



The Carolina DX Association

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Tom Wright	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Assoc. Cluster Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Creates “Contest Manager” Position

As one of his first official acts after being reelected President of CDXA for 2006, Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, appointed Dick Williams, W3OA to a newly created position entitled Contest Manager. “What is this all about?”, you might ask.

Over the past several years there has been a growing interest in contesting from the membership. The “history” your editor knows about CDXA only goes back to 1997 when he first became active in CDXA. To be sure, there has always been interest in contesting by various club members, but few organized club events included prizes for performance. There were some “hard-core” CDXA contesters that had worked at N4ZC’s contest station such as K4ZA, K4DXA, K4MQG, and NW4N. Back in 1993, CDXA had its own version of the Challenge Award to see who could get the most “band countries” in a year. N4ZC took the initiative of using satellite QSOs in his effort and won the event as reported in the March 1995 issue of the Pileup.

In the fall contest season of 1999, CDXA had an “intra-club” competition including prizes which seemed to spur general interest in contesting. In the

2000 contest season, Ted Goldthorpe spearheaded a continuation of this competition with the moniker, “CDXA and CQWW Contest....together again”. When Ted ran the same competition again in 2001, your editor added the catch phrase of “The Contest Within A Contest” to the event when introducing it in the *Pileup*. Ted ran the event again in 2002 and passed the event along to Paul Sturpe, W3GQ in 2003 when Paul coined the phrase See Whack (CWAC) to the event, and that has seemed to stick.

From its beginnings in 1999 with 8.3 million points and a standing of 27th in the nation, CDXA has regularly increased its point totals to over 20 million the past two years and a national standing of 15th. Several different members of CDXA have gone on DXpeditions during recent contest seasons and operated as contesters. CDXA has participated in the North Carolina QSO party and Field Day as a club in the last two years. Clearly, this interest is something that needs continued nurturing.

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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)	

Officers for 2006 Elected at Annual Meeting

December 16 at Kaffe' Frappe', CDXA elected officers for 2006 at the annual meeting/holiday party. Nominations were presented by nominating committee chair, Jack Guion (W4JG). There were no further nominations from the floor, so a vote by acclamation was called.

Elected for 2006 were:

President: Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF
Vice President: Thomas Wright, N4HN
Treasurer: Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
Editor: John Scott, K8YC
Cluster Manager: Joe Simpkins, K4MD
Assoc. Cluster Mgr: Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
Webmaster: Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW

President-reelect Goldthorpe immediately thanked Jim Miller for his service as Treasurer for the past three years. Also recognized was Paul Sturpe for his fine job over the past several years administering the Contest Within a Contest (CWAC). CWAC has been a big success in stirring interest in contesting by the membership. The club score point total for CDXA has nearly doubled in the past several years despite a declining solar cycle. To continue club interest in contesting, Ted designated Dick Williams, W3OA, to take on a newly defined position of Contest Manager. More on that can be found elsewhere in this issue of *The Pileup*.

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:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

VHF/UHF Century Club Awards

The December 2005 issue of QST made it look like members of CDXA have abandoned HF for VHF as the sunspot cycle continues to decline. Thomas Wright, N4HN, submitted enough QSL cards to bring his endorsement total on 6 meters to 300 grid squares. Not to be outdone, Gary Colborne, N1GC, matched Thomas grid for grid to also attain the 300 grid square level on 6 meters.

Nobby Mills, W4UFO, who lives not more than 20 miles from Gary Colborne, must have learned of Gary's exploits on VHF. In the same issue of QST, Nobby was awarded endorsements to bring his 6 meter grid total to 200 squares. A little bird told us that W4UFO had repeatedly cajoled N1GC to become more active on HF—so much so that Gary earned 5BDXCC as reported in the October, 2005 issue of *The Pileup*. Now it appears that Gary has Nobby chasing VHF contacts, and these two members of the Renegade Radio Club just keep trying to outdo one another.

John Scott, K8YC, sneaked into the VUCC ranks with his first 100 gridsquares on 6 meters and certificate #1447 being issued as reported in the same QST issue. There are several others who are ever so close to earning their VUCC. Expect to see their names in an upcoming issue of this publication.

