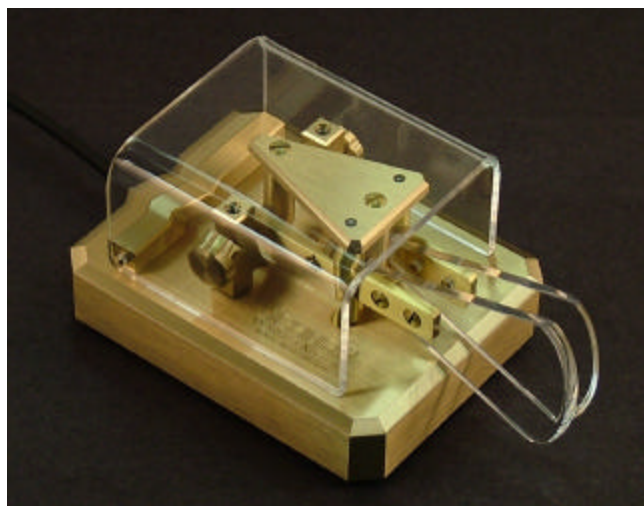


The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

“Operating is the KEY”



You can win a top-of-the-line CW paddle for participating in at least two of four selected amateur radio contests coming up this fall. The paddle is a Schurr Morsetasten PROFI2. It is a fine piece of precision craftsmanship worth more

than \$300 and you can learn more about it at <http://www.morsex.com/schurr>. It was donated to CDXA by Ervin Jackson, N4BIG. A photo of this paddle is shown above.

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

The winner of the paddle will be the CDXA member who has the most number of QSOs in at least two of the four qualifying contests. Participants must submit their logs to the respective sponsoring organizations and list CDXA as their home club. Participants must also submit their summary sheets to the CDXA webmaster for posting on the CDXA website. Since scores are computed differently for the four contests, QSO count will be the sole determining factor in this in-house contest.

The four qualifying contests are:

ARRL Sweepstakes (CW)	November 5-7, 2005
CQWW CW	November 27-28, 2005
ARRL 160M Contest	December 2-4, 2005
ARRL 10M Contest	December 10-11, 2005

See you on the air!

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)	

“Fuse Blown”, Statistician Fired

The editorial staff of this paper announced today that the statistician who prepared the statistical summary of 2004 CQWW-SSB in the August, 2005 issue of the **PILEUP** has been terminated because of a “blown fuse” reported by a diligent member of CDXA. A *careful* check of the reported scores of CQWW-SSB disclosed that a number of CDXA member’s scores had been omitted from the summary. An apology from the editorial staff of the **PILEUP** is offered to all of the following who were omitted from August’s synopsis of the scores.

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Official Score</u>
KZ2I	Steve Sullivan	1,825,010
N4PQX	Bob Burton	1,718,080
AA4V	Steve Reichlyn	1,064,196
KR4M	Duren Johnson	889,062
N4AA	Carl Smith	556,140
N4ZC	Roger Burt	416,885
N4UH	“Uncle Henry”	408,508
W4UNP	Bill Jennings	200,640
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	147,534
W4UFO	Nobby Mills	117,688
K4CEB	Larry Sossoman	106,506
K2SD	Scott Douglass	105,480
K4DXA	Ken Boyd	53,998

Anyone *still* not properly recognized for their participation in 2004 CQWW SSB should notify the editor as soon as possible so they may be identified in an upcoming issue.

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

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

(Note: An opening for a statistician on the staff of the **PILEUP** has been announced. There is no pay for this position. The qualified candidate must look over copious contest and award statistics seeking callsigns of members of CDXA so that they may be recognized. If interested, contact the Editor at K8YC@adelphia.net.)

CQWW CW Results Reported

Along with the arrival of the September 2005 issue of CQ magazine came reporting of the results of the CQWW CW contest. The editorial staff engaged in the unfamiliar activity (See “Fuse Blown, this page.) of finding all the CDXA members deserving of recognition in this contest.

