



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

NC QSO Party From Discovery Place

Contest Manager, Dick Williams (W3OA) had the team lined up and the radios ready for CDXA's second attempt as a club entrant into the North Carolina QSO Party run by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club on February 26, 2006.

CDXA won the In-State Club competition in 2005, and Dick did not want to let that title slip from our grasp in 2006. To help assure continued success, Dick decided that we needed yet another "edge" besides good operators for the 2006 campaign. A pre-preparation visit to Discovery Place, where CDXA chose to operate again this year, made sure that a laptop computer running N3FJP's software would properly interface with the Ten-Tec Orion transceiver. The laptop would then record the operating frequency of the radio when logging each contact and perform CW keying of the rig using macro commands to perform most of the usual exchanges in a contest. The exceptions to the normal exchanges could be easily handled by a CW paddle nearby. On Sunday morning, the laptop was set up awaiting the start of the contest. There were to be a lot of people in Discovery Place this day because the DEAD SEA SCROLLS exhibit was just beginning its 100 day stay in Char-

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

lotte. Awaiting the start for their first "turn" at the rig were Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL) and John Paul Keon (AB4PP). Also present were Dick Williams (W3OA) and John Scott (K8YC). As the day progressed, we were later joined by the following operators: Bill Fisher (W4GRW), Steve Sullivan (KZ2I), Ken Cannaday (W4NZC), and Paul Sturpe (W3GQ).

We had a large poster on an easel outside the door of the radio room explaining how a radio contest works, and after looking it over, many people came into the radio room to view the event first hand. We were aided somewhat by the fact that the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit is ticketed with a date and time of attendance to keep the crowds manageable. Therefore, early arrivals had time to "kill" before their appointed time to view the exhibit.

During the course of the contest, a number of familiar CDXA callsigns were seen to be flying by on the logging screen. Some, but not all, noted were, W4MBD, W4UFO, N1GC, AA4S/M (Ron, making a run at repeating as top

(Continued on page 2)

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)	

About this Issue...

This issue of the *Pileup* will come to you early. As I begin my seventh year of editing our newsletter I'm happy to say that I've never missed the publishing date of any issue.

Five years ago this month I was in Cleveland, Ohio along with my laptop computer. I published the Pileup on time that month, too. Yet, my XYL Barb (KG4QEN) was perfectly healthy and was about to climb onto an operating room gurney for 7 hours to have half of her liver removed so it could be transplanted to her sister. Her sister had been living for about 20 years with a progressive liver disease, and it was now or never. Through a series of events too complicated to report here, Barb's liver donation did not "take" and her sister was put on the emergency transplant list. Through the gracious gift of a bereaved family somewhere in Michigan, the "harvested" liver of an accident victim somehow made its way through a winter snowstorm to Cleveland and four days after the initial surgery, Barb's sister had the gift of life bestowed to her a second time.

The week of March 6, we'll be celebrating life along with Barb's sister and her husband on a cruise of the Caribbean. This seemed to be a fitting way to celebrate the events of five years ago.

When I renewed my driver's license after this experience, I declared myself an organ donor in the event of my untimely demise. I encourage you to consider being an organ donor so that you too might give the gift of life to someone, someday. See you in April.

The Pileup

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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.

(Continued from page 1)

mobiler, top overall), W4WNT, N4UH, N4AA, N4HN, N4BH, AD4IE/M, KS4S, N2TU, W0AH, W4VHF, WA8WV, W4UW, WA4DOU (Roy, seeking top billing in the individual category from a close finish last year), AB4PP (After returning home to Raleigh!), K4MQG, K4DXA, K4MD, N4ARR/M and K4DGJ. (If I missed your callsign, sorry, I wasn't at the console all day, and W3OA has the log still on the laptop! -*The Editor*) We were pleased and honored that the Discovery Place Station manager, John White (WB2NHQ) sought us out and worked us too!



