. As of November 8, fourteen members have submitted their scores to the club for a total of 10,980,665 points. We’re trying to surpass last year’s point total as a club for both contests of 17,364,657 points. As you can see, we have our work cut out for us. If you worked the Phone contest please report your claimed score to Paul Sturpe, Chairman of CWAC for 2003.

Score over 250,000 points combined for both contests and submit your score on behalf of CDXA, and you are *guaranteed* a prize of at least a tee shirt. What could be better than that? Score a million or more and you will win a CDXA sweat shirt or pinpoint oxford shirt. Take a first place in the club and you’ll win a sweater vest. Details and rules can be found on the CDXA website at [www.cdxa.org](http://www.cdxa.org). See you in the pileups!!

## Logbook of the World Blossoms!

By John A. Scott, K8YC

Logbook of the World (LoTW) is showing signs of continuing early success based on statistics available from the LoTW website. As of Saturday, November 8 there were 21,170,459 QSO records submitted by 4,114 registered users submitting 14,628 user files. Matches performed by the system resulted in 363,970 QSL records. That’s about 88 matches for each registered user. As the number of registered users increases, the likelihood of QSL matches for all records submitted will no doubt increase even more.

Submitting log data is free for anyone, anywhere in the world. It is only when you choose to apply QSL “matches” to your DXCC or WAS records—a capability still in development—that a fee will be incurred. ARRL has indicated the fee will be on a sliding scale of \$.25 per credit used down to \$.15 per credit used in higher quantities.

I’ve heard grumbling in some quarters about the expense of LoTW. I don’t comprehend this viewpoint. If you want a fast reply and send out QSLs direct with an IRC or “greenstamp” included, the cost to you is \$2 to \$3 per

mailing with no guarantee of a reply. If you get three replies for every four QSLs sent out, the cost per QSL actually received in return ranges from \$2.67 to \$4.00! Contrast that with a maximum of \$.25 for each QSL credit applied from LoTW. That’s why I’ve been enclosing a little note explaining LoTW to all foreign hams with QSLs I’ve sent out lately.

My guess is that testers will applaud LoTW. While my experience is that testers are among the most reliable when it comes to QSLing, I am sure QSL activity is secondary to “THE CONTEST”. Imagine how nice it might be to say “QSL only by LoTW” and know that all QSL concerns are over once you submit your logs to LoTW! Perhaps in time ARRL will join forces with some of the other national radio amateur organizations such as JARL, URE, and DARC so that LoTW is universally recognized as a worldwide resource.

## Members in the News

If you keep your eyes open, you’ll find that CDXA members are quietly going about their business contributing their skills where needed. When your editor picked up the November 2003 issue of *QST* there was not one, but two, CDXA members cited in that issue.

On page 46 Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, authored an article entitled “**Two Bands from One Dipole**”. Marc’s article discusses dual band dipole design using no traps or coils—just the thing for your WARC band needs, huh? You might even be able to talk to the author in a local phone call if you have a question, since Marc lives in Rock Hill, SC.

Flipping over a few more pages to page 62, I spotted the familiar face of Mary Holtschneider, KG4OQA, pictured in her role as Wake County Assistant Emergency Coordinator during last winter’s ice storm. The article was about emergency communications. You may recall that Mary was the winner of CDXA’s giveaway prize of the **DXing 101** book at the 2002 Charlotte Hamfest. The book was awarded to the newest/youngest licensee of amateur radio who entered our contest. In the February 2003 issue of *The Pileup*, we reported that Mary had authored an article in the *SERA Repeater Journal* on emergency communications. She obviously has identified her passion in amateur radio as evidenced by her rise to the position of Assistant EC for Wake County in so short a time.

### CDXA Barbeque - 2003 Style

Here are some snapshots of the recent CDXA barbeque. Your editor had a long-standing commitment away from Charlotte and thus was not in attendance. Therefore, some of the captions on the pictures are his interpretations of what was happening at this event.



Left to right: Joyce Burt (Roger's XYL), Karen Taylor (Bill Taylor's (sk) XYL), Itice Goldthorpe, Norma and Jim Miller arrive to join in the fun.



Margarett Blackwell, Ida Williams, Dick Williams, and Joe Blackwell warm up to the occasion.



"Hark, I think I hear the dinner bell ringing," says Rick Porter, AA4SC, to Jim Miller. Rick, a caterer for this and many of our previous events, had fed everyone quite well by the event's conclusion.



"Yoohoo, Itice, don't look now, but it's sock-it-to-you time!" C'mon Gary, she's not even looking.



Ken Winston (WA4OBO) has an audience with Bill Turner (W4WNT, left) and Scott Douglass (K2SD, right) about happenings around his radio shack.