2006 Dues are Now Payable

Dues for 2006 CDXA membership are now payable to the treasurer. Dues are \$15 for the calendar year and are payable in January each year. Dues pay for the minimal operating expenses of the club, various internal contest awards and allows CDXA to offer financial support to selected DXpeditions each year. If you are a user of the CDXA spotting network—whether accessing via Telnet or RF connection—please remit \$30 to cover dues and annual spotting network fees. Please remit to:

Cliff Wagoner
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

(Note: Do not send remittance to Cliff's street address—available from your telephone directory—because there is no door-to-door delivery of mail in Davidson.) Prompt remittance is requested to permit timely estimation of an operating budget for 2006.

CWAC 2005 WRAP UP

By Paul Sturpe, W3GQ

Sea Whack 2005 (CWAC or “Contest Within a Contest”) was a tremendous success. CDXA eclipsed last year’s qualified totals by one million points. This was accomplished in spite of being almost at the bottom of the sunspot cycle. And, remember the big 10 meter opening last year? There was no such boost this year. So here is a big pat on the back for the hard work of all the participants. There were 35 participants this year, 34 of whose scores are eligible for the club total.

I think the most rewarding comment I heard came from our CW winner, Ron Bailey, AA4S. Ron told me he operated for 42 hours (how’s that for an effort?) He said he had not planned to operate that much, but when he got started, he remembered how much fun contesting was. I think Ron should get an “Eveready” award because he just kept going and going! Ron, I’m glad your contesting juices are flowing again and I hope you and others like you will jump in with both feet again next year.

This year we gave first place acrylic awards in five categories. In addition, anyone making 250 or more QSOs was awarded a T-Shirt with a unique logo created by Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF. Last but not least, we awarded by random draw two data cards (souvenirs, collector’s items) that were presented by the VP8 DXpedition.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this CWAC contest a success. Below are the awards presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting/Holiday Party:

Call	Prize	SSB Score	CW Score	Grand Total
W3GQ W3GQ, W3ZL	1st-Multi	1,759,464	879,540	2,639,004
W4WTB	1st-SO	2,176,564		2,176,564
FS/AA4V	DXpedition	733,370	851,516	1,584,886
AA4S	1st-CW		1,396,350	1,396,350
N4PQX	1st-SSB	1,120,825		1,120,825
K4CEB	VP8 Card			
N2TU	VP8 Card			

T-Shirt Winners

AA4NN	W4WTB	AD4IE	N4PQX
AA4S	IS0/WH0Q	K0COP	W3OA
K4GHS	W3GQ	K4MQG	W4UNP
KU4V	W3ZL	K8YC	W4WNT
N1GC	K2SD	KZ2I	WA4DOU
N4AA	W6NWS	N2TU	FS/AA4V
N4ZC	WB4RHM	N4BH	KR4M
W4UFO	N4UH	N4HN	KS4S

We hope to see even more of you in the 2006 contest!

A Visit to Galax, VA

By Ed Swiderski, KU4BP

A few weeks back I did a WAZ check for one of our fellow members in Galax VA, Tommy Lineberry, NW4N. I've talked to him frequently on the phone over the last few years and have done checks for him in the past. Instead of mailing his cards back I decided to deliver them to him personally. So, on Sunday, I trekked from Winston-Salem to Galax to have supper with Tommy and his wife. Tommy primarily operates CW and spends a lot of his time on 80m. He has crunched a lot of antennas in a small space: 3 phased 80m slopers, a 40m 4-square, a quad for 10,15,17 and 20 @50 feet, delta loops on 40 and 30m and beverages running into an open field. It was quite good time as we spent hours talking DX and antennas. There's a possibility that some of the Galax operators and myself may get together up there for CQWW VHF in July.

Oh, by the way, congratulations to Tommy for earning WAZ on 80m CW. That’s what we refer to as “saving the best for last”!

Postage Rates Going Up

Postage rates for the first ounce of 1st Class mail rise to \$.39 (\$.24 for a post card) on January 8, 2006. International rates outside North America rise to \$.84 for the first ounce (\$.63 for an ounce to Canada and Mexico). An unconfirmed report is that IRCs will rise to \$1.85. Don’t forget to send more postage to your bureau manager.

