

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Presidential Ponderings

Frank Sinatra's *It Was A Very Good Year* was made famous in 1965. Forty years later, in 2005, it was a very good year for the Carolina DX Association. A good year, indeed, but now the focus is on our future.

First of all, allow me to thank Jim Miller **K4SQR** for 3 outstanding years of service as the Secretary/Treasurer of the CDXA. Jim is freeing up more time to devote to COMTEK Systems, which is growing at a rapid pace. Thank you Jim from all of us!

Cliff Wagoner, **W3ZL**, has 'thrown his hat in the ring' to run as our next Secretary/Treasurer. Cliff was a previous V-P of this club, then moved to W3 land...only to realize that he wanted back down here where the weather is fine. Cliff's QTH is in Davidson, NC.

Yep, it's election time--and as always--the floor is open for nominations. If you or a friend wish to place your name in the hat for President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer, Pile-Up Editor or Packet Manager...we

invite you to do so. Elections will be at our Christmas Party on Friday, December 16th. Please make your wishes known to Ken Cannady **W4NZC**. Ken can be reached at (704) 372-8551. Remember, an organization is only as good as its member's participation.

Finally, my thanks go to **N4HN** our V-P, Mr. Pile-Up **K8YC**, our ever talented packet managers **K4MD** and **W3GQ**, CWAC manager **W3GQ**, webmaster extraordinaire **WB4BXW**, FD host **K4DXA** and BBQ host **N4PQX**. A super group of folks. Thanks everybody.

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)	Not Available on 9600bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type DX	
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)	

Results – Field Day 2005

Since the last Pileup made its appearance, the ARRL released the results of Field Day 2005. CDXA entered in the 2E category again in 2005. This year CDXA finished 3rd overall in the 2E category amongst all power levels and 1st in the Roanoke Division as a 2E station. Also in the Roanoke Division, our effort resulted in 4th place in all two-transmitter entries and 15th in all categories. Nationally, we finished 123rd amongst all stations operating with two transmitters, and 142nd overall in all categories amongst 2212 entries.

CDXA operated from the QTH of K4DXA again this year. Emergency power was used to operate the rigs with a power rating of up to 150 watts. The principal permanent antenna was Ken's Bencher Skyhawk, but a number of temporary antennas were installed for the event, including a pair of phased 40m verticals, an 80m dipole, and a tri-bander mounted on a temporary tower. Except for having a permanent building in which to set up the rigs, we were essentially a 2A station.

The famous Renegade Radio Club (K4RCC) of Statesville made its presence felt as well. They finished 2nd in the Roanoke Division and 9th overall nationally in 2E. Forsyth ARC, to which a number of CDXAers also belong, finished 8th in Roanoke Division in the 2A category.

Overall, the North Carolina section appears to be a "hotbed" of Field Day activity with 68 entries. Ohio Section led the way with 103 entrants, followed by Michigan (91) and Illinois (89).

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.

Beam Heading Chart for Everyone!

For the 2003 Charlotte Hamfest, CDXA reconstructed a chart showing beam headings from Charlotte to each of the 335 DXCC entities. Over the years since the earlier chart had been produced, entities had been deleted and added to a great extent. On one side of the new chart the entities are sorted in Entity Prefix order and on the other side they are sorted in Entity Name order to facilitate finding your target either way. But what of our members who live farther away from Charlotte? How much do the beam headings vary for them? Mauro, IN3QBR, in Rovereto, Italy certainly would not find the chart useful!

Now available from your editor is an Excel spreadsheet which will allow you to put the latitude and longitude of your QTH into two cells of the spreadsheet and get the beam heading chart in the same format of the pre-printed version, except that beam headings will be based exactly on your QTH! The charts can be printed on a HP Laserjet, or HP Inkjet (or equivalent printer). A bonus of the process is that there are two larger worksheets in the file used to compute the beam heading charts which give for each entity its CQ Zone, ITU Zone, Callsign Prefix, UTC offset, Bearing from your QTH, and Distance to the entity.