First, the **Single Operator, Single Band** worldwide Winners:

Mauro Tomazzoni, IN3QBR, finished on top of the heap and set a new Continental *and* World record in the 160m category operating from Pantelleria Island as IH9U. Mauro reports that he is doubly satisfied by this effort because he had bandwidth restrictions imposed because of his location.

Bill Tippett, W4ZV, continued to show ‘em how to work the 10 meter band by repeating his top score on 10m, this time using CW as a mode.

The **Multi-Operator, Single Transmitter** Winner-Continent of Africa was **Joe Blackwell (AA4NN)** and **Chuck Gray (W4GMY)** operating as C91F from Mozambique.

Individual participants from CDXA located in the listings were as follows:

Carl Smith	N4AA	566,400
Roy Lincoln	WA4DOU	389,124
Scott Douglass	K2SD/4	165,300
Larry Sossoman	K4CEB	69,531
Ben Wasilauskas	K4GHS	47,565
Nyles McKeithan	KS4S	36,580
Henry Elwell	N4UH	35,224
Bill Turner	W4WNT	17,710

Finally, we should all find some pleasure in the fact that CDXA finished 15th in the USA club category with 23,246,423 points. Let’s all get ready for 2005’s CQWW contest and CWAC 2005.



The Pileup

Second Front Page

SEE WHACK (CWAC) 2005

CWAC, the Contest Within A Contest is approaching rapidly. For our newer members, CWAC encourages CDXA members to participate in the CQWW contest. We offer a nice set of prizes for this purpose. You don't have to be a "big time" contester to enjoy (and succeed) in CWAC. Here are the official club standings for the last six years. Last year was our best finish ever. Congratulations to all who participated and helped move CDXA up the list.

YEAR	CDXA SCORE	NATIONAL RANKING
1999	8,380,897	27
2000	12,494,946	22
2001	15,813,137	17
2002	17,364,657	20
2003	15,383,214	19
2004	23,246,423	15

This year's contest dates are:

CQWW-SSB OCTOBER 29-30

CQWW-CW NOVEMBER 26-27

Prizes will be given in the following categories.

PRIZES

First Place - DXpedition	Engraved Acrylic Award
First Place - Combined SSB and CW	Engraved Acrylic Award
First Place - SSB	Engraved Acrylic Award
First Place - CW	Engraved Acrylic Award
250 QSO Participation Prize	T-Shirt with CDXA Logo
100 QSO Participation Drawing	See Text Below

The DXpedition prize is given to the member(s) who contributes the most points to CDXA's club total by going on a DXpedition as defined under rule X.2 of the CQWW rules.

To qualify for the first place prizes, your score must be eligible to count toward the CDXA club total (see rule X.2.) The primary consideration is that the member must reside within 275 km of the club's area. We don't want to forget about the members who live outside the 275 km radius, so those members are eligible for the 250 QSO participation prize.

If you don't have much time to contest, or just want to "get your feet wet" contesting, here is another incentive for you. Make at least 100 QSOs and your name will be included in a drawing. (Members outside the 275 km radius are also eligible for the drawing.) We will give away two autographed data cards (collector's items?) which were used on real DXpeditions in 2002 (VP8GEO and VP8THU.)

In all cases, you must submit your scores to CQ magazine to be eligible for the prizes. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or need any help getting setup for the contest.

Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
sturpe@charter.net Ph. 828-478-3650

How Are You Coming on CQ iDX Award?

On the morning of August 16, 2005, I had my first CQ iDX Award contact. It was made with K4LVV (Itice Goldthorpe) on her handi-talkie by accessing a repeater in St. John's Newfoundland via EchoLink while W4VHF (Ted) motored through town. Ted and Itice decided to visit Newfoundland because (a) it is one of the easternmost points of North America, (b) it was the place Marconi performed his first transatlantic radio contacts, and (c) they just wanted to see the place. Before leaving for Newfoundland, Ted found that there was a repeater in St. John's that was "linked" to EchoLink. Ted talked to a few local hams in St. John's to learn the coverage area of the linked repeater, and then he let a few CDXAers know that he'd be monitoring VO1RCR-R.

