



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

NC QSO Party

Dick Williams, W3OA

The North Carolina QSO Party ran from noon to 10 PM on Sunday, February 25. CDXA again put in a strong effort. Operating from Discovery Place, we were looking to lengthen our streak of consecutive wins in the In State Club category to three. K4WAC, K8YC, W3OA, W3ZL, W4GRW, and W4VHF made up the operating team.

A lot of CDXA members were on the other end of our QSOs. We worked W4WNT/M in five different counties (three of them were new ones for us), K4ATM/M in five counties (two new ones), AA4S/M in two counties (two new ones) and AD4IE/M in two counties (one new one). Also in the log are K4DGJ, K4GHS, K4MQG, KG4PBG, KI4TZ, KZ2I, N2BT, W4HG, AND WA4DOU. Thanks to all of these operators for their help in boosting our score.

One pleasant surprise was the large number of /AG call signs on the air for this contest. Presumably most of these were new General Class operators who had just upgraded with the elimination of the CW requirement just two days before the QSO Party. We didn't hear any poor operating practices from them – just short efficient QSOs appropriate to a QSO party. And it was fun congratulating them on their upgrades.

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

Our President, W4VHF, decided to give the operating team an additional challenge during the contest. When he departed the shack at the end of his shift he left a copy of Sports Illustrated on the operating table. The Swim Suit issue. I'm happy to report that the operating team was not distracted, much, and carried on almost without interruption.

At the end of the contest we had 453 good QSOs in the log. This was not quite as many QSOs as last year but we knew our multiplier count was higher this year. Unfortunately, a logging problem prevented us from immediately comparing our score to last years. This year we decided to use N1MM for logging. The documentation for N1MM shows that it supports the NC QSO party but also says "There are some scoring anomalies with the QSO parties." About an hour into the contest we realized how true this was. We saw that, while the program appeared to be doing a good job at catching dupes and giving us multipliers for counties and states worked, it was not showing the correct

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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 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	
Echolink Interconnect to CDXA Rptr.	Login to K4DXA -R	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

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number of points for each QSO. It was also giving us a multiplier for each unique DX entity when the rules only allow counting a single multiplier for the first DX contact. We resolved to carry on and recalculate the point score after the contest. K8YC and I each did so independently on Monday. This took much of the day. After comparing results and correcting each other's oversights, we eventually came to what we feel is an accurate score, 103,311 points. This compares to our score of 111,402 last year. Not too bad, not what we'd hoped for, but we still felt pretty good about it.

On Wednesday W4GRW reported that a new club, North Carolina Kilowatts, NC4KW, had reported a score of 143,789 points on the 3830 reflector. This in an outstanding, almost unbelievable effort. Their 3830 posting indicates that the operators are actually members of another club, Orange County Radio Amateurs, and that they were running *high* power. The QSO Party rules limit power to 100 watts. We will ask the QSO Party organizers to check out these apparent anomalies. Stay tuned!

A Little Something for CDXA

We hope you drop in to the CDXA website from time to time and/or read the bulletins sent out by President Goldthorpe. If you don't, you might not know that if you enroll or renew your ARRL membership through the Club Secretary, Cliff Wagoner, by sending your renewal check to Cliff, CDXA gets to keep a dollar of two and forward the balance to the ARRL. The amount the club may retain for a NEW member is even higher. With over 160 members in CDXA, if everyone renews through Cliff, the club will have a couple of hundred

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 December. 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.

extra dollars in the treasury with which to support DXpeditions. Please help by sending your ARRL membership renewal through Cliff.

Welcome New Members

Following the pattern of the past several months, "one new member a week" continued in February.

Early in the month **Michael Keziah (WA2TGE)** of Rock Hill submitted his application for membership.

You'll recall seeing in the February 2007 issue of the Pileup the item about the marriage of Catherine (nee Hage) McDaniel (WB4CAT) to Francis "Buck" McDaniel (N4PGW). With the enrollment of **Buck McDaniel (N4PGW)** as a new member, we now have two husband/wife teams as members.

The first week of March saw **Jack Bernath (W6QO)** of Denver, NC arrive at the door of CDXA. Jack is not new to DXing since his entity count is right around 275.

A hearty welcome from CDXA goes out to all three of these new members. We hope to see you at the CDXA booth at the Charlotte Hamfest.