The file is somewhat large at about 625 kbytes, but once you have it you can even tailor the report headings to include your station callsign if you are familiar with using Excel. If you'd prefer to have the distance to the entity in kilometers, it is a simple change in one calculation. If you'd like a copy of this spreadsheet file, send a request to: k8yc@adelphia.net. –The Editor

AR-Cluster User Manual

If you have a way to print Microsoft Word files and would like a copy of the user manual for the AR-Cluster, send a request to k8yc@adelphia.net. If you're like me you dislike trying to use an on-line user manual while you are trying to figure out how to use software. It is just too inconvenient to keep "bopping" back and forth from the on-line user manual to the software you are trying to understand. Be ready to print a somewhat hefty manual, however. The AR-Cluster manual as I have it formatted is over 55 pages long. –The Editor

CQWW SSB 2005 Observations

By John Scott, K8YC

Many members of CDXA hit the airwaves for CQWW SSB 2005. While tuning across the bands I personally heard all of the following (in no particular order): N4PQX, N1GC, AA4ZZ, W3OA, N4ZC, W3GQ, FS/AA4V, W4UFO, K4MQG, and W4WTB. From the looks of the CWAC summary on the CDXA website, there were a number of others whose path I did not cross.

Conditions were pretty good for this time of the solar cycle. I was surprised to find 10 meters open each afternoon. For years now, we've always heard N4ZC state that one can earn DXCC in a weekend by participating in CQWW. My antenna limitations, consisting of a Cushcraft R-7000 vertical and a homebrew Moxon rectangle, are forced on me by a small piece of property and CC&Rs (Covenants, Conditions, & Restrictions). Therefore, I enter CQWW knowing I'll not have a world-beater score but that there is always the possibility of snagging at least some new DX entities. (XX9 was last year's triumph!) But, this year W3GQ put the carrot of a CDXA T-shirt out there, and I just had to get at least 250 QSOs so I'd not go away from the CDXA Annual Meeting/Holiday Party empty handed. I ended up with 293 QSOs, and just for kicks I loaded my CQWW log into a new log file in my DX4WIN logging program. I was quite surprised that my weekend effort resulted in 90 "new" countries overall, with 16, 76, 72, 33, and 5 unique countries worked on 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m, and 80m, respectively. The R-7000 is not even designed to work on 80m, but a tuner allowed some RF to leak out of the antenna, nevertheless. I'm sure that some of the big scorers of CDXA with over 500,000 points easily could claim DXCC worked this past weekend.

Of course, merely working them doesn't get you the required QSL card, and that, as we all know, is half the battle. Yet, when I submitted my log to Logbook of the World (LoTW) on Monday morning, I had three QSLs confirmed. By week's end, I had about a dozen QSLs confirmed on LoTW. Happily, the contesting community seems to be viewing LoTW as a great way to avoid having to fill out QSL cards.

Very early results submitted for CDXA's Contest Within a Contest (CWAC) show that we have over 10 million points submitted on behalf of CDXA. Good con-

testing, lots of countries, a free T-shirt and fast QSLing are all there for you in CQWW. I hope to hear you in CQWW CW!

More Kudos Due CDXA Members

It doesn't take long to find out there are a lot of folks in CDXA who are striving toward ever improved operating skills. Just after the October, 2005 issue went to press, a written letter came into the Pileup office from James W. Blythe, W4RDX of Galax, Virginia.

James wrote, "Attached is my DXCC Challenge list showing I have a 1376 confirmed count. I have been licensed for a little over 25 years, but I have not been extremely active due to raising a family, work, etc. It has been difficult for me to obtain high levels in the ARRL awards structure. I have 5BDXCC, DXCC on 30 meters and the cards for DXCC on 17 meters. The Kure DXpedition put me within one of Honor Roll, the prize I am seeking.