Ted and Itice arrived late on the evening of 15th. An early morning call I made looking for them on EchoLink resulted in a QSO with a VO1 named Kenny who was already aware of the presence of Ted and Itice from the evening before. Kenny had also already talked to K4MQG as part of his early introduction to Ted and Itice. Yep, even the consummate DXer, K4MQG, has earned at least one QSO for the CQ iDX award!!

Linking repeaters to EchoLink has been available since I became aware of EchoLink several years ago, but I've not been a big user of these connections. Ken Boyd has recently completed a successful linkup of K4DXA-R to the CDXA repeater, W4DXA. In EchoLink, look for K4DXA-R on the connection database. When you connect, your callsign will be announced with a synthesized voice. When you perform a PTT, announce yourself as usual such as, "This is K8YC connecting via EchoLink". Then, see who comes back to you. Who knows, soon we may hear Mauro, IN3QBR checking in from Trento, Italy!!

Honor Roll Rankings are 'a-changin'

A synopsis of CDXA members on the DXCC Honor Roll was last made in the September, 2003 and October, 2003 issues of the PILEUP. With the recent DXpedition to the Andamans (VU4) and operations from North Korea (P5), several members have reached "#1 on the Honor Roll" status and several others have moved up to be closer to the top. A silent key and the loss of a member or two had an effect on the lineup, but we've also had additions to the membership who brought high

DXCC totals with them.

Just before the recent termination of our statistician (see the "Blown Fuse" article elsewhere in this issue) the following statistics were compiled regarding CDXAers known to be in the elite company of the DXCC Honor Roll as of August, 2005:

AA4S	335 Mixed, 334 Phone
K4MD	335 Mixed
K4MQG	335 Mixed, 334 Phone, 333 CW
N2TU	335 Mixed, 335 Phone, 334 CW, 330 RTTY
N4XO	335 Mixed
W4MBD	335 Mixed, 335 Phone
W4ZV	335 Mixed
WA8WV	335 Mixed
AA4R	334 Mixed, 331 Phone, 328 CW
AA4V	334 Mixed, 334 Phone, 333 CW
K4BVQ	334 Mixed, 331 Phone
K4CEB	334 Mixed, 333 CW
K4CIA	334 Mixed, 334 Phone, 332 CW
K4ZO	334 Mixed, 330 Phone
W1WW	334 Mixed
W4UW	334 Mixed, 334 Phone, 328 CW
W4VHF	334 Mixed, 334 Phone
K4DXA	333 Phone
K4ESE	333 Mixed
K4SI	333 Mixed, 330 CW
KZ2I	333 Mixed, 331 Phone
N4JJ	333 Mixed, 333 Phone, 332 CW
N4UH	333 Mixed
N4ZC	333 Mixed, 330 Phone
W4LK	333 Mixed
W4UNP	333 Phone
N4AA	332 Mixed
W3OA	332 Mixed, 332 Phone
K4MK	331 Phone
N4PQX	330 Mixed, 330 Phone
WA4MWX	330 Mixed
K4ZA	329 Mixed
K2SD	329 Mixed
W3NC	329 Phone
K4QVK	328 Phone
W4CCW	327 Mixed, 326 Phone
N4ZX	326 Mixed

(If we've failed to identify your earned presence in this list, please notify the editor via email at once at k8yc@adelphia.net. -The Editor)

Roving Report Meets “Nobby”

The Roving Reporter took to the road again in late August and set out toward Statesville, North Carolina to visit Nobby Mills, W4UFO. After learning about the Renegade Radio Club (K4RRC) during Field Day, it just seemed a natural to find out more about one of those renegades north of Charlotte.