Contesting From Another Side

By Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli, IN3ZNR-WH0Q

After a lot of effort in last year's CQWW contest with the IH9P team, I chose to follow my good friend Mauro (IN3QBR-K7QB) in an adventure searching for a new location for the upcoming contest season. In Italy we have a few entities valid for DXCC and CQWW multipliers (African Italy apart, which is also valid as a zone multiplier). There are HV (Vatican City), 1A0 (Sovereign Military Order of Malta) and IS0 (Sardinia Island). The easiest to reach is Sardinia, not to mention that it is also a perfect location for holidays.

Since Mauro has lately been operating almost exclusively on CW, he suggested that I should check out some good spots on the island for the upcoming CW leg of CQWW, and to make a light effort in the CQWW SSB. Some friends gave us good information where to find the right place. Since we did not have time enough to plan a serious effort, we chose to bring along some multiband verticals and a lot of wire, rope and tools. I was very curious to learn what was contained in the strange big and long envelope Mauro brought with him to my car. He told me only about some secret weapon he was going to check out in Sardinia. Right after arriving, we found one villa directly on the shore of the Northern part of the island. Not being high season for holidays, the price paid was quite inexpensive. We enjoyed a lot of space around the property, three bedrooms, and good seafood dining available nearby. Moreover, sunny days and warm weather was the norm. The ground was not flat, but we started the same day to prepare our stations. Two multiband verticals were set atop the roof and two rigs with amplifiers were ready to spread our RF around for a precontest warmup. The landscape was beautiful, clear shots to North America and EU on the sea, toward Asia was over ground. We were amazed how many people still need Sardinia in some particular bands! We used our USA call signs, operating as IS0/K7QB (Mauro) and IS0/WH0Q (me). We worked from 12m to 160 m, and we had a lot of fun.

My wife found everything fine because we didn't produce TVI even though two stations were running 1 kW close to our TV antennas. (This "benefit" allowed me some extra time to work the pileups. HI.) The morning after our initial setup, Mauro's "secret weapon" came out of the box. It was an inverted L for 160 meters, 70

feet high, aluminum and fiberglass. Very light indeed, because the two of us were able to put up the antenna in one afternoon. During the night Mauro had a lot of fun on the Top band, working many stations around the globe. We were very happy to contact Gary, K4MQG, giving him a new one. As for me, I chose to focus my activity on 17m, 40m, and 80m, where I made a lot of QSO's. I also had the pleasure to work N4PQX on two bands with good signals.



Nearing the end of a day's work, we put the finishing touches on our antenna farm.

After a long week, I chose to operate the contest on 20m as single operator. In the meantime, Mauro was on 160m, as planned. With my Butternut HF9V vertical I made about 1900 QSO's. Not too bad, considering there was a German Multi-Multi team also operating from Sardinia. Next time—maybe for ARRL or WPX—I'll be there with a Yagi. I worked several CDXA members, and it was great when some of them called me by my nickname (Brix). I can remember N4PQX, K2SD, N1GC, N4BH, W3OA, W4ZE, and my old friend Roger, N4ZC. I'll send my log to CQWW Contest Committee for Carolina DX Association, even if it won't count for the grand total of the club.

We found the place very good for everything, including the friendship of the people. With amateur radio going around everywhere during the contest period, sometimes the common folks thought we are all crazy, especially when we asked for antenna space, absence of power lines and hilltop locations. This is unusual for Sardinia tourists, most want to be close to the water.

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The picture below shows Mauro, IN3QBR, and his “secret weapon” shortly after installation.



Below, Mauro intently works his magic with the secret weapon during the contest.



Finally, I got my XYL to snap a picture of me operating during the contest. We had lots of fun and look forward to doing it again next year—perhaps from yet another location.

73, Brix
IN3ZNR-WH0Q
wh0q.in3znr@brennercom.net



Brix at the control point in Sardinia during the contest.

