



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

July VHF Contest

The July CQWW VHF Contest brought a number of VHF contesters out to enter the fray. Ted Goldthorpe (W4VHF), of course, had to defend his title of “top rover” earned over the past several years. Bill Turner (W4WNT), Paul Ponak (AD4IE), Ron Bailey (AA4S), and Ed Swiderski (KU4BP) all were “out and about” mobiling looking for QSOs. Josh and Bill Fisher were atop a mountain near Boone, NC operating with their respective callsigns, and Phil Martin (K4ATM) was closer to home on Anderson Mountain working all that he could find. Then, there were all of you who were working the contest from home.

Results were varied. KU4BP, stationary at an overlook at 3,750 feet elevation and operating as a “hilltopper”, reported QSOs from as far away as Southern Ohio, New Jersey, and Southern PA, yet could only shake out 23 QSOs in the 6 hours of operating allowed as a hilltopper entry. KU4BP’s “best hour” netted 9 QSOs. AD4IE, Paul, reports meeting KU4BP while roving as well as passing a number of other rovers while plying the Blue Ridge mountains. Paul’s communication about the contest does not rave of outstanding conditions, so we must assume that the bands weren’t hopping for

| | | |
|--------|----------------|------------------------|
| 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 |

Paul, either. Paul must have worked VP5JM, because he suggests that Ted, W4VHF, should send all CDXA VHFers down to Jody’s place in January for the January VHF contest. You can see this island ham station at <http://www.vp5jm.com>. Steve Sullivan chimed in that he’s ready to carry the bags when January rolls around. Bill Turner roved to FM03 and was planning on activating FM13, but from Bill’s own account, pickings weren’t good.

W4VHF, on the other hand, roved through EM86, EM85, EM96, and EM95 and many of us observed Ted’s skill at moving his contacts between 6m, 2m SSB and/or 2m FM to maximize his score. A number of CDXA members and their XYLs were “tracking” Ted to give him QSOs as he changed grid squares, and it appeared he was able to get fairly good propagation to the northeast where population density is a big help to rounding up QSOs. While not official, Ted’s claimed score should be in excess of 80,000 points—a great outing.

The July VHF contest has an interesting format. It is only 27 hours long and requires only 2m and 6m radios. If you only can commit 6 hours or less to the contest, you may enter in the hilltopper category, so you don’t need to commit to 27 hours to be in the competition. Maybe you should try the CQWW VHF Contest next July!

| 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) |
| K4MD (AR-Cluster via Telnet) | k4md.no-ip.com | |
| 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) | |

SEDCO Conference/Ten-Tec Hamfest Promises Satisfaction

So you haven't been to Dayton for the forums in a few years? Haven't lost your thirst for a hamfest? Don't "chill out"! The SouthEast DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) has put together a great DXing and Contesting program to be held following the Ten-Tec hamfest on September 30/October 1, 2005 in nearby Sevierville, TN. All the details can be found at <http://www.sedco.homestead.com>.

If you want to make a weekend of the event, arrive Friday, 9/30/2005, and attend the Ten-Tec hamfest. Take a tour of the Ten-Tec manufacturing facility. On Saturday afternoon, adjourn from the hamfest to a conference put together by SEDCO. Speakers and topics at present are:

- ◆ Bob Allphin, K4UEE, on the Peter I Island DXpedition
- ◆ Dave Anderson, K4SV, on his many recent DXpeditions
- ◆ Hal Weeden, WB4E/YI9B4E, on operating from Iraq
- ◆ Bill Tippet, W4ZV, on "hearing better" on the low bands
- ◆ John Almon, WA4JA, on U.S. Islands operations
- ◆ Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, on DXpeditions to 4W, YB0, OH0 and Caribbean 6m DXing
- ◆ Jeff Yaeger, K4JNY, and Scott Robbins, W4PA, on building a M/S contest station without breaking the bank.

The Pileup

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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

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: k4sqr@juno.com.

So, you ask, who is SEDCO? At its core are three DXer/Contesters who together account for 141 years of licensed operations as hams. They are George Dominick, W4UWC, Rosie Lamb, KA4S, and Lynn Lamb, W4NL. For those who've attended the Charlotte Hamfest over the years, you'll recognize these folks as members of the "Tennessee 8" who regularly come to Charlotte in March to share their fellowship with us in CDXA. During a short phone call to Lynn, your editor learned that the SEDCO team felt it was time that the SouthEast deserved a DX Conference of its own and that it was time to "give back" to the ham community for the pleasures these hams have derived from the amateur radio service.