Early in the contest Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL) and John Paul Keon (AB4PP) shared the operating duties while Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) and Dick Williams (W3OA) look on. (Photo courtesy of Bill Fisher, W4GRW)

Bill Clark (K4WAC) saw me at lunch on March 1, and said that he and Phil Martin (K4ATM) were "out and about" as N4ARR on behalf of the Dixie Radio Pirates (arrrrrrr, Matey!) as rovers and managed to snag 19 counties. We've not heard from any other CDXAers as yet.

At contest's end at 10:00PM on Sunday night, we had over 480 QSOs in the log. Our point total this year was over 112,600 points, surpassing our 395 QSOs and 97,464 points of last year. Yet, our NC county count was below last years. Were there fewer active operators this year? Will we prevail as the reigning club champion? We'll let you know along about May when the Forsyth ARC gets all the results compiled.

Desecheo is a “good one”!

By John Scott, K8YC

I know exactly where I was when I worked Desecheo for a “new one”. As a subscriber to the Weekly DX, the afternoon before I had received a note from Bernie McClenney, W3UR, that two souls would be operating from Desecheo on the following day for a few days. And, that morning, I just happened to be “on duty” as the volunteer operator in the shack at Discovery Place. BINGO! Working them was like rolling off a log, and when Bob Burton, N4PQX, stopped by to take a looksee at the Ten-Tec Orion, he too managed to get into the log after only a few calls. The next evening at the CDXA Annual Meeting/Holiday Banquet, the room was abuzz with folks asking “Did you work Desecheo, yet?” There were many who went home from the banquet to get on the air to look for Desecheo.

It was all over too soon, as we learned that the operation had been asked to “stand down” and leave the island. What happened? I could only subscribe to the DXers motto of WFWL—work first and worry later. Then, dead silence. Despite assurances from W3UR that all would be told, it has been tough waiting the two months since working what I hoped was going to be a new one. I’ll admit that there were times I thought the silence indicated an unpleasant “odor” of the whole turn of events.

Then, BANG! Early in the week of February 20, came a note from the DXCC desk that the Desecheo operation is approved! Later that week, I was pleased to receive a copyrighted article from Bernie telling the whole story. While I cannot reproduce the article verbatim, I feel I can relate the highlights. It seems the DXpedition operators were conducting some legitimate business with an unnamed U.S. Government agency to test some electronic surveillance equipment that they, as government contractors, had developed. Since the test was in the area near Desecheo, they asked for and received permission to spend a few days operating their amateur radios from ashore on Desecheo. They were actually put ashore from a vessel operated on behalf of the agency of the government for whom they were performing their work. Rumored reports of landings of Blackhawk helicopters and arrivals of police boats were factual, but very distorted in their interpretation by those not present to experience the events. The helicopter landing was to “check things out” and when all was found in order in terms of granted permissions, they departed. The police

boat “incident” was not really that. There was such a boat, but it was merely delivering two-stroke cycle motor oil for the dinghy, and was one of several such visits made by a police boat to the boat standing offshore awaiting the return of the ham team.

The REAL story, as it turns out, is that an unnamed amateur radio operator created quite a stir about that fact that our two intrepid souls were “not supposed to be on the island”. In fact, this “ham buddy” (as described by the DXpedition team in their report) actually called the Fisheries and Wildlife Service AND his Congressman to complain about their presence. Reading between the lines, one can only presume the team left the island in deference to the agency they were serving to reduce pressure on the agency by the “ham buddy”. I suspect we’ll never learn who this individual is, but knowing human nature, I think I can conjure up a pretty good profile of his personality.

Oh, yes, the tests of the surveillance devices giving rise to the trip were successful. And life goes on. Now, when did you say the QSL card will arrive?

