The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The Carolina DX Association

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Tom Wright	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

Welcome to 2004……

Our club, by most measurements, had a very good year in 2003. Our membership increased, our in-house communications increased, our events increased in numbers and our financial participation in DXpeditions increased. A good year for sure, but that was last year and this is this year. What are we going to do in 2004? More of the same and do it better! Not a real complicated formula for success….just keep on, keeping on, but do it better.

My sincere thanks go out to all those who helped in 2003 in making this a better organization. A special thanks to Bob Burton (N4PQX)—past President and 2003 Vice President—who has passed the microphone to Thomas Wright (N4HM), our new CDXA Vice President. Tom is very active (on-the-air) and will bring bunches of enthusiasm to this position. Also, we're pleased to have back as Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Comtek Systems, Jim Miller (K4SQR); the best Newsletter editor in the land, John Scott (K8YC); and the most capable packet team, Joe Simpkins (K4MD) and Paul Sturpe (W3GQ). Finally, as previously mentioned, our webmaster guru, Wayne Setzer (WB4BXW) will be at the helm for another year. A great team, to be sure.

I really encourage all members to sign-up for the CDXA Email system:

< http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/cdxa >.

This is a major tool for keeping intouch. Please, this is IMPORTANT. – The Charlotte Hamfest (March 13th and 14th) and CDXA party will be here before you know it; more on that later. Also, we're planning—as mentioned last year—to field a top notch Field Day team for 2004. Lastly, and I know you're tired of hearing it, but we need pictures of YOU at your rig (or) at your tower (or) just sitting in front of your PC to put in our up-and-coming website picture gallery.

Thanks, Happy New Year es gud DX,

Ted Goldthorpe – W4VHF
President

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)	

UP TWO—Adventures of a DXpeditioner

A book review by Don Daso, K4ZA

By now, you've probably seen the ads for Roger Western's (G3SXW) book published by Idiom Press earlier this year. I dipped into it at Dayton, then I acquired a copy a while ago. It's a quick read, but worth your time, nonetheless.

As DXers, we learn early on about maps, far-distant locations, other cultures, and perhaps, if we're lucky, some of us even travel a bit ourselves. Roger was fascinated from an early age with foreign things—language, culture, maps, history, and it wasn't long before he was equally taken with radio propagation. Interestingly enough, his career required overseas travel, and it wasn't long before the two became intermingled.

Roger has traveled to 22 countries over the past 35 years. This book is a collection of stories "about" those trips, with the attendant successes and some follies all thrown in. I say "thrown in" because I, for one, wished the book had been edited better, that some structure or organization was present to bind the stories together. The book suffers from jumping back-and-forth in time, but it's perfect for dipping into at random.

And, having worked Roger dozens of time (along with best pals Nigel, G3TXF, Vince, K5VT, Wayne, N7NG, and others) from several of these places, in countless contests, I simply overlook such reactions, and enjoy the stories as presented. And those QSLs look good on the wall, too!

Maybe you received a copy in your stocking? If so, enjoy the read. And, new operators can (and should) take to heart the instructions given on "Working a Pileup" included in the final chapter.

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association

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

Heard on the Bands….

The item below was recently provided by Paul Ponak (AD4IE):

> I just listened to a W9XS/bicycle mobile break a pile-up to contact VK3MO. W9XS in Illinois (while breathing hard) was running an Icom IC-706 into a 102 inch whip (tuned) and powered by a 30 amp-hour gel cell. (Sounds like one of the wheelchair batteries that I use). The QSO was on 14.197MHz at 2040Z on December 24, 2003. I missed the temperature in Illinois, but W9XS said that he was wearing 12 volt electric socks to help keep warm.

Heard by John Scott, K8YC, at about 2230Z on January 3, 2004 shortly after hearing Hal Bouton, N4QT, work KH0/JA1KAJ. To protect the "innocent", lets give the U.S. ham the fictitious call of W6xxx:

> W6xxx: This is W6xxx in California.
>
> KH0/JA1KAJ: W6xxx, 59.
>
> W6xxx: Thanks, you're 56 in California. Where are you located?
>
> KH0/JA1KAJ: In the Marianas Islands.
>
> W6xxx: Oh, that explains it, you're off the back of my beam. You can write down 59, then. What is your callsign?
>
> KH0/JA1KAJ: Callsign is KH0/JA1KAJ
>
> W6xxx: That's too fast for me old man. Please give it to me slower.
>
> KH0/JA1KAJ: *(Silence for about 10 seconds.)* This is KH0/JA1KAJ, QRZ

I wonder if he ever got the callsign…???