Let's show our support for our friends in Tennessee by "rounding up the wagons" and popping over the Blue Ridge to Sevierville. Contact John Scott at k8yc@adelphia.net if you're interested in pooling a "car" together.

DX Is!

By Nobby Mills, W4UFO

Did you ever wonder about the t-shirt slogan: "DX Is!?" Even being a member of CDXA since 1989, I think I might be finally discovering the answer. Most old time members of CDXA probably have known the answer for many years. I am thoroughly enjoying reading Martti Laine's verbiage in his book of 1991, "Where do we go next?"

Martti credits the DX Professor, Dr. Cass (Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD – SK) with these quotes:

- ◆ "The DX you work is the DX that is. DX is! Enjoy the Great Days of DXing while you can."
- ◆ "DX is! Just that and nothing more. If you have to be enlightened by asking the question, you probably will not understand the answer."
- ◆ "The only thing better than DX is more DX, and the rarer the better. Always."
- ◆ "Unshakable Truths: There are two kinds of amateur radio operators, those who are DXers and those who wish they were."

DX Is! Vy 73 de W4UFO, Nobby

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

In keeping with the theme of an earlier article, a few words about adhesives this time. These seemingly simple compounds can be, of course, quite complex. Animal glues are still made today—using proteins found in animal hides. Bones, blood, along with other byproducts, are also used. But most modern glues and adhesives are synthetic. And they create bonds in one of two ways. Simple glues (think of white school glue or that yellow carpenter's glue you fixed your chair with) bond mechanically to objects, with the glue literally flowing in to the pores. If you're a woodworker, you know what a nightmare this can be, as the glue can seal pores adjacent to a joint, preventing a proper finish. Yet this type of bond can be quite effective—with glued joints achieving strengths near 4,000 PSI on high-density woods.

Other glues rely on specific adhesion bonding, meaning they react chemically with the objects they stick on and to. Epoxy glue is one example. Certain materials require such adhesives, like plastics—which are literally welded together chemically.

Today's newer urethane glues are also interesting. They're actually activated by moisture. The newer polyurethane glues mechanically bond to masonry, glass, wood, metal, and many plastics. Once dry, urethane glues are highly water resistant; some are waterproof. They're probably the most versatile adhesives you will find. Buy only a small bottle, since as you use the glue, the bottle fills with air, and moisture in the air can react with the remaining glue, causing it to spoil.

Construction adhesives (usually in tubes) are formulated to bond poorly fitting materials. These glues can easily bridge gaps. They're generally not as strong as other adhesives, with a maximum strength around 600 PSI.

It's a well-worn phrase, but bears repeating: To achieve the best results when using glues or adhesives, always read the instructions! And follow them to the letter. Also remember, it's always best to test glues before using them. I know this will take extra time, but it's worth it. I've found the plastic lids from various food products to be perfect for mixing small batches of most of these adhesives. Here are some other glues and adhesives found in my toolbox.

Corona Dope

Originally designed to prevent arcing in TV high voltage circuits. This lacquer has excellent dielectric, arc and corona resisting properties and protects surfaces against moisture. Such protection is achieved with a quick drying, black lacquer insulating coating based on a cellulose resin. Temperature range: to 325 degrees F (163 degrees C.). This lacquer is used to coat flyback coils, transformers, and to improve the insulation and weather resistance properties of wires.

Q Dope

This is a solution of pure polystyrene in solvents. It dries fast and leaves a clear, protective coating on coils and transformers, with minimal effect on inductive values. It may also be used as cement for molded or fabricated items made of polystyrene.

UHU-Hart: "Airplane Glue"

This is the best-selling model airplane cement in Germany. It's very fast setting and glues ABS plastic (which can sometimes be hard to glue)! It's absolutely clear, ultra lightweight and very strong when dried.

STABILIT EXPRESS

You'll become addicted to it! As an adhesive, Stabilit Express will firmly adhere anything to anything. It's unsurpassed in joining things like nylon to fiberglass, or metal to plastic, or plastic to fiberglass. It is a two-part methylacrylic adhesive. The material sets in only 20 minutes; it's light-colored, and can be sanded and finished once set. The cured material has both compressive and tensile strength, and can be used as a structural element, in addition to bonding.

RTV GE #142

(RTV means "room temperature vulcanizing," but for hams, that GE part number is critical!) This is a non-acidic RTV silicone. Typical RTVs you encounter give off acetic gas as they cure (usually indicated on the label—they smell like vinegar while curing), meaning your hardware is sitting in acid, protected from the rain. I once tested some RG-213 with the normal hardware store stuff, and the braid was gone in a few days.