Roger Burt, Jack Guion and Don Daso enjoy their refreshments in the group to the left oblivious to the fact that Gary Dixon (K4MQG) is casting a spell on Bob Burton while Bob's XYL, Wanda, and Itice Goldthorpe look on in awe.



An unsuspecting John Lambert (N4ZX) and Rick Porter (AA4SC) are unaware that Gary Dixon has changed his colors and is on the prowl for yet another "victim".



Mac Wood (W4PVT) and his XYL and Hal Bouton (N4QT) and his XYL get to know each other.



Josh Fisher ( W4WJF), Bill Fisher (W4GRW) and Bill Turner (W4WNT) muse over their recent VHF mobile contest operations.



Bob Burton (N4PQX) and Wanda appear completely normal after Gary cast his spell, (See photo above) but Josh Fisher (W4WJF), looking on from the background, is not quite so sure.



Club President Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF) surveys the assembled multitude at evening's end and declares "all is well". Hope you all had a great time!

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Eventually, some 400 Navajos served in the Code Talker program. Assigned to the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Divisions of the U.S. Marines, they served in many campaigns in the Pacific theater, usually in two-men teams conversing by field telephone and walkie-talkie to call in air strikes and artillery bombardments, direct troop movements, report enemy locations, direct fire from American positions, and transmit sensitive military information. At Iwo Jima, the Code Talkers immortalized themselves. To capture the island, the entire military operation was directed by orders communicated by the Navajo Code Talkers. During the first forty-eight hours, while the marines landed and consolidated their shore positions, six Navajo radio nets operated around the clock. They sent and received more than 800 messages without error. When the marines raised the flag on Mount Suribachi, the Code Talkers relayed the message in the Navajo code: "sheep-uncle-ram-ice-bear-ant-cat-horse-itch."

In 1992, the Pentagon honored the Navajo Code Talkers with an exhibit that documents the history of the code. Back in the Gallup-McKinley Chamber of Commerce, a "permanent home" houses historic photos, posters, trophies, radios, and other valuable items. Phoenix, Arizona boasts the nation's first permanent tribute to the Code Talkers, a fourteen-foot sculpture by Doug Hyde, of a young indian boy holding a flute in his hand. Called on to participate in public ceremonies and parades country-wide, the Navajo Code Talkers have been honored in books, films, curriculum materials, and by a beautiful recording "Code Talkers" sung by Vincent Craig, the son of Bob Craig, a Code Talker in the Marine Fifth Division.

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.



## Progress Energy reaches out to hams on BPL

By Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Wake County ARES PIO

Amateur Radio operators are seriously worried about BPL—Broadband Internet over Power Lines—and the interference potential it holds for High Frequency (and low VHF) operation. In the southeast, Raleigh NC based Progress Energy (formerly CP&L) has responded to many calls and e-mails from concerned hams by contacting several local Amateur leaders and beginning a dialog that will include Amateur Radio in their BPL testing.

In October, Progress Energy network engineer Bill Godwin met separately with Wake County ARES EC Tom Brown, N4TAB, and me, and talked by phone with Technical Specialist Frank Lynch, W4FAL. The meetings were friendly. Godwin wanted to know more about Amateur Radio, what we thought our problems with BPL might be, and who in the Amateur community he and Progress Energy should work with. They are hearing from a lot of us, and needed to define a point of contact. In addition to those above, we identified North Carolina Section Manager John Covington, W4CC, and ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, as a core group for Progress Energy to work with. Godwin set a positive tone by promising that we would be part of the next phase of testing, to begin early in 2004 in Wake County, NC.

Tom Brown N4TAB had the initial meeting with Godwin (and Chris Funari, another Progress Energy engineer). He said that they both had a basic understanding of the interference potential that BPL might cause to Amateur Radio. They discussed some of the regulations that BPL operates under, and the makeup of the Amateur Radio community. Brown introduced some ideas that Godwin and Funari hadn't considered yet, like the possibility of interference from hams to the BPL system in the ham's neighborhood. Mostly, though, it was an initial meeting designed mostly for the people to get to know each other.

When I met with Bill Godwin two weeks later, we talked a little more about how BPL might affect Amateur Radio. I gave him a brief overview of the spectrum that BPL covers, noting that it is literally the *entire* spectrum available for worldwide ionospheric propagation. I

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showed him where Amateur Radio bands fit in that spectrum. And we tuned the bands a little.