Dues May Now be Paid for 2004

Annual dues for CDXA are now payable. If you use the spotting network, please remit $30. Otherwise the dues are $15 per annum. Of course, if you'd care to remit any greater amount to support DXpeditions and the like, your contribution will be gratefully accepted. Dues may be remitted to:

Jim Miller
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

CWAC Results for 2003

By Paul Sturpe, W3GQ

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2003 Contest Within A Contest (CWAC). We had 26 participants with a combined total of 17,943,624 points. This is an all time high for the club! If you have not yet submitted your score to CQ magazine, please do it now! Attach your log file, in Cabrillo format and send SSB scores to ssb@cqww.com. CW scores go to cw@cqww.com. In each case, the "Subject" line of your email should contain your CALLSIGN and MODE, eg "W3GQ CW".

If I have not contacted you to obtain your shirt size, please contact me, sturpe@charter.net or W3GQ, Paul Sturpe, 8860 Peninsula Dr., Terrell, NC 28682. Also, please notify me of any errors or omissions in the following awards.

THE FOLLOWING PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED

The following winners will be awarded a fine gauge sweater vest from Land's End, embroidered with the CDXA club logo and their callsigns.

Category	Score	Winner
Special DXpedition	3,930,240	Steve Reichlyn, 4X/AA4V
First Place Combined Phone/CW	3,251,471	Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
First Place Phone	1,625,678	Bob Burton, N4PQX
First Place CW	1,126,510	Joe Blackwell, AA4NN

For a combined score of 1,778,810 points, Steve Sullivan, KZ2I will be awarded a long sleeve pinpoint oxford shirt from Land's End, embroidered with the CDXA club logo and his callsign.

For a combined score of 1,026,528 Dick Williams, W3OA will be awarded an 80/20 fleece crew sweat shirt from Land's End, embroidered with the CDXA club logo and his callsign.

For a combined score of 925,238 points, Duren Johnson, KR4M (ex KG4NYV) will be awarded a short sleeve super tee shirt from Land's End, embroidered with the CDXA club logo and his callsign.

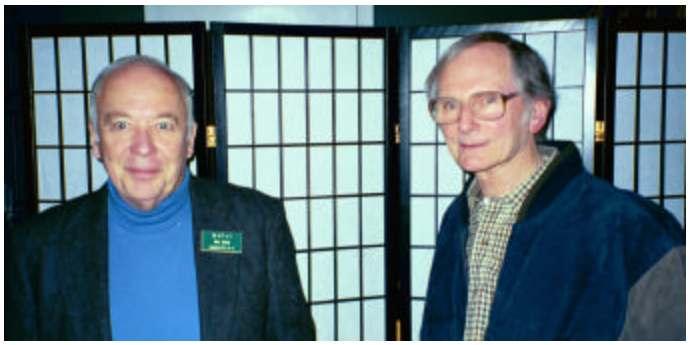
For a combined score of over 250,000 points, the following people will be awarded short sleeve tee shirts, from a local supplier, imprinted with the club logo.

Member	Callsign	Score
Carl Smith	N4AA	498,483
Roy Lincoln	WA4DOU	432,696
Ben Wasilauskas	K4GHS	369,831
David Walker	K0COP	345,984
Rodney Harper	W4SI	328,482
Steve Reichlyn*	AA4V	328,482
Robert Scott	WR3Y	303,797
Pat Patterson	N4BH (Ex: KB4WPL)	292,414
Scott Douglass	K2SD	286,878

* Also receives a special DXpedition Award, see above

Holiday Images

Even though the **Pileup** is not published in December, that doesn't mean CDXAers aren't doing things. An early Saturday in December found some of us at the CDXA Annual Meeting/Christmas Party.



At Red Rocks Cafe, Mac Wood (W4PVT) and William Culpepper (W4BZ) find out what each other has been doing during 2003.

Above, CWAC certificates were award to those present. Below, the Bouton's and the Sturpe's celebrate the Holiday season while Paul and Hal carefully avoid talking too much ham radio.

Newly-elected VP Tom Wright, N4HN, and Bob Burton, N4PQX, Outgoing VP and Past President discuss the duties of Tom's new Vice Presidential duties. Bob served as President of CDXA for 2 years, then nominating committee chair for two years before serving as VP in 2003.