Charlotte Hamfest, Saturday March 10

It's still not too late to get to the Charlotte Hamfest. It happens on March 10-11—just around the corner. We expect the gang from Tennessee to be in attendance as well as Bill Moore and Mary Hobart from ARRL HQ. Bill and Gary Dixon will be checking QSL cards for DXCC credit, as usual.

A dinner will be held at the Shanghai Restaurant in Quail Corners Shopping Center starting at 6:30PM. (8418 Park Road). Thomas Wright is taking reservations, but at this late date, there is no guarantee of available room for the dinner. Give Thomas a call if at all interested.

Lands' End Apparel Order

Dick Williams, W3OA

As mentioned in last month's Pileup, one of the reasons we have used group buys to order Lands' End apparel with the CDXA logo is the minimum order quantities they impose for applying the logo. They now have a special offer, valid until May 4th, which removes the minimum order quantity. There is also a web site that facilitates each member placing his/her own order directly with Lands' End. As a consequence, we do not plan

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on doing a group buy this year. This article provides some hints on using this web site.

The web site is at <http://ces.landsend.com/CDXA>

Click on “Shop your store”. It’s in red letters, in the middle of the page, beneath the logos.

Select your product category from “Your Product Index” drop down list in the upper left corner, under the big letters, “CDXA”. (The product category for some of our more popular items from past years are shown in the table below.) Then hit the “Go” button next to the category.

Proceeded through the choices offered to get the particular style and size group (i.e. regular, tall, or big) that you want.

After you have selected the size, color, and entered the quantity wanted, click the “Continue” button. There are no provisions for you to change the colors in the logo so make sure the color you select will work with the dark blue and yellow in our logo.

The next page will give you the opportunity to select the CDXA logo and specify where you want it. After doing this, click the “Add To Cart” button.

You will now see the item in your shopping cart. To add your call/name to the item you must enter ordering instructions at this time. To do this, click on the words “Enter optional ordering instructions” in green, half way down the left side of the page. This will take you to a box for entering your instructions. You need to be very specific. As an example, here’s what I used:

Please personalize with the following text directly above the logo, without the quotes: “W3OA-Dick”. The third character is the letter “O”. Use the same color thread as the yellow thread used in the logo.

The personalization can be up to 12 characters long, including spaces, but only six characters will fit directly above the logo. After entering your instructions, click on the “Submit” button.

You should now be back at your shopping cart. The charge for the personalization is an additional \$5.00. This charge will not show up in your shopping cart.

Now you can continue shopping for additional items or checkout in the normal manner.

Let me know if I can be of any help.

Dick Williams, W3OA
w3oa@roadrunner.com, (704 658-0915)

Scarborough Reef (BS7) DXpedition

By John Scott, K8YC

A major news item since the last issue of *THE PILEUP* is that a team of operators is being assembled to put Scarborough Reef (BS7) on the air in the April/May 2007 time frame. One of the team members on the team will be CDXA’s own Joe Blackwell, AA4NN.

CDXA is currently accepting donations in support of the DXpedition. CDXA is planning on a donation of \$1000 from the treasury. An anonymous donor has offered to match the first \$500 donated by the membership. If the membership is really generous, an additional match may be offered for the second \$500 increment submitted. Thus, if we can get \$1000 from the membership via personal pledges, CDXA will be able to send \$3000 to the BS7 team. At that level of financial support, we should be able to have the CDXA logo appear on the QSL card.

Fellows like AA4NN are spending their own money to get to the point of embarkation. The donated money is to pay for the expenses of the boat which much remain in the vicinity of the operation. Let’s show our support for Joe, AA4NN and open our wallets. Rather than sending in your money with your QSL card, place your bet on making the contact—it’ll make you work that much harder to get in the log.

Why, you ask, does the boat need to stay with the DXpedition team? Because, the “reef” at high tide looks merely like a small pile of rocks. At best, the “land” might be 18 to 20 feet across. Old time DXers tell me that when first put on the DXCC entity list, the effort of the team that went there was disallowed because the operators built a small wood platform and operated with their feet in the water. (Not too good with electricity present!) The next effort ensured that operations were conducted above the waterline, even if it was a scaffold built on the rocks. The CDXA website recently had a picture of Scarborough and the July/August 2006 issue of *The DX Magazine* had a good write-up about the place.