Roving Reporter (RR): Well, Nobby, this is one of the few times few times I’ve seen you that you haven’t been with Gary Colborne (N1GC), one of your neighbors in these parts.

W4UFO: Yes, when it comes to amateur radio, Gary and I stick together. Over the years, there’s been a friendly challenge between the two of us which keeps us striving for that next award, that next needed entity, or that entity on the new band.

RR: I know you’ve been at this game a while. How did you get started in it?

W4UFO: When I was about 11 years of age, I had the usual interest in a lot of things. For Christmas that year, I was given a choice of a chemistry set or a crystal radio set. I opted for the crystal radio, and it has been a great ride. I’d have probably blown up the house had I chosen the chemistry set. I’m a little unlike many hams because I was a “pro” in radio before I became an amateur! I went away to the state college, but after a stay there for a while, I found an interest in radio. When my college curriculum didn’t seem to answer my interests, I opted to become a 1st Class Radiotelephone licensee. I went to a school in Washington, DC for 9 months and at age 19 took my license exam in Washington. That was in 1959, and I passed. Soon thereafter, I ended up building the first of a number of broadcast radio stations around North Carolina. I also worked in two-way radio. I worked for fellow CDXAer, Al Guin in putting together two-way radio systems for commercial enterprises. Al and Frank Dowd (W4BVQ) were big time hams, and in 1976 they spurred me to “downgrade” to an “amateur” status. (HI).

RR: With a start like that, you must have had a great handle on many aspects of amateur radio when you waded in, didn’t you?

W4UFO: I did have a pretty good handle on many of the technical aspects. Antennas and amplifiers were a

way of life in setting up commercial operations, but the thing that always has fascinated me is to be able to pick up a microphone, talk into it and strike up a conversation with a totally unknown (until that time) fellow ham on the opposite side of this great Earth. Even to this day, I get a rush from working DX. What am I saying?...I just enjoy talking on the radio!

RR: I hear you in the contests. Did contests lead to DXing or vice versa?

W4UFO: When I was still a technician, I got interested in working DX on 10 meters. NN2W noticed that I was ever present on 10 meters and asked, “What are you trying to do, earn DXCC as a technician?” I had never thought of that, but now the gauntlet was down, and I thought, “Why not?” So off I went.

Now let’s move along in time a bit. I’ll tell you a story which can probably be repeated by many in CDXA. I was the program chairman at the Iredell County Amateur Radio Society. I think it was Uncle Henry (N4UH) who suggested that I get Roger Burt, N4ZC, to address our group on the ins and outs of QSLing. Roger knew all about that subject from his own DXing experience, and he was also the Manager of the 4th Call Area QSL Bureau. Roger knows QSLs! In the course of the presentation, the topic came up of how best to collect new DXCC entities. You all know what that led to. Roger advised everyone that, “Contesting is where it’s at. You can earn DXCC in a weekend in the big contests like CQWW.” (*Oh how many of us have heard that speech from Rog!—The Editor*) So, like many before me and since, Roger’s advice about contesting has put me in both camps—contester and DXer—but I think I still have a slight bias to DXing.

RR: What awards do you have, and which ones still elude you?

W4UFO: As I’ve gathered 100 or more entities on each band, I’ve submitted them for DXCC credit, so I presently hold endorsements for DXCC on all bands from 40 meters to 10 meters. I have 93 entities on 80 meters and 93 on 6 meters. Until recently, I thought I had 98 or 99 on 6 meters and I asked CDXAers for help in landing the last one or two entities, but found I had erred when I started putting my cards together for my submission. If I can land the last few on 80 meters, I’ll

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happily collect my 5BDXCC. I'm ever-so-close to DXCC Honor Roll, too, with 322 confirmed entities.

RR: If you let your CDXA buddies know what you need, I'm sure you'll get a call day or night whenever we hear what you need on the air. Are you game?

W4UFO: You betcha!