At an unnamed "haunt" in Charleston, SC, Ken Boyd, Jim Miller, Ted Goldthorpe, and Steve Reichlyn talk about antennas and Steve's recent DXpedition to Israel for CQWW SSB. Steve can tell you the advantages of having antennas near saltwater as attested by his DXCC entity counts, and particularly his 160 meter totals. Pictures of Steve's antennas on Isle of Palms have recently been featured on the CDXA website.

Where Do the K and A Indices Come From?

By Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

*(From time to time the question comes up as to just how the **A** and **K** indices of radio propagation are determined. In the October 2003 issue of* **World Radio,** *Carl Luetzelschwab, contributing columnist, provided an authoritative answer. Carl has graciously provided us the permission to reprint his article here. He also graciously provided the supporting graphics.)*

The K and A indices are readily available parameters (for example, they're given at 18 minutes past the hour on WWV) that can give us an indication of how the high latitude ionosphere might be affecting propagation. Let's take a look at where the K and A indices come from to hopefully gain a better understanding of these important propagation parameters.

K	nT
0	0-5
1	5-10
2	10-20
3	20-40
4	40-70
5	70-120
6	120-200
7	200-330
8	330-500
9	>500

Table 1: K versus nT for Boulder, Colorado

It all starts with the K index. The K index is a 3-hour measurement of the variation of the Earth's magnetic field relative to quiet day conditions. The K index is determined from the data taken by a magnetometer, which measures the variation of the magnetic field in nanoTeslas (nT). Table 1 shows the nT range versus the K index for the mid latitude Boulder (Colorado) magnetometer.

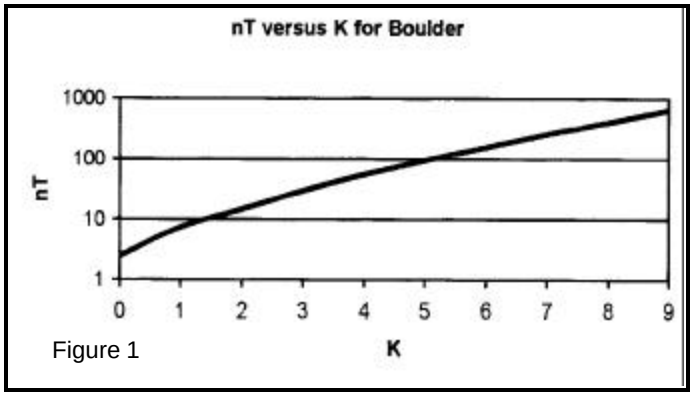


Figure 1

If we plot nT (using mid range values of nT) versus K, we get the plot of Figure 1, shown below.

Note that nT is plotted on a logarithmic scale and that the curve is almost a straight line. Since it isn't *exactly* a straight line, the K index is said to be quasi-logarithmic.

Before moving on, an important comment is in order. Each station has its own scale of nT versus K. This is done to try to make the K index from each station represent the same level of disturbance. For a given disturbance, the variation of the Earth's magnetic field will be greatest at the high latitudes. Thus at the high latitude College (Alaska) station, a K index of 9 is a variation greater than 2500nT. At the low latitude Kuyper (Sumatra) station, a K index of 9 is a variation greater than 300nT. Compare these nT values with the mid latitude Boulder nT value at K=9 in Table 1.

Now let's look at a magnetometer record (which is called a magnetogram) to see how the K index is determined. Figure 2 is a snapshot of the magnetogram from

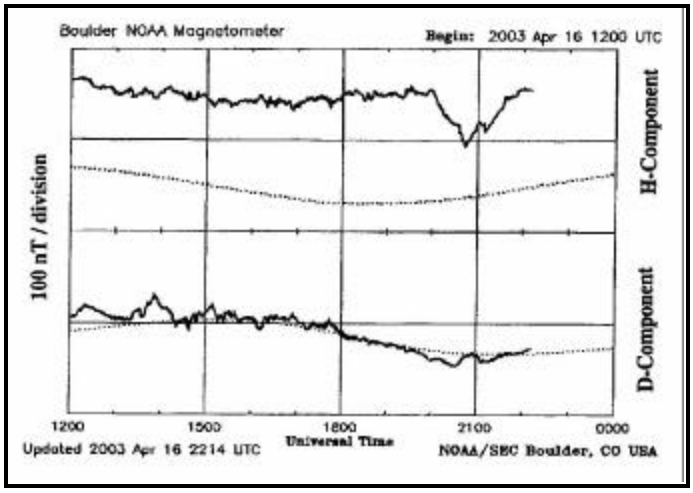


Figure 2: Boulder Magnetogram

Boulder on April 16, 2003 (thanks to Dr. Christopher Balch at NOAA/SEC).