CDXA has helped me a great deal in my pursuits. Paul Sturpe made three trips up here to get the DX Packet back on the air after the spring storm that wiped out our mountain top repeater site. This is a great benefit to the members up here.

Thanks for your work on the Pileup. I wrote and published our local club's newsletter for years, and know it takes some hard work. Up here on the mountain, we want a little recognition, also. Tommy Lineberry, NW4N, has also received many awards, including 5BWAZ."

(I can state without reservation to James that 5BDXCC and being within one of the DXCC Honor Roll means he's already arrived at high levels in the ARRL awards structure. Congratulations, James and Tommy! Did we miss anyone else in Galax? -The Editor)

Shortly after James' letter arrived, an email from Ken Boyd, K4DXA, stated, "I just went to the LoTW site and my card from FT5XO has been counted and now I only need one more country for #1. Updated count for SSB DXCC is now 334, 342 SSB all time."

What next? Anyone out there have a horn that needs "tooting"? We all enjoy seeing how well CDXA fares in the wallpaper hunt. Let us know how you're doing.

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

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

The other day, I was asked where I got the gloves I often wear while doing tower work. That question, along with W3BP's remark (while up North recently, taking down K4JA's antenna farm) about my pants, made me realize a few remarks on clothing might be in order this month.

My approach to clothing has always followed the ensemble idea (no laughing, now, for those who know me "outside" of tower work). The ensemble idea incorporates clothing, as well as equipment items, which offer protection while still providing functionality. Protection is just that, and involves you from head to toe: hardhat, shirt, jacket, gloves, pants, and appropriate footwear. Weather and seasonal conditions dictate some of your choices (I try not to allow economics to influence my decisions here).

The gloves I use these days, for instance, are either mechanics or framers gloves. The key factor is that each hand has the index finger and thumb tips removed. The mechanics version is also heavily padded in the palm; the framers gloves are also padded, but seemingly not as heavily. I've found these gloves in Home Depot and auto-parts emporiums. Each is about \$22-24. I find I can get a good six months of wear from them. The padding truly helps when you're running either the gin-pole or work rope up and down through your hand.

I've always been a big Carhartt clothing fan, ever since getting my first "chore" coat as an Ohio farmboy. I remember being pretty disappointed when I outgrew the coat—it was that comfortable and functional. I truly like their 12 oz. canvas material pants. The ad copy is right on the money: "The relaxed room legs and large, gusseted crotch of the pants offer unparalleled freedom of movement..." Where I live, summers can be brutally hot, and while I don't like the idea, shorts make good sense. The same material, but without the long legs, means I've got shorts I seemingly cannot wear out. I wear them a lot in the hot days of July, August, and September, even while not on a tower.

A few years ago, I invested in some Carolina Boots professional pole-climbing boots. My first pair I found at

Sportsman's Paradise, a surplus house, for \$90, a real bargain. When my entire toolbox was stolen from the bed of my pickup, I lost them, and had to buy directly from the factory. At \$200, the first pair was an obvious bargain, and the new pair is higher-topped (Carolina called me to ask if I wanted 12 or 16-inch tops, and I ordered the higher tops) than my original ones. Covering the entire calf means I get some odd looks at tower job sites, but on those rare occasions when I must don climbing spurs, they're perfect. And comfortable. I've also invested in some high dollar socks, with moisture-wicking abilities, and padded soles. I've not regretted it.

It was cold in Northern VA during that K4JA job, and I was again reminded how truly functional the Army "field jacket," the good old M-65 utility coat truly is, with its drawstring waist, multiple pockets, and zippable hood. It was perfect for holding AB-105 hardware, along with the myriad hardware from the antennas, that K4VV and W3BP wanted, having bought the items in question.

And several people have seen and asked about a couple gadgets they've seen me use, namely, a simple swivel attached to a rope or carabiner. But it's not just an ordinary swivel—this is a Petzl ball bearing-equipped swivel that makes tramping beams or orienting a rope's direction smooth and painless. Pricy, but an energy and timesaving addition to my toolbox.