RR: I've got to ask you about your callsign. Was it issued by the FCC or is it a vanity call?

W4UFO: It's a vanity call. I used to have the call KT4XT as an Advanced Class operator. It was great for the WPX contest because there weren't too many "KT's" around. But I wanted something which was phonetically better for me, and at the same time "catchy". Having that call has been a conversation piece over time.

RR: With your years on the bands, what were some of your strangest or more unique happenings?

W4UFO: One that comes to mind was in a DX pileup in September 1989 seeking a QSO with A22AA, Charlie Lewis in Botswana. When I finally got the contact, I reported "59+ in North Carolina." Charlie came back and asked "Where in NC?" I told him I was near Lake Norman, just north of the State Park. He responded, "I just camped at that park with my kids just three weeks ago."

RR: Could this be the same Charles Lewis, S9SS, a native of North Carolina who now is the director of Voice of America in Sao Tome?

W4UFO: I've done some checking on that, and you've got the right fellow. Charlie, KY4P, is originally from Lumberton, NC, spending 24 years as a commercial broadcast radio engineer in North Carolina. He has since been with Voice of America in Botswana (A22AA), then Sao Tome (S92SS), then Greece (SV0LM), then back to Sao Tome as the present VOA Manager (S9SS). He's a very interesting fellow and a good operator. I don't recall running into him during contests, but I didn't really check my logs.

RR: How about any unusual happenings while using your neat callsign?

W4UFO: There have been several, and they all show that hams have a sense of humor. I recall working a

3D2 or a ZK in a pileup who, after hearing my callsign, stopped the pileup cold and asked me for my name so "I can tell my kids I worked a UFO by the name of Nobby." At another time an operator from HC8N (Galapagos Island) stated that he had lived in North Carolina for five years, but he'd never seen a UFO. Perhaps the funniest one was the bleary-eyed operator from K3J (a KH3 DXpedition) who commented at how tired he was from the continual operating, but that he "never expected to work a UFO".

RR: It sounds like you've had a lot of fun along the way with the hobby and your callsign...and we won't forget about the Renegade Radio Club, either...

W4UFO: What I can say is that it has been a great ride through the years in both commercial and in ham radio. I just hope I can continue on the air for many more....

RR: We hope so, too, Nobby. Thanks for sharing a little of your history with us.

A New Generation of Hams In the Making

Roger Webb, W4MW and a proud father, dropped a few of us an email on August 15 telling us that his son Collin, age 10, had passed his Amateur Radio license examination. Collin's next goal is to get the Morse Code under his belt. Below is a picture of the proud new ham, KI4LLH along with his VE team.



Congratulations, Collin. Hope to see you on the DXCC list in a few years. It's a great way to learn geography!!

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

(Reprinted with permission of the Potomac Valley Radio Club newsletter)

Bob Finger, W9GE, out in Easton, MD, writes: “My shack has an un-insulated concrete floor, and in the winter, that floor is quite cool. My feet were always cold when in the shack, until I found a way to eliminate the problem. As we all know, if your feet are warm, the rest of you will feel warm, too.

“I built a small riser for under my operating desk. Mine is about 30 inches wide by 15 inches long and rises from floor height at the heel to about two inches high at the toe end. I used ¾-inch plywood covered with a carpet scrap. I spent a bit of money (\$50) and purchased a rubberized heater: <http://www.houseneeds.com/shop/HeatingProducts/heatingunits/electrical/industool/industool-footwarmer.asp>

“I placed the heater on a small riser alongside my footswitch. I wired it into my AC master switch so it’s on when the radios are on. Uses very little electricity and keeps my feet, either in shoes or without, nice and toasty during the cooler months. If you have a cold floor, try this solution.” Thanks, Bob, for that idea!

Recently, while working up in MD, a client asked about some of my tools. Accordingly, *A Few Words About Holes, And The Tools That Make Them*, for this month.