ScotchKote

"Scotchkote" Brand Electrical Coating is a fast drying sealant and bonding agent recommended for joints wrapped with plastic electrical tape. The product is supplied in a 15-oz. brush top can.

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Product Features

- Compatible with "Scotch" Brand Plastic Electrical Tapes
- Fast drying, flexible when dry
- Contains own applicator
- No waste if container resealed after use

Applications

"Scotchkote" Brand Electrical Coating is intended for use as an outer seal on plastic tape applications which are subjected to excessive amounts of oil. It also improves the weather resistance and moisture resistance of the taped joint or splice. It is suitable for direct burial, direct water immersion or above ground applications. Ultraviolet destroys it rather quickly, but for splices to be buried, it's invaluable.

Liquid electrical tape

I've recently started using this—mostly in black, although it comes in quite a few colors, and retails for about \$5.00 for a 6-oz. can. It dries in about 20 minutes and seems to be great for covering entire connectors.

What's in your toolbox? —K4ZA

Contest Results Roundup

Recently, reports of CQWW SSB were posted in CQ magazine. We had an early preview of the claimed scores as a result of CDXA's CWAC activity. Below are the "official" results after CQ applies its review of all submitted logs.

Top Score-USA-28MHz (SOOB): Bill Tippett, W4ZV 872,785

SOAB Operations

| Unassisted | | Assisted | |
|------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| WA4DOU | 540,496 | W3GQ | 2,024,460 |
| AA4SC | 158,572 | W3OA | 1,298,570 |
| K4GHS | 29,735 | N4HN | 996,398 |
| W4WNT | 504 | K8YC | 273,546 |

It won't be long until the Fall contesting season is upon us again. Now's the time to plan your antenna project for the cooler weather of the early fall season. See you in the coming pileups.

IOTA 2005 Contest—European Style

(Shortly before the IOTA contest of July 30-31, we learned that Mauro, IN3QBR, was going to be operating from the Venetian Isles, EU-131, as IL3U. All were encouraged to look for him as well as for Steve Reichlyn, AA4V who was operating from Isle of Palms, NA-110. When I missed finding Mauro during the contest, I wrote him a short email. Below is Mauro's reply to my email.)

Hello John,

I'm really sorry to not have you in the log. The expedition was a success even though we did not reach our initial target.

We had very hot weather—the temperature was 104 F.—and we were always under the mosquito attack.

We had some problems with the electrical power, so we couldn't use the two amplifiers. Only the Acom 1010 was used. Anyway, electricity apart, all setups worked very well. Propagation was not the best, but signals from all continents were heard. The antennas were: inverted L on 80, 1/4 wave vertical on 40, a three element yagi tribander fixed on North America, and a three element yagi tribander fixed on JA. We had two Icom transceivers and two PCs on a network running CT software.

Because of some problems at work, IK3VIA first arrived on the island Sunday morning, and IN3IKF was unable to operate due the extremely hot weather, so IK2SND and I did most of the operating.

Our target was to break the 2000 QSO mark, but at the end we managed to get 1745 QSOs in our log. More than 1450 QSOs are in CW mode.

This was an unforgettable experience. We were not in a rare country, but the style was the same. We had not any kind of modern accommodations. No air condition, no refrigerators, and the drinking water was hot!! We slept in a tent.

I was the "old man" of this group. All the rest of the group is around 30 years of age. I don't think I'll organize another such expedition in the future. Instead, I'll hope that my younger friends will do all the legwork!!

Best wishes and see you soon. . . . 73's Mauro

Welcome New Member

The members of Carolina DX Association welcome **Gary Coffey, K4AVC** to our numbers this month. Gary lives in Morehead City, North Carolina. Those attending this year's Dayton Hamvention had an opportunity to meet Gary when he and Robert McNeill made the trip to Dayton together from Morehead City. Gary has been at the DXing game for a while since all he needs now to earn his #1 On the Honor Roll is Scarborough Reef. Welcome to CDXA, Gary.

CDXA Barbeque On The Horizon

The time and place for the annual CDXA Barbeque has been set. Please put the date on your calendar now so you won't miss this annual chance to have an "eyeball QSO" with the members of CDXA.

What: Annual CDXA Barbeque
 When: Saturday, October 15 5:00 till 9:00
 Where: Bob Burton's (N4PQX) QTH
 More: Social hour begins at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00 to ensure darkness doesn't overtake us.