The solid line at the top of the plot is the variation of the H-Component (vector horizontal component) of the magnetic field. The dotted line about one vertical division below this solid line is the quiet day curve for the H-Component.

The solid line at the bottom of the plot is the variation of the D-Component (magnetic declination) of the magnetic field. The dotted line running almost concurrent with this

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solid line is the quiet day curve for the D-Component.

The K index for any 3-hour period is determined by first finding the maximum positive and negative deviations of both components relative to their respective quiet day curves. Next these are added together for each component to determine the maximum fluctuation of each component. The component with the largest fluctuation is used to determine the K index. In the 1200-1500 UTC period of Figure 2, for example, the D-component exhibits the maximum deviation from the quiet day curve. This is easiest seen by mentally overlaying the H-component quiet day curve on the H-component data, and noting that the H-component varies less about its quiet day curve than the D-component.

The maximum positive deviation for the D-component is +35nT around 1350 UTC. The maximum negative deviation is –10nT around 1440 UTC. The maximum fluctuation is therefore (+35nT) – (-10nT) = 45nT. Going to Table 1 says the K index for this period is 4, which is what Boulder reported. In a similar manner, the K indices for the other seven 3-hour time periods can be determined. Note that the magnetometer only measures the deviation from a quite day curve, not an absolute value.

Now we have eight K indices for the entire day, and we'd like to come up with an average for the entire day. Since the K index is logarithmic, mathematically we shouldn't simply add all eight K values and divide by eight to get an average. To do averaging, we need indices that are linear. This is where the A index comes in.

K	a	nT
0	0	0-5
1	3	5-10
2	7	10-20
3	15	20-40
4	27	40-70
5	48	70-120
6	80	120-200
7	140	200-330
8	240	330-500
9	400	>500

Table 2: a versus K

Table 2 shows the conversion between the K index and the a index (the little 'a' indicates it's an equivalent 3-hour value – a big 'A' indicates it's a daily average value).
If we now plot nT versus the a index we get Figure 3, shown in the next column.

Note that nT is now plotted on a linear scale and that the resulting curve is for all intents and purposes a straight line. Thus the 3-hour a index (and the subsequent A index) is said to be linear.

Now we can simply add the eight 3-hour a indices, divide by eight, and come up with a daily average – which is the A index. We can also do this for many worldwide stations and come up with the daily average planetary A index, Ap. In a like manner, we can use many worldwide stations to come up with the 3-hour planetary K index, Kp.

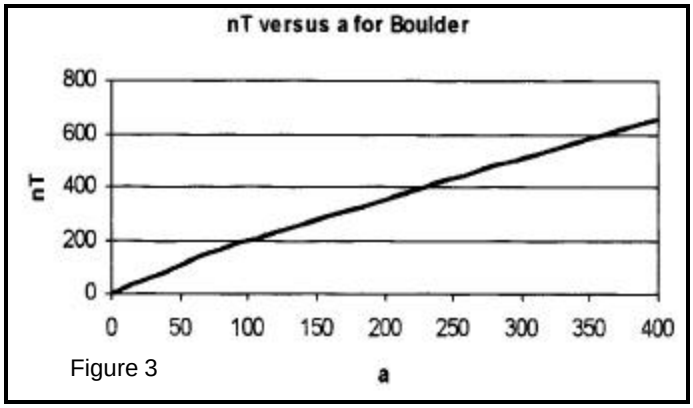

Figure 3

OK, now we know where K and A come from. But how do they tie to HF and VHF propagation conditions? In general, as the K and A indices become elevated:

1. The high latitude E region ionization can increase significantly (VHFers like this)
2. Increased D region absorption can occur in and near the auroral oval (not good)
3. Usually the F region ionization at mid and high latitudes decreases (not good)
4. Sometimes, depending on how the geomagnetic storm evolves, the F region ionization at low and mid latitudes increases (this can be good)

The extent to which the above events occur on a specific path is hard to pin down. It depends on the geomagnetic storm itself, the geomagnetic latitude along the path, the level of solar activity, the season, and the local time along the path. Both W6ELProp and ICEPAC (the derivative of IONCAP that incorporates a high latitude ionosphere model) allow input of the K index to make a broad assessment of the impact of an active geomag-

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netic field.