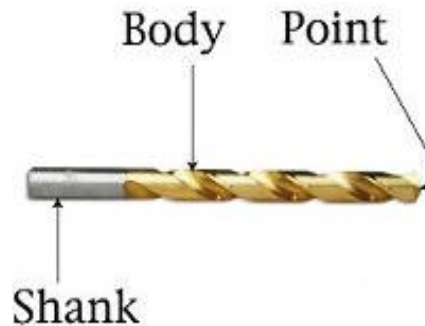
The name “twist drill,” relates to the original manufacturing process of such drills, not their appearance. Originally, flutes were rough-milled along the body of the bit, which was then heated and twisted into shape. The bit was then milled, heat-treated and ground to size. Today, twist drills are typically manufactured from solid rod material, cylindrically ground, then coated and finished.

Although twist drills are simple to use, these bits themselves are not simple. We never think of them as precision tools, yet a few minutes spent examining a bit close up should change that, and allow you to appreciate such tools.

After the drill has been ground to size, the tip is formed. Typically, bits have a tip angle of about 118 degrees, which works well in most materials. (Special tip angles satisfy different materials and different applications—

beyond the scope of this month’s column.)

Twist drills are manufactured as right and left handed, (right hand is the most common), and composed of three principal parts:



* The Shank (solid part of the bit without flutes, either straight or tapered)

* The Point or Tip (what cuts the material)

* The Body

(flutes, carries away debris/shavings)

We all know that twist drill bits are one of the more common tools in everyone’s toolbox, sometimes poorly cared for, or taken for granted, and often misunderstood. With bits, the old adage of getting what you pay for applies quite literally. Ranking bits, in terms of price, we find something like this:

- o **Steel Bits:** the least expensive, & work well for boring in soft woods. However, steel bits dull quickly in hard woods or metal.
- o **High-Speed Steel Bits:** usually abbreviated as HSS, more expensive, harder than steel bits, meaning they stay sharper longer.
- o **Titanium Coated Bits:** higher priced than HSS, but their titanium coating allows them to stay sharp longer than either HSS or steel counterparts.
- o **Carbide-Tipped Bits:** again, higher priced, but they stay sharp much longer than steel, HSS or titanium coated bits.
- o **Cobalt Bits:** most expensive, extremely hard and dissipate heat quickly, cobalt bits are usually used for boring in stainless steel and other metals.

Here in America, drill bits from zero to one half inch are sized in four ways: fractions, wire gauge numbers, letters, and metric (in millimeters). You’ll see drill bits with a fraction, number, letter or metric number stamped on their shank indicating their size. The fractions range from 1/64 inch to 32/64 inch. The numbers range from 107, (the smallest) to 1 (the largest). Where the num-

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ber 1 drill bit ends, the letter A (smallest) begins and continues on to the letter Z (largest). Metric sizes are dispersed throughout this range. Yes, Virginia, all these drill bits are different in size, except for the 90 and .22mm (which are .0087 inches in diameter), the 85 and the .28mm (which are both .0110 inches in diameter), the 13 and the 4.7mm (which are both .1850 inches in diameter), the 4.8mm and the 12 (which are both .1890 inches in diameter), and the 1/4 inch and letter E bits (which are both .250 inches in diameter).

Since hams are often required to drill into “soft” material (such as aluminum), I like to have a Uni-bit (a brand-name item, but it’s a tapered, multi-sized bit) on hand, along with a self-centering jig, to allow me to accurately drill the center of tubing. The Uni-bit also is well suited to drilling thin materials. I also carry long bits in my toolbox—sometimes referred to as “aircraft drills” or “electrician’s drills.” These extra-length bits are ideal for drilling large booms or even pilot holes through walls (you have to get the coax in somehow, right?).

Again, different materials require different approaches and methods. Drilling anything requires lubrication. It not only cuts down on heat, but helps carry away debris. Kerosene is an excellent lubricant for drilling aluminum, for instance. (You do not have to buy one of the specialty items!) And pay attention to drill speed—plastics are best drilled at very high speeds. Steel requires you to work slowly. And in every case, slow, steady feed works best (backing out the bit to clean/clear the flutes is a good idea, in any material).