Petzl Swivel
\$67.00

A sealed ball bearing makes the action on this swivel smooth even after years of use. Use it in any application where rope twist might become a problem. The top of the swivel will hold up to three carabiners. The SWIVEL is UL-certified to meet NFPA 1983-1995 (class "G") and is so labeled.
Breaking Strength: 8,000 lbf (35.58 kN)

I'd also like to say heartfelt thanks for the kind remarks and support I've received for this column. Watch for the next edition of the *National Contest Journal*, where an expanded version will soon appear.

What's in your Toolbox? --K4ZA



CDXA Annual Meeting/Christmas Party

Where: Kaffe' Frappe' - 2839 Selwyn Avenue
Charlotte, NC (704) 372-1424

When: December 16 (Friday)

Time: 6:30 PM Cocktails, Dinner at
7:15 PM (Cash Bar)

Menu: Special CDXA menu of 5 entrees

Price: \$21.50 for entree/salad/beverage
tax and tip

Reservations: Thomas Wright (N4HN) with
number in your party by
December 13th
(twright@carolina.rr.com)



June VHF Contest Results

With your December, 2005 QST will come the scores of the June VHF contest. You'll recall from the July issue of the Pileup that this was the contest where a great auroral opening spiced things up. Six member/callsigns from CDXA are listed in the on-line database results.

AA4ZZ operated from atop the mountains near Boone and finished 5th in the Limited Multioperator Class nationwide.

Thomas Wright, N4HN, finished 4th in the Roanoke Division for the Low Power Class with 7293 points. Phil Martin, K4ATM, rounded up 3808 points. Ed Swiderski, KU4BP finished 4th in the Roanoke Division for QRP Class. Alan, Bumgarner, N4ZTK, put a few QSOs on the board and our Prez, Ted, was out roving as usual and rounded up 37,400 points.

Weather Gods Smile on BBQ, Again

Those who gathered at the home of N4PQX on October 15, 2005 were happy that we were treated to a warm, dry early fall evening to enjoy each other's company yet one more time. We've been provided great weather for the fall BBQ for at least the past five years. (Knock on wood, please.)

A few attending came from a "far piece" to Bob's place. Larry Kirkland, W4LK, came in from Columbia,

SC and Gary Martek, W7DO arrived from Blythwood, SC. On the North Carolina side of the border, Ed Swiderski, KU4BP drove in from Winston-Salem, and Bob Southworth, KI4YV drove in from Hiddenite.

As usual, the food catered by Ric Porter was just what a BBQ should be. Both before and after dinner, we all got to ogle at and dream about Bob Burton's antenna system and operating position. We'll be looking for you next year, and hope the string of good weather continues.

W4NC Special Event Station

On December 17, 2005 from 1200Z to 2200Z, the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary from a special event station in Winston-Salem.

The club will be running vintage CW and AM stations donated by their members as well as a modern SSB station. A replica of the club's original 1930 QSL card will be mailed along with a certificate for those submitting their QSLs. Send your QSL direct or via bureau to:

Ed Swiderski, KU4BP
c/o FARC
P.O. Box 11361
Winston-Salem, NC 27116-1361


KI4LLH Weathers First 6m Sprint

If you were on the air on 6m on October 23, 2005, you had the pleasure of hearing the newest and youngest member of the Carolina DX Association—Collin Web, KI4LLH—working the 6m Sprint.

AA4ZZ sent out an advisory email that Collin would be on the air. When I first worked Collin at about 0020Z he was getting used to throwing his voice out into the ether, and he certainly wasn't bashful about it. I called for the XYL, KG4QEN, to come to the shack to give Collin another QSO. A while later, I spotted Collin on the CDXA Clusters so he'd get a few more callers.

Move ahead about 3-1/2 hours. Now Collin was really on a roll, and calling CQ with authority. I was impressed that a young man his age had the focus to stick to his guns for such a lengthy period of time calling to who knows who—especially since he'd been a ham for less than two months. Was he a chip off his Dad's block?