Drilling Holes—in the shop, in the field, in the right places & other tools

By Don Daso, K4ZA

I’m often surprised to see the reactions to some of my tools and techniques. It’s not so much that I’ve got some secrets or there’s something special about my work, it’s merely that I’ve taken the time (over the years) to ask lots of questions and have remembered or written down what I’ve learned. And I figured out while still a boy that asking older folks how to do things would invariably, 1) lead to my learning something NEW; and 2) such folks had probably “been there, done that,” far too many times for me to discount what they had to say!

So it wasn’t much of a surprise when a customer acted shocked when I hauled out the little alignment tool for the hand drill. “You’re really going to bother with that?” he wanted to know. “Oh yeah. You want the holes in the boom to be plumb, don’t you?” My drilling tool came from Rockler. (<http://www.rockler.com/>)

In the shop, of course, drilling a straight hole is pretty easy—you simply use the drill press. Folks ask me all

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the time what type drill press they should buy, from brands right on up to size. Having beaten up on Sears in the past, I never fail to get asked about Craftsman drill presses. Yes, they're good tools. Yes, they have problems. The light (to illuminate the work) will usually heat fuse itself into the socket, for instance—a true teeth-gritting, mumbling-under-your-breath situation to fix.

Try to get a variable speed drill press. Try to get a floor model. These offer the most “solutions” to drilling problems. And of course, there are the various “other uses” you can find for the press. For instance, it's easily converted into a sander/polisher. I've even used mine as a milling machine, even though the manual cautions you against excessive side loads. But then why offer a milling table as an accessory? Obviously, in moderation, I believe I'll be okay using it this way.

I've seen some very nice Delta machines; their reconditioned models carry reasonable price tags. Northern Tools also offers some very attractive models.

Speed is the single most important factor when drilling. And slow speeds are more useful than high, for the simple reason that we do not want to “work harden” what we're trying to drill through, which excessive speed (and lack of lubrication) will do.

So, while I spent a few minutes taking the portable drill out of my toolbox, then setting it up, the end result was worth it. Perfectly aligned, straight holes, exactly where we wanted them. The client was also surprised to see the Starrett automatic center punch. Basically, this spring-loaded tool (I admit, it's one of my favorite tools) will free up one hand, & make more accurate holes than the old style hammer and punch combination. You can dial in the impact force by turning the head (for hard or soft metals), and the points can be reground or replaced if needed. I've never done more than touch up the tip with some wet/dry sandpaper, personally, in over 20 years of intermittent use. Of course, the client was surprised to learn this little gadget cost nearly \$40.

Measurement is another critical issue with me. Again, I learned very early the wisdom of “measure twice, cut once,” when it came to any drilling, sawing, or shop operations. So I've tried to follow that dictum all my life. For the home workshop, Stanley makes some excellent tapes. I'm especially fond of the FAT MAX series of tapes, which are 1-inch or more in width and self-

supporting out to several feet, a big plus when working alone.

I started a list of measuring tools I own, but it got out of hand quickly. Here are some of the more popular and useful ones. Tapes, in various sizes—up to 300-foot fiberglass. Mitutoyo vernier calipers—for real shop precision in metal-working. Starrett right angle squares—perfect for aligning saw blades, drills, and ensuring that cuts and angle are correct (in woodworking parlance, known as a “try square”). Starrett spring dividers—used to transfer and layout parts/designs, layout circles/arcs, or divide a line. Starrett thread gauge—while I like to think I can recognize most common threads, I'm not above using this gauge to check or confirm something. Laser level—in a word, wow! I never thought I'd like them, but after using one once, I was hooked. There are now a wide variety of laser tools from which to choose (check Harbor Freight for some Chinese bargains). The self-leveling rotary laser level is extremely handy in tower layout. Amazingly, the red dot is still visible in full summer sunlight here in the Carolinas. No talk of levels or tower layout would be complete without mention of the transit, sometimes called a theodolite. There simply is no better way to ensure horizontal and vertical alignment. I use a Berger 200-series transit level.