And let’s add a few words about countersink bits. Countersinking means producing a taper or cone shaped surface at the entrance of a hole so that the head of a flat head screw, or an aviation rivet, or other similar fastener will sit flush or below the surface. These cone shapes are made with a countersink bit. Countersinks are available as single flute or multi flute bits. A variety of sizes and included angles of 60, 82, 90, 100, 110, and 120-degrees are available. (The most common angle you’ll encounter is 82-degrees.) Drawing specifications will usually determine the angle required.

I received a DrillDoctor™ last year as a Christmas gift. It’s an amazing gadget. I’m sharpening every bit I own with the thing! What’s in your toolbox?

Amplifications/Clarifications

In reporting the July 2005 CQWW VHF contest in last month’s *Pileup*, we mentioned that Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, worked 23 QSOs as a hilltopper during the less than splendid conditions found that weekend. Absent from our report on Ed’s effort was that he was only using 10 watts of power, and he operated on 2 meters exclusively. That makes his 11 grid squares and reported QSOs to New Jersey and Southeast Ohio very noteworthy, indeed.

Chuck Gray, W4GMY, Earns 5BDXCC

Chuck Gray reports that with his August, 2005 submission for DXCC he has earned Five Band DXCC Award #5630. This award is awarded for working 100 or more entities on the five principal amateur radio bands of 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, 15 meters, and 10 meters. Congratulations, Chuck, on succeeding at this test of perseverance!

More on the DXCC Challenge

In the August 2005 *Pileup*, standings for CDXA members pursuing the DXCC Challenge were reported. The standings of three CDXAers were missed while searching the 11 pages of the list. Please add the following to the CDXA DXCC Challenge list:

<u>Callsign</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Count</u>
N2TU	Lou Dietrich	2106
KU4BP	Ed Swiderski	1023
W4GMY	Chuck Gray	1009

Apparently the reporting of progress on the Challenge award has stirred some to action. At lunch on August 17, I noticed W3GQ giving a large *bag* of QSL cards to K4MQG for checking. That entry should move Paul up smartly in the Challenge list. Chuck Gray reports that he’s assembling his cards now for his next visit to the CDXA luncheon which should move him up to a count of over 1250.

Have you been sitting on all those QSLs of band countries that would show how active you’ve really been? With the current lull in the sunspot cycle, why not put some effort in having them counted in the DXCC Challenge Award?

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

Twenty Years Ago

Luis, S92LB, was rapidly gaining experience handling the pileups for Sao Tome/Principe as a relatively new operator from a “rare one”. Rude operators and DX Police were apparently around even then, but Luis was giving the deserving a “new one” if they stayed the course. . . . CDXA was only the 2nd DX Club in the USA to see the slide presentation of a recent DXpedition to Clipperton Island. . . . CDXA finished #4 in the USA in the multi-single and #6 in the multi-multi standings for CQWW 1984.

Ten Years Ago

The digipeater for the CDXA PacketCluster network in Wingate, DXWIN, was to be installed imminently. Unfortunately, DXWIN disappeared a year or so ago when the commercial tower it was on was destroyed. . . . The new editor of the PILEUP, Tom Skelton, explained some of his findings of his recently installed Beverage antenna.

The Past Week in 2005

(Written on September 2, 2005)

Perhaps some twenty years down the road, an editor of the PILEUP will will look to an archived copy of this PILEUP to prepare his version of what was going on twenty years ago. This has been quite a week!