Below is a copy of Collin's QSL card. His OM is getting him off on the right foot with quick responses to a QSL card received.

KI4LLH		COLLIN WEBB	
		Rich Mountain...Grid = EM96	
		Boone, North Carolina	
			
CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DAY-MO-YR	UTC	FREQ MHz
K8YC	23-10-05	0001	50.1
			SIGS RPT
			5 9
			MODE 2 WAY
			SSB
REMARKS: ... Thanks for QSO!... Hpe to cu agn... Vy 73, Collin			

Epilog: Collin was fired up for his first contest. Seeing his father's certificate for winning an earlier sprint with 76 QSOs urged him on. At 11:00PM, there were already over 70 Qs in the log. Only a call from a big NE contest station, W3SO, seemed to spoil the evening when they reported to Collin that they had something close to 100 Qs. It was still a good night. Collin ended up with a good start towards 6m VUCC with 21 grid squares and 81 QSOs. Welcome to contesting, Collin!
—K8YC

This IS the Hour!

There was a time when DXpeditions could go to Desecheo and Navassa Islands in the Caribbean Sea. Pictured below was one such time, and one of the expeditioners was none other than our own Steve Sullivan, KZ2I.



The KP1-KP5 team has helped marshall some legislation through a committee of the House of Representatives which would call for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to grant limited public access to the refuges of Navassa and Desecheo Islands. The USFWS office responsible for these Caribbean properties has denied repeated requests for permission to land and conduct radio operations.

A bill introduced in the House of Representatives, H.R. 1183, passed quickly and smoothly through the committee process. Part of the reason this legislation has moved so smoothly was that amateur radio operators have been writing to their representatives. It will soon be coming to the floor of the House for a vote. Now is the time to reawaken your representative to the need for this bill to pass.

We urge you to exercise your democratic right to request passage of this legislation which will again put Navassa and Desecheo back on the air. Write today. This IS the hour!

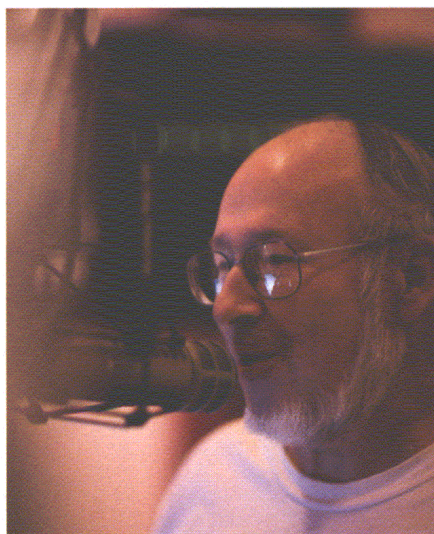
Tips From the Pros for CWAC and CQWW CW

At the regular CDXA luncheon on November 3, one of our newer members asked about the strategy of operating in CQWW and like contests. We referred him to an excellent article written by Roger Burt, N4ZC in the October 2000 issue of The Pileup available from the archives on the CDXA website. It's recommended reading before any big contest. You heard it here!

★ Roger on Your Radio ★

Sentimental Journey

A volunteer DJ is keeping big band alive on local airwaves



Every Sunday, Roger Burt shows up at WSGE with seventy songs from his collection of 50,000 recordings

Tune your radio to 91.7 FM on Sunday afternoons and in seconds you'll feel like you're sitting front and center at a 1940s USO show. At 2 p.m., Roger Burt morphs into Roger on Your Radio on the Gaston College-supported WSGE. For four hours, the coast-guard retiree plays the best of big band music from his personal record collection. Between songs, he gives miniature history lessons on such legends as Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, and even GI Jill.

"When I play a record, something will pop into my head about that band, that person, that era, and it'll just come out," says Burt, who can tell you when Glenn Miller made his debut at the Glen Island Casino as fast as he can tell you his own birthday. Listeners constantly ask him if he uses a cheat sheet, but all he keeps in front of him is a playlist. A zest for history and a strong memory fuel the stories he tells between tunes.