Part of writing this column is sharing idea and solutions. Just as my client was surprised to see me carting around a portable drill press attachment, I am surprised to read or hear comments like, “Do you really believe we should have all the tools you have?” The simple answer is, no, of course not. But knowing something about such tools, how they work and how each will allow you to solve a problem, is the driving force behind writing *The Toolbox* each month. Borrowing, renting, or otherwise sharing stuff is part of what makes ham radio the great hobby that it is—something hams are known for and have always done. What's in **your** toolbox? --K4ZA

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Roving Reporter Visits KU4BP

We've heard a lot from Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, out of Winston-Salem, NC in the past six months, so this month the Roving Reporter decided to wander up to Winston-Salem and talk with Ed so we can all get to know him better.

Roving Reporter: Well, Ed, we've enjoyed hearing from you several times in the past few months in the *Pileup* regarding your VHF contest exploits. Up to that time, I thought you were mainly a HF operator.

KU4BP: I guess I would put myself in the HF camp for the most part. Yet, when I was first licensed, I went to my first hamfest in Tennessee, and there was a lot of VHF gear and accessories. As a new ham, I thought all that equipment was really neat. I had to make a choice—like most of us—over what I could afford and what I wanted to start my amateur radio experience with, and I chose HF at that time.

RR: How long ago was it that you were licensed?

KU4BP: Actual licensing wasn't that long ago compared to some of the other CDXA members. It was 1994 that I became a no-code Technician licensee. But my interest goes back much farther than that. My brother, who is six years older than I, and I were both interested in Citizen's Band radio in the late 1960s. My brother was licensed as a ham in 1972 as WB1COJ in Massachusetts where we lived at the time. I was quite fascinated by radio, but didn't study for my license exam then. In the early 1980s, I had a few false starts at working toward my ham license, but job and other pressures kept me from meeting my goal. Then, in 1994, I just decided that being licensed was something I really wanted and I studied and passed the examination. Within two years, I had learned the 13 wpm Morse code requirements and I upgraded to General Class and Advanced Class on the same exam day. Finally, in 2003, I took the last step and upgraded to Extra Class.

RR: Well, you've certainly come along real fast. Didn't I see that you've earned your 5BDXCC as well as a number of other awards on your website?

KU4BP: Yes, like many hams, it has become somewhat of a compulsion. I started with wire antennas exclusively. I guess I'd have to say that the really long distance contacts of the HF bands really hold my attention.

One of the first really long path DX QSOs was one morning when I was getting ready for work. I had the radio on early one morning, and I heard a weak CQ call from 4W6MM in East Timor. I stopped what I was doing and threw out my call, and he came right back to me. It was my "Gee Whiz!" moment, and I continue to enjoy that magic even today. Like many DXers, the compulsion has netted me some good results. I presently have 293 entities confirmed on all bands for DXCC. For the DX Challenge, I've managed to collect 1082 band/mode count. In addition to the 5BDXCC, I now have DXCC endorsements for the 12 meter and 17 meter bands. I'm particularly proud of my 5BWAZ (#1291).

RR: Weren't you also an active member of the famed "KIVA" group that used Henry Heidtmann's shack in his backyard in Winston-Salem?

KU4BP: Yes, I was. That was quite a lot of fun. There was a group in the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club that was interested in contesting, and we made a little subgroup of the club to pursue that interest. Henry acquired the contest callsign of W4WS and we enjoyed many a contest in the KIVA. (*The KIVA is pictured in the March, 2001 issue of the Pileup, archived on the CDXA website. –The Editor*) Operating in the big contests is a great way to pick up needed entities for DXCC. Henry has since moved from his location in Winston-Salem, and the club station has moved to the home QTH of Robert Whittaker, KG4NEP.

RR: Is it still called the KIVA?

KU4BP: I guess to honor the old place, we've not really come to call the new contest location the KIVA, but that old place will forever live in our minds as a great place from which to enjoy a contest.

RR: How have you done while contesting?