CDXAers Hit the Low Bands

CQ Magazine’s December, 2005 issue carried the results of the CQWW 160m DX Contest. When the Club scoring showed CDXA with 616,604 points, curiosity got the better of your editor. Who from CDXA was out there working 160m? For the CW contest in the single operator category, Bill Tippet (W4ZV), Roy Lincoln (WA4DOU), “Uncle” Henry Elwell (N4UH), Dave Ellis (WA8WV) and Ben Wasilauskas (K4GHS) all were casting their signals into the ether. In the multi-operator category Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) and Steve Reichlyn (AA4V) and unknown friends were pounding the brass at the same time.

For the SSB contest, in the single operator category Thomas Wright (N4HN) waded into the fray to whet his appetite on 160m while in the multi-operator category Steve Reichlyn (AA4V) and Bill Jennings (W4UNP) held forth.

Maybe we can get these gents to share with us the secrets of working 160m (besides having a lot of real estate to put up antennas) so we can share the fun!

QSL Postage Rates Available on Web

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, sends along these two links to permit you to determine IRC or “green stamp” costs to ensure a return QSL card:

HTML version: www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm
Excel file: www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.xls

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By assuming the role of Contest Manager, Dick (W3OA) will provide a year-round focus on contesting for CDXA.

You'll be hearing more from Dick in the coming months. In his first official capacity, Dick reminds all of us to put these contest dates on our 2006 calendar:

Dates	Contest
Feb. 17-19	ARRL DX Contest (CW)
Feb. 26	NC QSO Party
Mar. 3-5	ARRL DX Contest (Phone)
June 24-25	ARRL Field Day
Oct. 27-29	CQWW DX (Phone)
Nov. 24-26	CQWW DX (CW)

Ten and Twenty Years Ago...

(From the archived issues of the Pileup)

Ten Years Ago:

Only two issues of the Pileup were published in 1996. Reading between the lines, it appears the Editor, Tom Skelton, had been forced by a company closing to commute 125 miles each way to a new work location. (The more things change, the more they stay the same!) Tom put together a 16 page issue in the summer of 1996.... The Internet was just beginning to really crank up and several PacketCluster operations were beginning to appear with Telnet access.... Six meter activity was on the rise, and ARRL had issued over 200 DXCC certificates for 6 meters.... Progressive "gates" were opening for vanity call signs, and many were busy trying to see if their favorite call sign was available.

Twenty Years Ago:

Dues for CDXA members were \$15.00 per year! (How's that for holding the line on inflation? Is it time for a dues increase in 2006?) A meeting was held to discuss how to finance a new CDXA repeater. Efforts of a few had resulted in contributions of \$280, but a new repeater system was projected to cost \$1500 to \$2000.... The newsletter editor was cajoling those high in DXCC standings to encourage some "new blood" to come into the DXing fraternity.... The usual problems with scofflaws trying to circumvent FCC rules was going on by some trying to use third party traffic rules to permit station operation by suspended licensees.... John Devoldere, ON4UN, had recently received his FCC-

issued Extra Class license as AA4OI.... VS6CT was to going to be operating as XX9CT for a few days in February.

"Operating is the KEY" Results are in!

Thanks to N4BIG, we had a Schurr Morsetasten PROF12 Paddle (valued at \$300) to give away to a deserving member, and what better way to determine the winner than letting them participate in CW contests, and let the best man win. Four recent contests were chosen and the criteria for winning the "Operating is the KEY" contest was to accumulate the most number of CW QSOs **and** submit your score to the contest organizers as a member of CDXA. Those with over 1000 QSOs were AA4NN, WA4DOU, AA4V, and W3GQ. The winner was Joe Blackwell, AA4NN.

Twenty other members of CDXA took the time to pound out some CW. A picture of the prize can be seen on the cover of the September, 2005 issue of the *Pileup*, viewable via the CDXA archives.

The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

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

A Few Words About ROPE. No, The Toolbox hasn't slid over to film reviewing (bonus points if you know I'm referring to Hitchcock's 1948 film), but that stuff we all take for granted. It's a simple fact that if you're going to be doing tower and antenna work, you're going to need and be using rope. Whether it's for temporary guys, tag lines, haul ropes or tram lines, there are literally dozens of options and guidelines to consider.

You'll find rope made from natural materials today (manila, sisal and cotton are the most common), along with lots of synthetics (nylon, dacron, polypropylene, etc.). You'll find lots of sizes, prices, claims and comments, too, regarding each and every one of these.

