



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### CDXA Holiday Party on the Horizon

It's that time of the year again when our traditional Annual Meeting and Holiday Party rolls around. It is a great time to reconnect via an "eyeball" QSO with those who maybe you've not seen in the past year. We'll also have our annual meeting and election of officers at the event so you can exercise your "civic duty".

As is usual for this event, the awards for CWAC will be presented by our Contest Manager, Dick Williams (W3OA).

Also, by the date of this years event, you should have worked Lakshadweep (VU7) so you can come to the event even if only for bragging rights! As a new wrinkle for a holiday dinner this year, we'll be going to The Shanghai Restaurant. This is the same place that we held the Charlotte Hamfest dinner in March. Everybody seemed to enjoy this place, so we thought we'd give it another visit. So, set aside the evening of Thursday, December 14 now.

Details are below:

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

What: Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

Where: Shanghai Restaurant

8418 Park Road (Quail Corners near Park Road and Sharon Road) Charlotte, NC (704-556-1688)

When: December 14, Social Hour—6:30PM Dinner—7:15PM

Cost: \$18.95 per person, choice of 5 menu items  
plus appetizer, coffee, tea, or soft drink, tax, tip included

Libation: Cash Bar



### 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 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"	
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)	

## Lakshadweep is Coming!

By John Scott, K8YC

In less than 30 days, we'll all be hearing some of the bigger pileups of recent memory as Lakshadweep (VU7) returns to the air after being absent for many years. For a number of hams, working VU7 will be the "new one" which earns them a spot as "#1 on the DXCC Honor Roll". So, keep your "cool" in the pileups.

There are currently two competing groups planning on being active at the same time in early December. India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR) is one group. You'll recognize NIAR as the one which sponsored the opening of the Andaman Islands (VU4) at the time of the devastating tsunami of late 2004 and then again for the Andaman's "Hamfest" in early 2006. A competing group composed solely of Indian hams, Amateur Radio Society of India (ARSI), is planning an operation for early December, and apparently NIAR moved up its planned date of January, 2007 to avoid being "scooped" by the ARSI group. NIAR's altered date has caused some scrambling by the International contingent of hams expecting to participate in the NIAR effort.

From what I have learned, a "Hamfest" is the title that must be used to satisfy India's ministry of communications that the event is of international scope so that foreign amateur radio operators can participate. The ARSI group is composed entirely of Indian hams and therefore is not operating under that restraint. It is also my understanding that the ARSI group's permission to operate is for the purpose of demonstrating emergency communications. I don't know if that proviso will come into play as regards DXCC credit—especially if the Indian gov-

ernment feels the intentions of the ARSI group were misstated. But, as DXers say, work first and worry later (WFWL).

Your Board of Directors has decided to support the NIAR group with a grant of \$600. Our financial support will earn us a copy of our logo on the Lakshadweep Hamfest website as well as appearance of our logo on the QSL cards. As of November 4, 2006, our logo is already "front and center" in a scrolling marquee that greets you when you enter the official Lakshadweep Hamfest website. (<http://www.vu7.in/>) Let's hope we all have a QSL card from VU7 by next summer so we can admire the CDXA logo!

Two members of CDXA were supposed to be going to VU7—Joe (AA4NN) and Fabrizio (IN3ZNR)—but Fabrizio tells me that business commitments have forced him to cancel his participation. In a few weeks, Joe will be off to South Africa for CQWW-CW and then on to Lakshadweep. Look for us in the pileups, please, Joe!

## Frank Dowd Honored as Life Member

Every so often along comes someone whose commitment to CDXA and steadfastness of support warrants special recognition. At the special meeting held at the CDXA Barbeque, those in attendance voted to bestow the honor of Life Membership to Frank Dowd, K4BVQ.

Long before this editor became a member of CDXA, Frank was doing things on behalf of the members of CDXA. I know this because of a picture taken a number of years back where a group of about seven were "ferried" to Dayton on Frank's aircraft. In the past years since I became a member, Frank has hosted the CDXA Barbeque at his home several time, providing a wonderful country-like venue for the event. Most recently, Frank, provided financial help in acquiring a new CPU for our AR-Cluster spotting network.