KU4BP: There is something special about operating as a multi-multi team. Rehashing the contest after it is over is one enjoyable aspect. We had some good outings as a team. Yet, I've enjoyed operating solo from time to time with good results. In the 2000 ARRL 10-meter Contest, I operated solo and took 12th in W/VE as well as setting the Single-Operator Low Power Category record for the Roanoke Division which still stands. In the 2001 CQ WPX SSB Contest, I managed a top 10

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

USA finish which was personally very satisfying.

RR: You're in an apartment now. Did you do most of your DXing from the KIVA and KG4NEP's QTH?

KU4BP: I have a friend who has a place with a basement and room for some wire antennas, and that is where I worked a lot of DX. I've really not had a home shack since I left Massachusetts in early 2000.

RR: Do you have any favorite rigs or modes of operation?

KU4BP: I've always liked the Kenwood product line. I bought a TS-850 and that has been my mainstay rig through the years. I've used other radios in places like the KIVA, but still find my TS-850 an old friend. I haven't worked CW very much ever since being licensed as a General, but I'm about to start tuning up my CW skills. There is just too much good DX for the taking in the Extra portion of the CW band.

RR: With all your activity of the past 10 years to make the climb you've accomplished, what were your most frustrating and humorous moments?

KU4BP: One of my more frustrating moments was last fall when YK1DA was operating from Syria—one I needed for a "new one". A foreign station came on the DX frequency and just started a horrendous level of intentional interference using recorded material. That sort of behavior saddens and maddens me. On a bright note, one of my highlights was a wonderful ragchew I had with a fellow named Brian, GD4PTV, from the Isle of Man. We talked about "bad drivers" for about 45 minutes and we both had a good laugh when I noted that a TV show about bad drivers always showed chaps from London, England. That gave Brian a great laugh.

RR: Would you like to meet Brian again? In our small world of ham radio, you'll find N4ZC, K4MQG, and K4MQL talking to Brian almost any morning at about 1230Z on 18.130 MHz. Stop in and say hello!

KU4BP: You're kidding! I'll have to do that.

RR: Let's move forward to some of your more current activities. In the past year, you've sent some pictures in to the *Pileup* showing some of your exploits in VHF contesting. Are you shifting interest?

KU4BP: Not really, but isn't the variety that ham ra-

dio offers one of its great aspects? All of my efforts at VHF contesting have been "hilltopping" which requires limited operating time, and I've used QRP power levels. To me it offers some of the same excitement that DXing on HF offers—long distance communications (relatively speaking) using only small signals. In my first effort I found I had to stay out of the line-of-sight paths of the big contest stations if I was going to high elevations, but since that first outing I've been fine and done well.

RR: You've packed a lot in the 12 years you've been licensed. I note that you are a checkpoint for CQ and some ARRL awards programs. Can we send people your way?

KU4BP: By all means, do so. I am a "checkpoint" for CQ for the WAZ and CQ/DX awards. I believe I'll soon be able to check the Worked All County awards. I also can check cards for the ARRL's WAS award. For DXCC, however, you'll have to go to Gary Dixon or Bill McDowell. Another thing I'm quite proud of is that I manage the Worked All North Carolina Counties Award. It's a nice award. You can read about it on my website at: <http://home.triad.rr.com/ku4bp/main.html>.

RR: Fine business, Ed. And, thanks for providing some reading material for readers of the *Pileup* over the past several months. We hope to see you in the real pileup for Peter One Island in a few days. —73.

Jack Pfifer, W4RTW (SK)

On February 8, 2006, Jack Pfifer, W4RTW, became a Silent Key. Funeral services were held in Statesville, NC on February 10, 2006. Jack was a member of Carolina DX Association, ARRL and FISTS.