Burt has been volunteering at WSGE for twenty-five years. "You can't say I'm not dedicated," says the sixty-seven-year-old with a chuckle that would make Santa Claus jealous. As he stands in the studio talking into the

mike, he wears a white WSGE T-shirt, which highlights his white beard. The more he talks about big band music, the more his bluish-hazel eyes twinkle beneath his glasses.

"I love the sound of it and I suppose a part of it is, I kind of live in the past. I love old movies, old radio—for example, I have every Jack Benny radio show."

With a catalog of approximately 50,000 recordings of all types of music, he typically brings sixty-five to seventy songs for each show. "I just love it when a new person calls in and says, 'I didn't know anybody played that kind of music anymore'"—Lori K. Tate

(This article about Roger Burt, affectionately known as N4ZC to us hams, appeared in the October, 2005 issue of Charlotte - The City Magazine. It is reprinted here with permission of the Editor. —The Pileup Editor)

Mobilin' Master Meets Mountaineers

By John Scott, K8YC

Ron Bailey, AA4S, seems to have his mobilin' routine down pretty good for radio contests. Ron is an aficionado of county hunting, and is just as likely to be found driving around in his Chevrolet Blazer giving counties to those in need as he is to be contesting. He's turned his mobilin' ways to good use in the past two years by winning the North Carolina QSO Party while out mobilin'.

On June 18 of this year, Ron decided to take his "show on the road" and enter the West Virginia QSO Party. In his usual mode of complete planning, we saw Ron gathering some "intelligence" on the West Virginia landscape at one of the CDXA luncheons before the event. Fortunately, President Goldthorpe grew up in West Virginia and remembered some of the 'hollers and peaks in the mountains. The rest of his needed intelligence Ron received from helpful West Virginians in the course of the contest.

The information and planning was not for naught, because when the smoke had cleared, Ron had accumulated the second highest score in this year's event at 38,650 points. He was only eclipsed by W8AH, a multi-multi operation run by the West Virginia DX Association using the former callsign of one of West Virginia inveterate DXers, Al Hicks. In making his run, Ron set the all time West Virginia QSO Party Mobile Scoring record. Congratulations, Ron.

The Back Page

The 9600 bits/second port for radio access to the **K4MD Cluster** is no longer available. With so many users accessing K4MD via telnet, there was little reason to continue to maintain that port.

The **House of Representative bill H.R. 1183** mandating the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide periodic public access to **Navassa Island and Desecheo Island** has been reported out of House Committee and will soon come to a floor vote. If you wish to see these two island refuges back on the air periodically, write your U.S. Representative now. You can find your representative and his/her email address by using Google to find "U.S. House of Representatives". More inside on Page 6.

The second opportunity for winning a prize in CDXA's **Contest Within a Contest (CWAC)** comes up when CQWW-CW gets underway on November 26-27. Full details can be found in the September 2005 issue of The Pileup, available in the archives on the CDXA website at www.cdxa.org.

The first "leg" of the "**Operating Is the KEY**" contest will be history when you read this. But there are still three more contests to enter to enable you to win arguably the finest CW paddle made in the world. Details are in the September 2005 issue of the Pileup as well as on the CDXA website. Remaining contests: CQWW-CW, ARRL 160m Contest, and ARRL 10m Contest. To win, get the most number of CW QSOs in two of the four contests and submit your score on behalf of CDXA to the contest sponsor.

Okay, Ladies and Gents, it's time to start throwing your small change into the tin can so you can **pay your CDXA dues**. Dues are payable on a calendar year basis and are due in January of each year. Fifteen dollars (\$15) will do it if you are not a user of the Cluster, otherwise thirty dollars (\$30) pays your dues and keeps the Cluster running. Send your money to Jim Miller until our new Treasurer is elected, please.

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.