On Monday, August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina roared into New Orleans, Biloxi, MS and Mobile, AL as a Category 5 Hurricane. Devastation in all cities was horrendous. With the eye of the storm passed and New Orleans partially under water from the storm surge, two major breaks in the levees keeping Lake Pontchartrain and the Mississippi River out of the New Orleans allowed water to fill the city—in some cases 10 to 15 feet deep. Thousands of people sought refuge in the domed stadium residing on one of the few higher locales of the city. A number of people had voluntarily evacuated the city in the days before Katrina’s arrival. Many people decided to stay in their homes but kept climbing as the water rose, many ending up in attics and having to kick holes through the roofing to escape. Now, a week later as this is being written, it is unclear just how many souls are deceased and as yet undiscovered in those same attics. The rescue operations have been focused on saving the living while bloated bodies remain to be recov-

ered, counted, and identified.

Refugees from the disaster have been relocated to cities all over the southeast, some ending up in Charlotte. It is not clear at this point if New Orleans will ever recover to be the same city it once was. Families separated from each other during the storm are still searching for each other. Several public safety officers have taken their lives at the specter of having lost home and family in one smashing blow.

Ham Radio, as usual, is continuing to play a role in emergency communications, getting the word to rescue teams and emergency operations centers when signals do come out of the disaster area. The health and welfare traffic has hardly begun to flow a week after the disaster because there have been so many people displaced so far and wide and finding them is difficult.

A few nations that the United States of America has provided aid to in the past have returned the favor in kind by offering money to assist with the disaster. For these friends in this dire time, we thank you for your steadfastness.

Just prior to the disaster, gasoline prices had spiked to a price of about \$2.29 per gallon (from about \$1.50 per gallon the year before) due to excessive summer demand and a rather fixed supply. With the oil pipelines originating in the Gulfstates area shut down on August 30, oil prices spiked to over \$3.50 per gallon by the weekend. The Shelby Hamfest was hit hard by absence of vendors and hams alike unable or unwilling to use precious gasoline to get to Shelby, NC.

Amidst all this turmoil, one of Roger Burt’s old Lithuanian friends, Victor, came to visit Roger this past weekend while on a business trip to the USA. Victor was visiting Roger as a tourist on another momentous occasion in March 1990. It was then that Victor learned on the evening news that the Lithuanian Parliament voted to secede from the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Following Victor’s return home, Lithuania eventually gained its independence, and Victor has since enjoyed his role as a businessman/entrepreneur in his formerly Communist-dominated country. And our history just keeps rolling on. . . .

The Back Page

The **CDXA Barbecue** is scheduled for Saturday, October 15 at Bob Burton's (N4PQX) QTH. Social hour kicks off at 5:00PM followed by dinner at 6:00PM. Please notify Tom Wright, N4HN, (N4HN@arrl.net or 704-536-9117) with the number attending in your party. Since the next issue of the Pileup comes out only a few day's before the event, please put this item on your calendar now and let Tom know your plans ASAP.

Remember, the **Ten-Tec Hamfest and SouthEastern DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) Conference** is coming up on September 30/October 1. The hamfest is on Friday and Saturday, and the Conference begins at about 1:00 PM on Saturday. Location is in the Seveirville/Pigeon Forge, TN area, just east of Knoxville, TN. Some good speakers are lined up for the conference. Visit <http://www.sedco.homestead.com/> or <http://radio.tentec.com/hamfest> to learn more.

Get ready for this year's "**Contest within a Contest**" (CWAC or SEE WHACK, depending on your preference). Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, has put together a prize package to encourage you to participate in the CQWW SSB and CQWW CW contests again this year. Our club totals continued to grow in 2004, and we're out to raise them again. Take a look at the **Second Front Page** (Page 3) inside.

Is working CW your "thing"? Do you want to own perhaps the world's finest paddle in return for your fine contest performance? Then "**Operating is the KEY**" is where you want to be. A new contest for CDXA members only is announced on the Front Page of this issue. There you can feast your eyes on the Schurr Morsetasten PROF12 paddle and plan your strategy to make it yours!

Jim Miller, K4SQR
11600 Hilda Court
Charlotte, NC 28226

k4sqr@juno.com

First Class Mail

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