Your first priority should be deciding exactly what task (or tasks), you want to DO with your rope, as the use should dictate what you buy. Size is the first factor, of

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course, and this includes not only length, but also diameter. Material selection should be next. Price probably shouldn't be a factor, as once you start searching, you may be stunned by what you find. The old saw, "you get what you pay for," is certainly true with rope, and thus, your budget for this item may require some re-thinking.

Thinking about size is easy when speaking of length—you'll need to go up your tower and then back down, with a comfortable "handling" margin (say 25% to be sure) left over. So, if you have a 100-foot tower, you'll need a 250-foot rope. Thinking about size is more difficult when speaking of diameter—you're into the arcane world of "working load" and "ultimate breaking strength," and almost no one understands these. If you plan on using your rope for lifting loads (tower sections, beams, etc.), then any rope having a working load between 100-300 lbs should handle almost anything a ham would commonly put up. Obviously, there are some nifty synthetic ropes out there of very small diameter strong enough to lift this load, but consider having (and using) something that will be comfortable in your grip. Smaller ropes hurt your hands more readily than larger ropes. Smaller lines (sometimes called cords) work great for "tag" lines, but once they're hauling a heavy load, they become difficult to hold. I'd say 3/8-inch line is the smallest size I would use for such work.

Thinking about material is also relatively easy, as the synthetic advantages outweigh the disadvantages. (All the natural fibers soak up water about as well as sponges do—they rot easily and must be stored properly at all times.) Nylon is the strongest rope. It stretches, but because of this, nylon can absorb sudden shock loads that would cause other fibers to break. It's extremely resistant to wear, and can easily out-last natural fiber ropes. It's essentially rot proof, unaffected by most common chemicals, and most importantly, it knots easily.

All rope is constructed from small fibers either twisted or braided together. This twist, called the lay of the rope, is usually a simple three-twist construction, very common in any hardware store in America. Rope construction has evolved over the years, becoming more task-specific, and concerns with safety and good engineering practices from today's manufacturers provide several great choices. Braiding techniques, developed in

WW-II, should lead your rope selection. Choices are hollow braided, double braid, and kernmantle ropes.

Hollow braid means the fibers are laid around a hollow core in "maypole" fashion. As such, this rope is subject to flattening under strain. Double braid ropes are constructed with a "cover" over a "core," often of the same material. Kernmantle ropes (*kern* means core; *mantle* means sheath) are usually made with an inner nylon core, covered with a braided sheath. The core provides the strength, while the sheath protects that core from abrasion. Double braided ropes will probably be the best overall value.

What about working load, or limits, or strength? Obviously, we are now speaking of safety, so knowing the maximum safe working load for your rope can help keep you out of trouble. Never stress a rope (or line) anywhere near its breaking strength. As ropes age, or are spliced, stretched and subjected to sustained loads, or shock, exposed to ultraviolet light (in other words, *used*), they will also lose some of their strength.

The rated breaking strength of seemingly-identical rope from different suppliers can vary by 10 percent or more, and different suppliers also specify a rope's safe working load at anything from 1/5 to as little as 1/15 of its breaking strength, so be sure to check on these specifications before buying. This is another good argument for using rope of 3/8-inch or larger diameter—as such rope has a high-enough breaking strength that even conservative calculations of a safe working load provides some leeway when working with typical amateur antennas.

Remembering that ultraviolet comment, storage requirements can be critical, just as knowing what you're working with can prevent potential tragedy. That's why I store all my ropes in Rubbermaid tubs (simply laying them in, dry, when finished—they always come out easily), and why each tub is labeled with information concerning that particular rope (usually prompting a question or two from my clients!).

So, what should you do? What should you buy? Your decision will depend upon your ultimate use, the size of your tower, and how you intend to use that rope, of course. Obviously, having read this far, you'll realize

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you should probably have more than one rope, based on each of the previous points. For sheer strength, ease of use and working abilities, I'd recommend a braided nylon rope. I'd recommend a twisted poly cord or rope for tag line uses. I recommend buying the best you can, then caring for it properly—sometimes more easily said than done.