One last 'problem' should be mentioned. The K index and thus the a and A indices are measurements of currents flowing at E region altitudes. Thus they don't really give us any indication of what's going on at F region altitudes. Additionally, since the A index is the average of eight K indices, a spike in one or two of the eight 3-hour K indices may not show up very much in the daily average A index, even though the spike affected the ionosphere. So the A index could be encouraging, but it may not indicate the effects of a short-term event. A good example of this 'problem' is what happened to 10m in the CQ WPX CW contest in 2002. See the March 2003 issue of CQ for details of this.

There you have it. You should now have a good understanding of how the K and A indices are determined.

An Endorsement of Note

By Don Daso, K4ZA

I was noodling around, searching for a source (I was hoping, locally) for GC Chemicals—looking for some Red-X Corona Dope, to coat new loading coil assemblies for a 402CD I'm restoring.

The GC Electronics homepage listed half a dozen NC distributors, so I went for the closest one, Electronic Distributing, Inc., in Winston-Salem. I sent them an email, and had their response, and my order form, back within minutes (I was still sitting at the computer, in fact!). While I don't know their complete product line, in this day and age, this sort of service is exemplary, and worthy of further support. So, before you go out of town, or resort to mail order, why not give them a try?

I spoke with Frank Aldridge, the General Manager of Electronic Distributing, Inc., using an email address of frankma@bellsouth.net, or you may call (800) 777-1096.

The Missing Q signals

by John Queen, KA0SEY & Mike Colyar, K7ITL, some additions by others

From: http://www.zerobeat.net/drakelist/missingq.html

Some Q signals have never made it to the ARRL's official list. Here are some that you may agree would be useful in appropriate situations. As with regular Q signals, each can be a statement or a question, depending on whether a question mark follows it.

* QBA - My antenna is BIG!
* QBA? - How big is your antenna?
* QBO - Don't sit next to that guy in the meeting.
* QBO? - Buddy, can you spare some soap?
* QBS - It's getting deep in here.
* QBS - Clean the bird sh*t off your antenna
* QBS? - Should I clean the bird sh*t off my antenna so I can hear you?
* QCP - I am using Cat Power (From Rotary Cat Power Wheel)
* QCP? - Are you using Cat Power?
* QCW - I am going to whistle Morse Code
* QCW? - Why are you whistling Morse?
* QDR - Damn Right the frequency is busy! (In response to QRL)
* QDR? - Do you have a Receiver? (In response to QRL)
* QET - Phone home.
* QET? - Has anyone called me from another planet?
* QEW - Copy is difficult due to Ear Wax.
* QEW? - Is copy difficult due to Ear Wax?
* QFH - This frequency is MINE! - go elsewhere.
* QFH? - Is this frequency hogged?
* QHI - I am jumping in quick to say hi, then going QRT.
* QHI? - Are you leaving after only one transmission?
* QLF - I am sending with my left foot.
* QLF? - Are you sending with your left foot?
* QOK - Your last transmission was Okie Dokie.
* QOK? - Was my last transmission OK?
* QPM - Your signal is purr modulated.
* QPM? - Is my signal purr modulated?
* QRC - Warning, rag chewer on frequency.
* QRC? - Are you a rag chewer?
* QRW - Means QRP - Really Weak
* QRW? - QRP, you are Really Weak?
* QWC? - Who cares?
* QWC - I don't care
* QWC - I have to go to the bathroom
* QWC? - Do you have to go to the bathroom?
* QZZ - I fell asleep at the mike.
* QZZ? - Is that a 60Hz hum, or are you snoring?

A Novel Gift

My XYL, Barb (KG4QEN), does a very good job of finding unusual gifts for the Christmas holiday season. This year she really surprised me with a tee-shirt. Well, not just any old tee-shirt, but a tee-shirt with an image of my very own QSL card! I am told the cost is "less than $20 per shirt". (Remember, it was a gift and I can't ask too many questions.)

Barb found the manufacturer by searching for "ham radio gifts" on the Internet. The owner is Dave, AB7CB. Dave even has a tee-shirt showing the 1964 issued stamp commemorating Amateur Radio. If you'd like to learn more about the products available go to: http://www.goingpostal.cc, then click on "ham radio t-shirts".