Frank joins Al Guin and "Uncle Henry" Elwell as elected Life Members. All who know these gents will agree we've elected some fine individuals to earn the moniker of CDXA Life Member. Thanks to all three of you.

## AA4NN = ZS3NN in CQWW/CW

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN will be operating as ZS3NN from South Africa in CQWW/CW. Give him your QSOs.

### 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](mailto:cliffw@adelphia.net).

## K4CIA Wins ARRL DX Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last month I reported on CDXA member scores in the 2006 ARRL International DX Contest. Included there was the fact that Bill McDowell was first in North Carolina, SSB, single operator, QRP, all bands. I failed to mention that he was also number one in W/VE. He was also seventh in the same category for CW. A great accomplishment! Congratulations Bill.

I had to ask him how he managed his number one effort. Bill tells me he didn't lose any sleep to contest and was strictly search and pounce. His main rig was a TS-480 and he used an FT-1000MP on 80 meters and 160 meters because those antennas were connected to the MP. The antennas are a TH-11 at 105 feet, a 40 meter rotary dipole at 110 feet, an inverted vee for 80 meters at about 95 feet and a shunt fed tower for 160 meters.

Bill is now developing a more elaborate strategy to defend his title. Good luck Bill.

## CQWW—CW, Starts November 24

By Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA is off to a flying start in this year's CQWW contest. Our scores in the phone contest are much greater than last year. As of this writing, our total is over 16 million points. This compares to the 12 million points we claimed for phone last year. A good showing in the CW contest should boost our score in the Club competition beyond our 18<sup>th</sup> place finish in the US last year. So after you have finished your Thanksgiving celebration get on the air, have some fun, and contribute to CDXA's club score.

Scores are posted on the CDXA web site as they are received. Look at the big numbers posted by 4X/AA4V and W4WTB. Fortunately, they were both on our entry in the five-man team competition. AA4S, N1GC, and N4PQX completed the Team and brought the Team's score up to 9.7 million points. Looking at last year's scores, this would have placed them in the top six! A great effort by all and we'll keep our fingers crossed.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to CQ to contribute to our Club score. CQ will send you an email confirming receipt. If you don't get the email, you need to resubmit. Full details on how to do this are in the contest rules at [http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WW\\_Rules\\_20083006.pdf](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/WW_Rules_20083006.pdf).

Remember to show "Carolina DX Assn" as your Club.

The deadline for submitting logs to CQ is December 1 for phone and January 15<sup>th</sup> for CW

I need your results, both phone and CW, by December 3 so I can have the CWAC prizes ready to present at our Holiday Party/Annual Meeting party on December 14. Send me your number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total score. Additionally, I need your power level (high, low, or QRP), and whether or not you were assisted. If you made over 1000 QSOs, indicate your preference for a prize – trophy or Outback Steak House gift certificate. Send them to me, Dick Williams at [w3oa@adelphia.net](mailto:w3oa@adelphia.net).

## Welcome New Members

DXers across the Carolinas continue to "find" us, and we're happy they do. Some of the "new" members this month are returning veterans that were members of CDXA a number of years ago and who are returning to the fold. Once again, we welcome one new member per week to continue a trend of the past few months.

First to arrive in the past month was **Mack Shannon (N4WMB)** of Lancaster, SC. Close on Mack's heels we welcome **Wayne Ashworth (W4HG)** of Salisbury, NC. Your editor had just finished updating his email list for the *Pileup* when Cliff Wagoner advised that **Joe Barkley (KI4TZ)** had submitted his membership application. Joe resides in Charlotte. Finally, **Douglass Allen (W0AH)** of Inman, SC sent along his dues. Douglass was still on my email address list kept to email the *Pileup*, so he is in that grey area between "new member" and "late renewal", but we're glad he and all the others are now officially members of CDXA.

Two of the new members caught up with us at lunch recently, so we guess the instructions of how to find Shoney's on the front cover of each issue of the *Pileup* are sufficient. Welcome to CDXA to all of our newest members!