Using rope as a tram (to haul up beams, etc.) has recently generated considerable traffic on various reflectors, mostly all related to safety, the laws of physics, and the right and wrong way to do such work. My largest rope is a 5/8-inch double braided nylon; it's served me well, and the largest beam I've ever hauled with it was 200-lb 20M Telrex. If you're unsure of your needs, or the requirements for strength or safety reasons, simply ask—there are legions of guys willing to help and supply the answers.

Buying rope can be expensive, especially good rope. With the increasing popularity of climbing, some interesting synthetic ropes can be found (be prepared, however, since all their dimensions are metric, as many ropes are made in Europe). Gear Express is one good source for climbing rope and hardware at considerable savings. (Mention your call, or what you intend to do with the rope; one of the owners is a ham.) Sterling Rope and Gear Shop and New River Nets are also good sources.

I wouldn't buy used rope. I wouldn't buy rope on eBay. I wouldn't borrow rope. I wouldn't suggest a club pool resources to buy rope. I say this simply because the unknown variables increase exponentially, and it's not worth the risk. Why put yourself, anyone who's helping you, and/or the equipment you're working with, in any danger?

I consider my ropes an investment, and I have various sizes and diameters in my toolbox to allow me to work on towers up to 200 feet in height.

What's in your toolbox? —K4ZA

REFERENCES:

<http://www.gearexpress.com/>
<http://www.sterlingrope.com/>
<http://www.gearshop.com/acb/>
<http://www.newrivenets.com/>

Tower Works

Specializing in Rohn guyed towers

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Don Daso

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Charlotte NC 28262

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e-mail: k4za@juno.com

A Book for Your Library

By Don Daso, K4ZA

A recent note appeared on some ham reflectors—in-
forming readers that Dave Robbins, who we perhaps
more often know as K1TTT, had for sale a book, titled,
[Building a Super Station](#), available on the self-publishing
web company site known as lulu (www.lulu.com).

The accompanying blurb (when you click over to lulu),
says, simply: *History of the construction of a Ham
Radio super contest station. Twenty-one+ years of
construction, reconstruction, and maintenance at
K1TTT with tips for both big and small contest sta-
tions.*

If you've spent any time at all, within the past 10 years,
with an interest in radio contesting, you'll not only recog-
nize his call, but you may already be familiar with
Dave's own website, known everywhere as a vast tech-
nical reference source, to which he's constantly adding
data. So, you'll probably opt for the download version of
this title. At 280 pages, priced at only \$5.00, you can
rationalize that it's a bargain. Having done so, and hav-
ing read it, I can assure the book is just that, indeed!

Dave begins, like Dickens, with his own, earliest begin-
nings in radio contesting, when he moved to his present
QTH, in Peru, Massachusetts, which isn't, as he ex-
plains, "Even listed on some maps." But K1RQ, who
lived just up the road, introduced him to contesting, and
Dave was "hooked" in short order. And like those Vic-
torian age stories and characters, Dave's narrative con-
tains several bleak and saddening episodes (mostly de-
rived from the weather), that might have slowed or sad-
dened someone else, but instead seem to have inspired
him to not only persevere, but to somehow strive and

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Forsyth ARC Celebrates 75 Years Existence

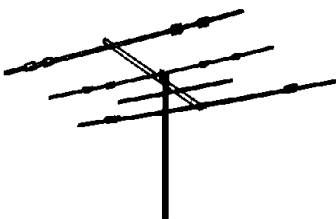
On December 17, 2005, the airwaves crackled from Winston-Salem with the call sign of W4NC as the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club celebrated its 75 years of existence. Visitors from all over the world stopped in to offer their good wishes for the event—many by radio transmission, of course. The Winston-Salem Journal was there to cover the event and gave a very complimentary overview of ham radio in general and the anniversary event, specifically.

CDXA members Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, and Henry Heidtmann, W2DZO, provided insight into why they enjoy ham radio. Ed, Henry and several other CDXA members living in the Winston-Salem area are also members of FARC. Ed was able to show on-premise visitors just what it is like to handle a pileup as callers from around the world sought to make a QSO during the special event. Henry Heidtmann operated a 1950s era receiver owned by his grandfather. Inside Henry's radio set, the mercury vapor tubes gave off the faint glow that many folks under the age of 40 years of age have never seen while out of the speaker came audio that is not often replicated by even modern receivers.