I'd met Jack a few times on the telephone and only once in person at last year's Charlotte Hamfest. I had helped Jack get by a problem with his TNC on the W4DXA Cluster in late 2004, and Jack wanted to stop by to thank and meet his helper. That's the kind of guy he was. HPE TO CU AGN TU FER ALL JACK 73 W4RTW de K8YC SK (dit dit)



Peter One — Midstream

By John Scott, K8YC

It has been just about a week since Peter One came up on the airwaves. We'll all know a lot more about Peter One after the Charlotte Hamfest, but for now, I thought I'd offer some comments from the early going as it is in progress.

In the first few days, I and a number of other CDXAers experienced some operating behavior which causes one to pause and reflect on the status of the Amateur Radio Service. The "DX Police" have been out in force. There are the kindly ops who'll let a guy call on the DX frequency for a few calls before sending an "UP" in CW or speaking the word "Split" on SSB to help the unlearned or careless operator to "get with the program." Then there are the "Cops" who'll belittle a fellow for an honest mistake on the air or see fit to send a scathing announcement to "ALL" on the cluster. We know, of course, that these folks have never used the wrong VFO, or have always listened for a long time when a hot DX prospect is on the air just to ensure they don't interfere. It never seems to occur to them that their activities are QRM in themselves. On February 13, I was just completing a QSO with Peter One on 20 meters CW (which I needed and still need) when a string of about five loud, slowly executed "QSYs" came across on CW, apparently advising someone I couldn't even hear to move along. Needless, to say, I still don't know if I am in the log. Thanks, Mr. Policeman.

Oh, did I forget the jammers? They were there, too. Gee, it was strange on the afternoon of February 12, to find some guys having a ragchew on the announced frequency of the DXpedition for about an hour. Never mind, the Peter One crew moved down 3 KHz and were spotted there. But, what? Random noise right where the DXpedition was spotted, with no more than S-2 noise on the rest of the entire band. Hmmmmm...

While waiting out the dolts who make life miserable for the rest of us, I was musing for an appropriate acronym to describe them, and I came up with COWARD—Confederation Of Weird, Antisocial Radio Delinquents. It seemed like an appropriate name for one who hides behind a microphone and gets his "jollies" by disrupting the pleasure and pursuits of others. I'm preparing a membership certificate to present to the first COWARD I can find.

On a more positive note, it is wonderful that through Iridium Satellite communications we can live the event along with the Peter One team. There is a gallery of great pictures of the first landings, setting up shop, daily life in the "commons tent", the cook conjuring up his gastronomical delights, and the arrival on Peter One—of all things—the Port 'O Potty! Being able to see if you're in the log while checking out the pictures isn't all bad, either. Later in this newsletter I've shown a gallery of photos take from their website. The 3Y0X webmaster graciously said that I may display them here if I credit the photographer Bob Russell (www.eaglescry.com). Thank you, Bob, for allowing us to "live" the experience in the warmth of our radio shacks.

We all can feel the chill and desolation of Peter One with the wonderful scenes of the nearby volcanic mountain behind a field of pure white snow. And, we can feel the camaraderie of a group of fellows bent of giving the world of Amateur Radio a radio contact with a place which has had fewer visitors than outer space. So, jammers, cops, DX Police, and COWARDs, have at it, we'll just grin and bear it until you get tired of your shenanigans. See you in the Pileup!

Ten and Twenty Years Ago....

(Compiled from old issues of The Pileup available in the archives on the CDXA website at www.cdxa.org.)

Twenty Years Ago:

The more things change, the more they stay the same! Twenty years ago, the raffle prize at the Charlotte Hamfest was a Howard Miller World Clock which showed times at places all over the world... (Looked at the CDXA website lately????)...And, the dinner was also going to be at a new location that year, too....(Déjà vu, or what?)...A new "chip" had appeared on the market that was purported to have 400 active elements and would filter out TVI, RFI, and the editor was wondering when it would appear on new rigs...(How far we've come)...Ron Bailey won the Club competition for CQWW-CW and Henry Elwell won the Club competition for CQWW SSB but Ted Goldthorpe, then WA4VCC, won the CQWW SSB Low Power and Club Amateur of the Year by toughing it out when his amplifier let the smoke out of itself in the early going. Teddy, will you never learn?