## CDXA Takes 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in 2006 Field Day

CDXA's efforts in the 2006 Field Day earned second place nationwide in Category 2E. This follows third place finishes in 2005 and 2004. You can read how this was done on page 5 of the July 2007 *Pileup*, available from the archives on the CDXA website.

But it was a squeaker. Our score of 7,754 points put us just 82 points ahead of the third place team, N2BJ. And

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the first place team, N5AW, scored 10,464 points. So we have a real challenge to move into first place next year.

You can see all the scores in the “members only” section of the ARRL web site under contest scores.

## BPL Still a Hot Issue

By John Scott, K8YC

Do you think the BPL issue has gone away? Well, you say, “Things have been pretty quiet lately.” Well, not as quiet as you might think.

Recently Duke Power Company quietly expanded its BPL network in Charlotte. Shortly thereafter, someone wrote me asking whether I’ve been following the BPL issue. I reviewed back issues of the *Pileup* and counted something like 14 articles that I’d written regarding BPL. In case you’ve not been following the issues, here’s a sliver of an update.

In some sense the FCC has indicated that they are becoming aware of the pleas of Amateur Radio. The FCC finally told the politicians of Manassas, Virginia to cease and desist from giving lip service to cleaning up its interference or else the FCC would consider shutting this particular BPL system down. I haven’t yet heard whether Manassas is finally getting off the dime and doing something about its clearly observable interference.

The long awaited Memorandum Opinion and Order (MO&O) in response to petitions of ARRL and others for reconsideration of various BPL rules set forth in its original Report and Order (R&O) did little to satisfy ARRL and its members. In its long awaited report, the FCC seemed to say the mobile operators can avoid interference merely by moving away from the source of the interference. (*Huh?*) Furthermore, the FCC seemed to ignore even the comments of NTIA (a government agency) who reiterated their concerns on interference of a fully deployed BPL system in an urban environment. (You may recall that NTIA’s initial report going way back cited that interference with commercial aircraft communications would be highly likely over urban areas due to BPL “noise”. (*Just the place it should be most robust—Editor*) One of the concerns continually raised by ARRL is that the original Report and Order grossly understated the requirements for measuring interference because those requirements were based on a physically small Part 15 Device (example, personal computer) rather than a large scale distributed radiator

such as a BPL grid. In its MO&O the FCC also side-stepped the issue of defining “harmful interference”. This is particularly dismaying to those of us who are best classified as “small signal” users of our allocated spectrum.

The ARRL Board of Directors recently voted to file a suit against the FCC to call them to task for not following their own rules in prohibiting interference. I’m sure this item was carefully discussed by the Board since we—yes the ARRL *is us*—would be suing the very commission which grants us our privileges. I believe we’ve reached a point where we must take a stand on this issue.

All this finagling does cost money that up until a few years ago the ARRL probably had a pretty good handle on. So, if you have a few extra bucks lying around and you like the hobby, maybe you might think of supporting the Spectrum Defense Fund of the ARRL. If so, go to the ARRL website and click on “**Support**” on the menu bar. Then click on “**ARRL Development Overview**” for more information.

## The Toolbox

By Don Daso, K4ZA

(Reprinted with permission of PVRC.)

On a recent turnkey installation for a client, I had the nasty job of toting 3 cubic yards of concrete from the delivery truck to the tower base, using a single wheelbarrow—200 ft away (downhill, luckily). It was cold, wet (raining), and the neighbor lady was cursing us the entire time (she was somehow convinced that tire tracks on her lawn were my doing; they weren’t). However, the upshot of this task was that I discovered a new tool. Albeit too late to use on this job, and probably too expensive to utilize any way except through a rental, it was a superb example of problem solving at its simplest form.

To wit, the Accu-Chute wheelbarrow. This is a heavy-duty wheelbarrow, with a tapered chute, or pouring spout, on its front. Equipped with heavy-duty wheels and tires and a heavier-than-usual bed, this wheelbarrow will allow you to easily and accurately pour liquids into a small diameter tube. Perfect, in other words, for what I was doing, or what we sometimes must do on tower jobs. The price is high, but the laborsaving just might be worth it. It is pictured on the following page.