In the recently completed “most wanted” survey by *The DX Magazine*, Scarborough was at the top of the World’s most wanted list. It is also at the top of the most wanted list of all continents, except Asia where it resides in 7th place. So, get ready for some BIG pileups!

Quite a High School Reunion!

Dick Genaille (W4UW) of Winston-Salem writes.....

. . . . Last October I attended my high school homecoming in Ridgefield Park, NJ (ex W2MRK) and ran into an interesting fellow and a “one-time DXer”. I had gone to the cash bar at the welcoming cocktail party to get some drinks for the table at which the XYL and I were sitting. While at the bar a fellow standing next to me saw my name tag and school year ('39) and he remarked that it was nice to see older alumni members attending the high school functions. I mentioned that I thought highly of the school and came back to visit whenever the occasion came up. I noticed his name tag showed his name as Greg Olsen. When I went back to our table, I mentioned meeting this person and mentioned his name. Several women at the table got all excited and explained to me that he is the third man that visited the space station the previous October. Then it dawned on me that I had read about his trip in QST and CQ magazines before the event had taken place.

I did go back to talk to him and get a picture of us, both of us being hams. I was a little disappointed because he mentioned that he was involved in many things and ham radio really was not one of the primary ones even though he had a license and could operate from the space station. Greg graduated from Ridgefield Park in 1962. Of course, all the folks in town are quite proud of him. Greg and his mother are also very well known in town for their philanthropy.

I might add my high school graduated three well known persons. Ozzie Nelson lived in Ridgefield Park and was a graduate. Bob Lewis was one of our football stars and the co-pilot of the Enola Gay that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Bob often said he would rather be remembered for his football career than for dropping the bomb. Then, of course, there is Greg Olsen. It makes one sort of proud of his high school.

(Dick has crossed paths with other “famous” hams. See the January 2003 issue of the Pileup in the archives. Also, the Roving Reporter visited Dick in the November 2002 issue of the Pileup. That issue is also available from the archives. –The Editor)

Echolink Access to 147.18MHz Repeater

If you are driving around Charlotte and hear a DX call-sign when listening on the W4DXA repeater (147.18 MHz in Fort Mill, SC), be sure to say hello. Ken Boyd (K4DXA) has set up an Echolink connection from his

QTH giving hams all over the world the ability to “jump off” in Charlotte and talk to us through W4DXA/R. In fact, if you are on a business trip, have Internet access, and have Echolink software on your laptop, you too can say hello to the folks back home. Just look for K4DXA-R on the Echolink server and connect.

So when you hear our repeater crackle with an unfamiliar callsign, jump in and introduce yourself.

Welcome to HF!!

The elimination of Morse Code as a requirement for amateur radio licensing was evident in the recently completed North Carolina QSO Party. While working the pileups in the contest only two days after the requirement was eliminated, the CDXA team operating from Discovery Place encountered 23 licensees signing “stroke AG” after their callsigns. The first day anyone could take advantage of the new licensing requirement was Friday, February 23, 2007. ARRL and a number of other VE teams made it a point to have examination sessions on those first days to speed entry of those seeking the new privileges. That 23 were encountered on 25 February, and that those same operators were participating in what was probably their first HF contest bodes well for ham radio. We can only hope to lead those new operators to good operating practices.

Each time a “/AG” was encountered by the CDXA team during NCQP, we congratulated the new licensee on his/her upgrade. The response was often surprise by the person receiving the congratulatory statement.

On February 28, ARRL reported that they had already received documentation from over 450 VE sessions completed since 23 February. ARRL has put on additional staff to help them through the “crunch”.

One of the downsides of so many new operators on HF was evident in the recently completed ARRL International DX contest. There were an unprecedented number of instances of someone tuning up right on top of a “running” contest station. Since solid state rigs don't require tuning, some operators apparently new to linear amplifiers that felt they had to tune “right on” the working frequency. Hopefully with some “elmering” and time, these folks will just become one of the crowd. It is also hoped all new General Class operators will take seriously the need to continue to learn more and more about our hobby so that they can continue to improve their operating skills. See you in the pileups.

ARRL Seeks to Force FCC to Produce Documents on BPL Complaint Dismissals

(This article was copied from the ARRL website.)