Besides explaining the magic of DXing, members of Forsyth ARC explained and demonstrated the many other facets of amateur radio—including homebrewing, emergency communications, QRPing, and SWLing.

The final quote by Don Edwards, Forsyth ARC President for 2006, seemed to sum it up pretty well for the reader when he said, "I grew up in Davie County, in the rural part. At the time I was turning 10 you couldn't even have a private telephone—it was a party line. Radio was *magic*. It was absolute magic—the fascination of talking to people who were far away."

(The Forsyth Amateur Radio Club meets at 7:30PM each month on the second Monday, and guests are welcome. Meetings take place in the basement of the Red Cross at 690 Coliseum Drive.)



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improve. So begins the first half of the book. The tales of crumbled 402CDs (they get some snow, and ice, up there in Peru) along with impassable roads and things that failed or otherwise broke, are told with some wit and obvious passion for the sport. A few errors (spelling and grammar) creep in, but unless you're an English major-type, you'll gloss over them, and simply enjoy the story.

There are 280 illustrations included—not bad, considering there are 280 pages of text. An obvious paean to something published and/or distributed electronically. (Some of the pictures are not as sharp as we might like, for instance.)

There is a wealth of technical tips included (making a cheap TDR, using coax stubs, making hardline connectors, and so forth), which will be invaluable. Indeed, pages 245 to 280 are called Technical Miscellany, and are probably worth your \$5.00 all by themselves. I especially enjoyed looking through each drawer of his toolboxes, and reading about his approaches to tools, along with using them! Pages 232 to 245 are devoted to the FUN of operating, and also contain lots of helpful radiosporting hints, especially if you're considering or doing Multi-Multi operations.

In short, Dave's summer efforts (why the man didn't work on this when he was blanketed by some of the snow in the illustrations remains a mystery!) to produce a book about the adventures he had (literally) in building what he calls a super station makes for a fun, informative read. The 20 years he's spent in building his station are chronicled and described in a style and manner that informs, as well as entertains and inspires. It's obviously been the best of times, the worst of times, at K1TTT, just like Dickens! **—K4ZA**

CDXA Member Scores a FIRST!

Gary Coffey, K4AVC, is a relatively new member of CDXA. Without fanfare, in October's *Pileup* we learned he is on the DXCC Honor Roll with 334 entities to his credit. Gary continues his award quest over in Morehead City where he and Robert McNeill duke it out for honors between each other. Gary reported that he recently earned Certificate #1 for WAS on 60 meters. Congratulations, Gary. What's next?

The Back Page

Don't forget in early February, the **Peter I DXpedition** will be on the air. Make sure you're ready for this one, since it may be another 10-12 years before anyone goes back! CDXA is a sponsor of this DXpedition through your generous contributions and partial matching funds from the CDXA treasury last year before the DXpedition was delayed.

Your **2006 Dues** are payable now to the newly elected Treasurer, Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL). Details can be found on Page 2. Prompt payment will assist your officers in developing the 2006 budget once dues revenue is known.

The **North Carolina QSO Party** is on the horizon at the end of February. If you think you might like to operate in this event as a member of CDXA's team, contact Dick Williams (W3OA)—CDXA's new Contest Manager.

Upcoming Contests:

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Jan. 14-16	North American QSO Party CW	See www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php
Jan. 21-23	January VHF Sweepstakes	See December 2005 QST, Page 89
Jan. 21-23	North American QSO Party Phone	See www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php
Jan. 28-29	CQWW 160m Contest - CW	See www.cq-amateur-radio.com/index.html
Feb. 11-12	CQWW RTTY WPX Contest	See January 2006 CQ, Page 38
Feb. 18-19	ARRL Intl DX Contest - CW	See December 2005 QST, Page 88
Feb. 25-26	CQWW 160m Contest - SSB	See November 2005 CQ, Page 30
Mar 4-5	ARRL Intl DX Contest - Phone	See December 2005 QST, Page 88

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.