—John Scott, K8YC

Others Weigh-in on BPL Failings

(Several months back, your editor mounted the "soap box" to support the ARRL's position on Broadband over Power Line (BPL). In recent weeks, more and more organizations are beginning to voice serious concerns over BPL. The article below appeared in the January 2, 2004 issue of The ARRL Letter *published by the* American Radio Relay League. *—The Editor)*

Two organizations have filed comments with the FCC that augment previously expressed worries about potential interference from and to Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. Picking up on the "grave concerns" the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) <http://www.fema.gov> expressed over BPL December 4, the nonprofit Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) <http://www.disasters.org> called on the FCC to require impartial BPL field testing as well as additional public comment and full and open public hearings.

"DERA concludes that serious interference to and disruption of critical emergency communications systems in several licensed services throughout North America would almost certainly result from BPL implementation as currently proposed," DERA said. Endorsing the earlier FEMA remarks, DERA said proposed BPL systems don't just pose a risk of interference, they've already been shown to "actually cause harmful interference to licensed radio services."

Meanwhile, the Amateur Radio Research and Development Corporation (AMRAD) has filed additional test data with the FCC to support preliminary findings suggesting that BPL systems are susceptible to interference from even modest Amateur Radio HF signals. AMRAD said its newest data demonstrated that amateur operation in the test neighborhood would cause many homes to lose their Internet service.

"At least an area out to a radius of 0.51 miles from the transmitting station could have their Internet connection interrupted," AMRAD said. "Closer-in homes would almost certainly have their Internet service interrupted."

For its RF susceptibility experiment, AMRAD used the Potomac Electric Power Company system test site. It features a mid-1960s vintage home with unshielded interior electrical wiring and overhead power lines.

AMRAD found that at a distance of just over one-half mile, data transfer ceased in the face of a 100-W signal on 3980 kHz from a mobile transmitter. Adjacent to the test property, AMRAD said data transfer ceased in all but one instance at a transmitter power of just 4 W in the BPL operating band of from 4 to 21 MHz.

The ARRL hopes to complete an independent BPL engineering study early this year. It will explore how BPL might affect HF and low-VHF amateur operation as well as how Amateur Radio operation could affect BPL systems.

In related news, BPL equipment manufacturer Amperion Inc recently announced an "industry first" by successfully testing its high-speed "Connect" system on 69 kV transmission lines. Typical BPL systems have employed medium and low-voltage lines to deliver broadband and Internet access. Amperion said its tests, performed in conjunction with American Electric Power, demonstrated multi-megabit data transmission to a distance of nearly one mile without the need for a repeater. There's more information on Amperion's Web site <http://www.amperion.com/press.asp?pid=89>.

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(As you can see, the battle wages on. I believe the FCC may now be getting a more balanced perspective of the weaknesses inherent with BPL technology. Yet, it is too early to believe the battle is over. —The Editor)

W4B or. . . a Field Day at Kitty Hawk

by Ron Bailey, AA4S

About a year ago I agreed to take part in putting on a special event station to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers first airplane flight on December 17, 1903. Members of the North Carolina Special Events Group (See ncseg.org.) based in my home QTH of Shelby, NC had obtained the call W4B and had arranged with the management of The Black Pelican restaurant in Kitty Hawk, NC to operate from their building. The significance of that particular location is that it was the site from which the telegraph message was sent announcing to the world that the first successful flight had taken place. Hence, people tend to associate Kitty Hawk with the event even though the actual flight took place at Kill Devil Hills, NC, but no telegraph office was operational there at that time.

Several members of our group arrived Thursday December 11th and began setting up. Two SSB stations and one CW station were assembled. The operation was supported by Kenwood, Heil Sound, and MFJ Enterprises through the loan of equipment and antennas. Because of the time of year and anticipated weather conditions (cold temperatures and high winds), it was decided to keep the antennas simple. Dipoles, inverted vees, and a multi-band vertical were erected. An anticipated operating period from 1700 UTC, 12/12 to 2000 UTC, 12/17 was posted. Operators were scheduled in shifts to keep at least one station on the air 24 hours a day during that time. The net result was that over 4000 QSOs were made despite extremely poor band conditions. As the only CW operator in the group I logged 1300 of those, mostly on 40, 30, and 20 meters. Phone operators included KA4TFP, WA4RH, W4KQ, W4GRW, N4BXB, and others. Many CDXA members ended up in our log—several on more than one band.