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Ten Years Ago:

The Voodoo Contest Group were preparing to go to Togo (5V) for the CQWW contest in the Fall....A team was starting to assemble to make a go at Heard Island...(an event that came to pass)...Jerry Hagen (AD4MQ) wrote a nice article about his efforts at phasing some Butternet HF-2V antennas for the low bands.

Charlotte Hamfest Offers Great Lineup

March 11 brings the Charlotte Hamfest back to the forefront. A great lineup of forums is planned. In the early afternoon of Saturday, Bob Allphin (K4UEE), Wayne Starnes (KU4V), and Dave Anderson (K4SV) —all members of the 3Y0X DXpedition team—are all planning on being at the Charlotte Hamfest to conduct one of the first forums since their return from Peter I Island. On Saturday morning, Tim Duffy (K3LR) will be presenting “Anatomy of an Award-Winning Multi-Multi Contest Station”. Serious contesters will recognize the K3LR callsign as one serious contestster. If you wish to see how the “big guns” do things for a contest, don’t miss this one.

Wayne Mills (N7NG) from ARRL HQ and our own Gary Dixon (K4MQG) will be checking QSL cards for DXCC credit, so bring ‘em on.

CDXA has a great raffle prize again this year. It is a world clock giving local time at 9 different cities around the world. Want to see it? Go to the home page of CDXA at www.cdxa.org.

Later that same evening, starting at 6:30 PM, CDXA will adjourn to Shanghai Chinese Restuarant for our annual Hamfest Banquet. Dinner cost will be \$18.95 including tax and tip. The “Tennessee 8” folks already have their reservation in for dinner and will be attending the hamfest. Dinner is always a festive occasion and we usually have some or all of our forum speakers attending the dinner. There are a number of door prizes available for presentation, just to keep things lively.

If you haven’t made your reservations for dinner yet, contact Vice President Thomas Wright at twright@carolina.rr.com.

Memories from Peter One, 3Y0X

The photos on the next two pages were extracted from the 3Y0X website. The official photographer for the DXpedition was Bob Russell (www.eaglescry.com) and these pictures were made available for the asking.



While you sat in your warm shack, the 3Y0X team got to see this out of their door!



Above, “home sweet home” when you weren’t sleeping or operating. Below, master chef!





The 3YØX team which brought us Peter One Island.



Clockwise, from above: Operating Base B; Aha! The Port-O-Potty arrives, a fully heated bathroom (yeah!); The volcano on one of the few clear days. Brrrrrrr.; More material arrives via air express during initial camp setup.



The Back Page

Charlotte Hamfest is right around the corner on March 11-12. Several members of the 3Y0X team from Peter One Island will be here in Charlotte to make one of their first presentations about the DXpedition since their return from Peter I. Tim Duffy, K3LR will provide insight into what makes up an award winning contest station. See Page 8, inside.

The **Hamfest Banquet** will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2006 at Shanghai Chinese Restaurant. It is anticipated that the forum speakers from the hamfest will be present at the banquet. This will give you a chance to really ask those questions you've always wanted to ask. Our perennial visitors from Tennessee—The "Tennessee 8"—have their reservations in for dinner, already. Why not join us for the fun. Details inside on Page 8.

CDXA holds its own in the **North Carolina QSO Party**. Details can be found starting on the front page.

Pictures from the **3Y0X DXpedition**, Pages 8 and 9 inside. Courtesy of Bob Russell, DXpedition photographer.

Upcoming **Contest** Activity:

Dates	Contest	Comments
Mar 18-19	Russian DX Contest	
Mar 18-20	Virginia QSO Party	
Mar 25-26	CQWW WPX SSB	See www.cqwpx.com for details.
Apr 1-2	Kid' Roundup	
Apr 1-2	QCWA Spring QSO Party	

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