On this same job, some simple tools again came into

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play, reminding me of early building success. This was a 52-ft Tri-Ex crank-up tower, weighing some 900-odd lbs. The owner, who still lives in New York, hired me to install it. He purchased the tower on KA9FOX's QTH.com website, and the Florida owner delivered it to the NC location. Before its arrival, I spent considerable time thinking about moving this hunk of steel. I believe this "visualization" was not only helpful, but useful, because the owner was amazed when N4ZC and myself unloaded it in less than two minutes, without incident. "It took me an hour to load this thing, using a forklift," he exclaimed. Here's how we did it.

I knew, from telephone conversations, that he was using a U-Haul vehicle trailer. I cut some sections of 3-inch water pipe to the width of trailer's ramps. Even though the tower was heavy, I was still able to lift it at one end, enough so that Roger (ZC) could slide one under the tower. It was then a simple matter to slide those down to the center, whereupon we could then tilt the tower up—the other way—and slide the remaining pipe sections under that end. Then it was amazingly easy to

I have two dollies which I utilize all the time in tower work. They're great tools. One is a simple "wagon" style dolly, with 10-inch pneumatic tires, capable of supporting 1200 lbs. I have a 10-ft handle for it, which lets me walk and steer with a tower hanging over the front. The other is a modified "trailer hitch" dolly, designed to allow one person to roll a trailer around. I welded some plate to the hitch point, and it now slides under heavy stuff and allows me to roll it around. This dolly usually "brings up the rear" of whatever long, heavy object I'm trying to maneuver around someplace. And I can still screw a ball into it, to use as originally designed. Together, these dollies allowed just the two of us to roll this heavy crank-up tower next to the house, where it sat atop some concrete blocks, while we dug the base.

A few weeks later, when the base had cured, it was a simple matter to put the tower back on these same two dollies, and carefully move it across the yard, under the deck and ease it up to the Tri-Ex erection fixture. I must admit, in each case, the work went easier than even I had imagined. Storing them takes some time and trouble, but these dollies have made work projects such as this one not only possible, but also much easier and more affordable. And by the way, I purchased the wagon dolly from TEK Supply and the trailer dolly at Northern Tools.

If you think you're interested in moving heavy objects without incident (hurting yourself, for instance), or spending large amounts of money to rent mechanized equipment, you might enjoy what one enterprising retired carpenter in Michigan has been able to accomplish. See <http://www.theforgottentechnology.com/Page1.htm> for a fascinating look at some old methods and techniques for moving heavy stuff!

*What's in your toolbox??* —K4ZA



### Lexophile Mania

If you don't pay your exorcist, you can get repossessed.  
You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A will is a dead giveaway.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the end.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

## The Back Page

CDXA's **Annual Meeting and Holiday Party** is scheduled for Thursday, December 14. Details can be found on the Front Page of this issue.

Radio signals will be emanating from **Lakshadweep (VU7)** in early December, 2006. Joe Blackwell will be there. CDXA is supporting this DXpedition financially. See details on Page 2.

The **CDXA Club score for CQWW/SSB** was very good—over 16 Million points. Let's set a new high water mark for CDXA this year. Plan to get on the air for CQWW/CW. See Page 3.

**Broadband Over Power Line (BPL)** is still a hot issue for all of us. See update on Page 4. If you've not been following the BPL scene, there is a menu pick on the ARRL website that will take you to all you wanted to know about BPL technology and recent events of interest to the Amateur Radio community.

CDXA earns **Second Place National rank in Field Day 2E Class**. See Page 3.

### Upcoming Contest Activity:

Dates (UTC)	Contest	Notes
Nov. 11-12	WAE DX RTTY Contest	See <a href="http://www.waedc.de">http://www.waedc.de</a> for details.
Nov. 18-20	ARRL Sweepstakes—SSB	See <a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/novss.html">http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/novss.html</a>
Nov. 25-26	CQWW – SSB	See <a href="http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com">http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com</a> for rules.
Dec. 1-3	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	See <a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/160-Meters.html">http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/160-Meters.html</a>
Dec. 9-10	ARRL 10 Meter Contest	See <a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-meters.html">http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/10-meters.html</a>

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## First Class Mail

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