We looked at the bottom of my cordless phone, and read the Part 15 language about how unlicensed devices “may not cause harmful interference” to licensed services. Then I tuned in some weak signals on 20 meters, and I asked what “harmful interference” would be: making the signals slightly harder to hear? Difficult to hear? Impossible to hear? It was a good example of the difference between “meeting specs” and the real world. BPL hardware vendors say their systems “meet specs.” But they don’t warn customers (like Progress Energy) about what real interference their systems can cause.

Godwin asked about notch filters. I explained that notching the ham spectrum might work in a limited sense, but it wouldn’t protect other services like shortwave broadcast listeners, aviation, etc. And it wouldn’t protect bands that ham radio might get in the future. I mentioned the example of the “HomePlug” system that uses home power lines as a local network. HomePlug is a form of BPL that radiates RF across the HF spectrum, and initial units caused considerable interference in the home where the device was installed, and in neighboring homes. The company worked with the ARRL to develop reasonably effective notches that limit interference in the ham bands, but that was before our new allocation at 5 MHz. HomePlug continues to interfere with 5 MHz reception and other short-wave reception.

### **Phase I and II Tests**

Progress Energy completed their Phase I test in the Wakefield area of north Raleigh early last summer. Phase I was designed to give their engineers experience with the hardware, and let them know if it really worked. From their perspective, it worked well—computer users got better than expected connection speeds. Amateur Radio was not involved in that test, and no Amateur Radio interference monitoring was conducted. But they have been hearing from hams steadily, and stridently, ever since.

Phase II is planned for the end of the year and early 2004. It will be a larger test, somewhere in southern Wake County, though the location wasn’t final as of this writing in early November. The test will focus more on marketing than technology, but hams will be invited to participate, and their interest will be technical.

Both Phase I and II tests involve mostly underground wiring. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare’s testing in areas with underground wiring showed that substantial interference still occurred, though above ground wiring was

worse. Progress Energy is testing a system manufactured by Amperion. None of the four trial systems that Ed Hare observed initially were using Amperion equipment, but he has since visited one Amperion test site, and noted strong interference. Amperion uses the same core hardware as another BPL equipment provider, Ambient, that was part of the original test. Hare’s test of an Ambient system showed very serious interference.

In late October, the town of Manassas, Virginia, announced the full commercial rollout of their BPL system, making it the first to move from trial to the market. The town owns the power system, and is subcontracting the operation of the BPL Internet distribution. The ARRL has warned the town government that interference to Amateur Radio operation is contrary to Part 15 regulation, and will not be tolerated.

Amateurs in the territory served by Progress Energy now have a cordial, official relationship with the company. But even with a friendly start, what might happen in the future is not clear. The ARRL considers BPL to be a fatally flawed technology that is not needed in the marketplace. Progress Energy has not committed to a BPL rollout, but if their management determines that it will be a profitable product, we can expect them to want to implement it. If tests show that interference to the radio spectrum (and Amateur Radio) is the only significant problem, the company is not promising to abandon the product.

Should hams stop contacting Progress Energy with questions and comments about BPL? No, not at all. The company needs to know that the concern is widespread. However, if you have a question or comment about Amateur Radio participation in testing BPL with Progress Energy, you should contact Tom Brown N4TAB (n4tab@arrl.net) and Frank Lynch W4FAL (w4fal@sera.org). If you have a press or public relations oriented comment, contact me (kn4aq@arrl.net). And for lots more information about BPL and Amateur Radio, visit the ARRL web site: [www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/)

*(Special thanks to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, for sharing this piece with Carolinas amateur radio club newsletter editors so that we may all stay abreast of BPL developments.)*

## The Back Page

There will be no **Pileup** published in December so that the editor can perform his holiday shopping and do his part in helping the economy to recover. (Actually, the **Pileup** is not published in June and December, but how exciting would that announcement be for all of you?)

Get your keyers and “bugs” dusted off and adjusted for the CQ World Wide CW contest coming up on November 29-30. This is your opportunity to work two contests in one. The annual “**Contest Within a Contest**” (CWAC) has some great awards this year—guaranteeing at least a tee shirt for earning 250,000 points or more scored on behalf of CDXA. See inside on Page 3 for details.

Please pay your **dues** between now and January 1, 2004. Want to know how your dues are used? See inside on page 2 for dues amounts and how your dues are used to support club activities. Want to know where to send your dues? See Jim Miller’s address below!

Upcoming contests:

Dates	Contest	Comments
Nov. 29-30	CQWW CW	Win a shirt as part of CWAC!
Dec. 5-7	ARRL 160m	Get that inverted-L and Beverage ready
Dec. 13-14	ARRL 10m	Now we’ll see how well 10 meters is holding up.

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**k4sqr@juno.com**

**First Class Mail**

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