Details to follow in September's PILEUP.

ARRL DXCC Challenge Update

Below is a listing of how CDXAers are faring in the DXCC Challenge as reported by the ARRL on August 6, 2005. Let us know if we've missed your callsign, and you'll be recognized in an upcoming issue.

| <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Count</u> | <u>Callsign</u> | <u>Count</u> |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| N4JJ | 2941 | K4MQG | 2866 |
| K4CIA | 2825 | AA4V | 2376 |
| N4PQX | 1900 | KZ2I | 1721 |
| K8YC | 1351 | K4MK | 1284 |
| N4AA | 1143 | WA4DOU | 1027 |
| W4ZV | 1012 | | |

If you're not on this list but think you should be, then get those "band countries" reported to the ARRL. From 160 meters to 6 meters, there are 10 bands, each with the potential of 335 entities. Of the maximum possible 3,350 score, the current leader, W4DR, has a count of 3,089. Pretty respectable!

SwapFest with a Bonus

The Watauga Amateur Radio Club (WARC) of Boone is having its first annual SwapFest on October 8, 2005. Here is an opportunity in a single journey to get that needed item for the shack and enjoy a "leaf tour" to see the fall color extravaganza. The WARC feels some kinship with CDXA because they're used to working the VHFers from CDXA during the VHF contests. What a great way to meet some of the folks who give you those QSOs. Here are the details for your calendar:

What: Watauga ARC SwapFest
 Where: Boone, North Carolina
 K-Mart Parking Lot (Highway 321 South next to KFC)
 When: October 8, 2005; 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM
 Admission: Free Admission / Free Tailgating (No tables or shelters available)
 Talk-in: 147.36 MHz +600 KHz (Tone: 103.5) or 146.52 MHz Simplex
 What else? 50/50 Raffle for your gambling instincts
 More info: Call 828-264-8991 or Email: dinkinsjw@appstate.edu

(This information provided by Scott Douglass, K2SD, who is known to frequent the area around Boone.)

If You Don't Like to Climb...

...and you have lots of trees in your yard, then read on.

On Thursday, July 28, 2005 a thunderstorm crashed through Cornelius. After the storm, I noticed one of the two main "leaders" in my red maple had fractured. Ten years awaiting afternoon shade on my driveway vanished in a snap. Tom Dossett at Bartlett Tree Service (704-588-3713) confirmed the tree must come down..

While walking around our homestead to examine all of our flora, Tom saw my antenna. He said, "We've done a lot of work putting up pulleys for hams while pruning trees." Here was a fellow that obviously understood the important things in life!

What could be better than giving your trees a needed pruning and slipping a few pulleys into the pockets of the arborists to get that 40 meter dipole up nice and high in the trees hidden from your neighbors. Remember, you heard it here. -K8YC

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Notice-New Cluster Telnet Address: Being ever mindful of the expenses to maintain our spotting network in top-notch operating condition, Joe Simpkins has found a source providing free domain name registration for our AR-Cluster name. Beginning immediately, the address for telnet access to the CDXA AR-Cluster is as follows: k4md.no-ip.com Please change the name in any of your software for which you use a telnet connection to access the CDXA cluster.

Errata: The editorial staff of the Pileup offers its deepest apologies to the members of the Renegade Radio Club, K4RRC. When reporting the operations of the Renegade Radio Club for Field Day 2005 in last month's PILEUP, the club was mistakenly referred to as the "Rebel Radio Club". While the reasons for founding the club were rebellious, the members view themselves as renegades. One of the members, Gary Colborne (N1GC), must live south of the Mason-Dixon line another 40 years before he might qualify as a "reb". The editorial staff deeply regrets this grievous mistake.

One of the "**Tennessee 8**", Lynn Lamb (W4NL)—organizer of the SEDCO Conference outlined on Page 2 of this issue would love to have a picture of your antenna farm, or any other neat photos you have regarding ham radio. He is trying to get photos for a "gallery" on the SEDCO website. Send your pictures to Lynn at w4nl@charter.net.

Upcoming Events/Contests:

| Date(s) | Event | Comments |
|------------|---------------------------------|---|
| August 13 | MARS License Exam Sessiion | 9:00 AM East Baptist Church |
| Aug. 13-14 | Work All Europe DX Contest (CW) | See P.85 August '05 QST (SSB version 9/10-11/05) |
| Aug. 20-22 | NA QSO Party-SSB | See http://www.ncjweb.com (Nat'l Contest Journal) |

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First Class Mail

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