To set the scene one has to realize that The Black Pelican is now a restaurant/bar which is extremely popular in this area. It stays crowded during most of their operating hours and, in fact, I don't believe I have ever eaten better food anywhere. The actual operating position at The Black Pelican was in a storage room on top of the building. It was small, but adequate for our purposes. Equipment and software performed well except for some r.f. feedback problems due to the close proximity of the antennas to the transmitters. For this reason, power was limited to between 100 and 300 watts for the most part. Even so, rumor has it that we caused the lights on the Christmas tree in the bar to blink; but, everyone just thought they were witnessing very clever special effects! Some great pictures of the event, operated by the North Carolina Special Event Group, can be found at the following URL: http://www.ncseg.org/

As if all this wasn't enough, I felt it was necessary to activate some of the rarer counties in the northeastern part of North Carolina making things more interesting by using the W4B call sign. So on Monday morning the 15th I jumped in the Blazer with my IC-706 and Hamsticks for 20 and 40 meters and headed north then west on Rt. 158 into Currituck County. Beginning at 1442 UTC with K2JG acting as net control on the County Hunter's net on 14.336 MHz, I spent the next six hours making contacts from nine different NC counties. Well, 300 miles and 453 QSOs later I found myself back in Dare County at The Black Pelican eating the best chicken marsala I've ever had. My log shows I was consistently able to work stations at a rate of five per minute during my 10-minute run in each county! Counting the trip out and back, I have now transmitted from 55 of the 100 NC counties. My objective is to do them all by the end of next summer.

W4B cards are in the design stage at this time, but should start being received by the latter part of January. Thanks to everyone for their interest and support.

Welcome New Members

A few new members have joined us in recent months. We hope we haven't left anyone out. If so, let us know. The officers and members of CDXA welcome the following new members:

K4MGB	Butch Phillips of Trinity, NC
K4RSG	Shawn Goodin of Harrisburg, NC
KA3VVJ	Tom Hunt of Huntersville, NC
KB2QPE	Ed Atkins of Charlotte, NC
KO4GU	Tim Creech of Harrisburg, NC
KU4ZP	Tony Culberson of Liberty, NC
N4MH	Mary Hunt of Huntersville, NC
W4NCU	Tom Nicholls of Charlotte, NC
W4SKW	Russell Shepherd, Jr. of Fayetteville
W4SWT	Roger Swett of Lincolnton, NC
WA2TJQ	Steve Misek of Charlotte, NC
WA4ZZ	Frederick Slipsager of Charlotte, NC
WB2RHM	Ben Antanaitis of Charlotte, NC
WR3Y	Robert Scott of Hilton Head, SC

The Back Page

Hey, folks! Your **2004 dues are now being accepted** by the treasurer. Each dues paying member will receive a waterproof vinyl decal of the club logo suitable for use as a bumper sticker**,** or whatever use you deem appropriate. K4SQR's address can be found below or on page 2 of this newsletter. Details of the fee structure are also shown on Page 2 as well as being published in the masthead of this paper on page 2 each month.

Start your planning now for the **Charlotte Hamfest** to be held on March 13-14, 2003 at the Merchandise Mart. CDXA is expecting to host a social get together on Saturday evening, March 13. We'll have a booth at the hamfest so you can find the rest of the CDXA members. A great lineup of forums has already been put together. Many of the speakers are from the ranks of CDXA: Steve Reichlyn, Carl Smith, William Culpepper, Pat Patterson, Bob Rochelle, and Gary Dixon. Want to know more? Go to the CDXA website, open the calendar for March 2004, and click on the hamfest dates for a hot link to the Hamfest website.

Upcoming **Contests**:

Date	Contest	Comments
January 17-19	NA QSO Party - Phone	Logs due 2/17 to ssbnaqp@ncjweb.com
January 17-19	Michigan QRP CW Sprint	Something Different! See: www.qsl.net/miqrpclub
January 24-25	CQWW 160m CW	See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com/inforc.html
January 24-26	ARRL VHF Sweepstakes	December QST, Page 97 (AA4ZZ will be active!)
January 31-Feb. 1	Belgian UBA Contest	See: www.uba.be for details
February 14-15	CQWW WPX RTTY	See: www.cq-amateur-radio.com, look for contest rules.

Jim Miller, K4SQR
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Charlotte, NC 28226

k4sqr@juno.com

First Class Mail

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