NEWINGTON, CT, Feb 27, 2007 -- The ARRL has filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking to compel the FCC to provide several documents related to its dismissal of several broadband over power line (BPL) interference complaints from radio amateurs in Manassas, Virginia. The FCC on December 14 told five Manassas radio amateurs that it was throwing out their complaints, asserting that its measurements last October 25 and 26 showed the Manassas BPL system to be in compliance. The ARRL has disputed the FCC's findings and, on December 21, sought clarification in a letter to several FCC officials, including Enforcement Bureau Chief Kris Monteith and Spectrum Enforcement Division Chief Kathryn S. Berthot, who authored the dismissal letter. The FCC's silence to date prompted the FOIA request. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Manassas-area amateurs indicate new BPL equipment has somewhat reduced interference, some severe interference exists, and the situation remains far from acceptable.

"The reasons for the Commission's dismissal, after months of delay, of five of the six Manassas complaints are inadequately documented, and no action appears ever to have been taken on a sixth complaint," Sumner commented. "The FOIA request was submitted only after the FCC failed, after more than two months, to respond to a letter from the ARRL pointing out apparent deficiencies in the Commission's investigation and requesting additional information to supplement Kathryn Berthot's terse and uninformative letter of December 14 dismissing the five complaints."

ARRL Chief Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, filed the FOIA request February 23, seeking essentially the same information and documentation it had asked the Commission last December to provide voluntarily. The League is looking for any documents that:

- o indicate whether or not the hams who filed interference complaints were notified in advance of the FCC inspection and testing in late October, and, if so, who
- o indicate if anyone other than FCC staff observed the Manassas BPL system tests;
- o indicate which FCC staffers were involved in the testing and if any were from the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET);
- o indicate which FCC staff members determined the test procedures used during the October inspection;
- o indicate whether or not representatives of BPL system operator COMTek and equipment supplier Main.net had been notified in advance of the October inspection and testing;
- o identify the six areas of the BPL system where the FCC reported it conducted tests, how it determined those areas, why two test sites were segregated from the six identified earlier, whether test results on October 26 differed from

- o those of the previous day and whether there were changes in the BPL system prior to the October 26 testing, and that
- o indicate specific test methodologies and equipment the FCC used during its testing, specific frequencies checked, radiated emission levels recorded, the distance from power lines and their height above ground, if any underground lines were tested and if they were notched on any bands.

The League also wants copies of all correspondence regarding the October 25-26 tests "between or among" OET, the Enforcement Bureau, Main.net, COMTek and/or the City of Manassas, including letters and e-mails.

BPL proponent the United Power Line Council hailed Berthot's December 14 dismissal as a "complete and total vindication" of the Manassas BPL system, but Imlay maintained in his December 21 response to the FCC that Berthot's letter raised more questions than it answered. For starters, he said, there's no independent means to evaluate the conclusions Berthot described.

One complainant, George Tarnovsky, K4GVT, said neither he nor the other five complainants were alerted to the planned FCC testing. The others are Donald "Butch" Blasdell, W4HJL; William South, N3OH; Arthur Whittum, W1CRO; Jack Cochran, WC4J, and Dwight Agnew, AI4II. Berthot's December 14 letter altogether overlooked Whittum's May 2006 complaint that BPL interference precluded communication with the EastCARS and MidCARS nets on 40 meters. As recently as February 26, Whittum reported experiencing harmful interference on 40 meters from emissions that appeared to be well in excess of FCC limits.

Last August, the ARRL had recommended that the FCC Enforcement Bureau and the OET to take independent measurements in Manassas, rather than relying on COMTek to provide the information. It further urged the Commission to contact all complainants ahead of time to provide "an opportunity for all concerned to witness the testing and to be assured that valid test methodologies were used," Imlay said. "Had that been done," Imlay wrote December 21, "and had the measurements been fairly and objectively made, and if the results were as the Commission stated in its December 14 letter, this matter would have been resolved. As it is, nothing is now resolved."

In requesting a fee waiver with its FOIA request, the ARRL noted that the FCC "has not previously disclosed its methodologies for investigating claims of interference to licensed radio services" from BPL. As a result, disclosure of the requested information would "lead to a significantly better understanding of the operations or activities of the government."

(It is a fine line that ARRL must walk to use legal means to get information from the very organization that grants us our privileges. Yet, events of the past 3 to 4 years indicate an unlevel playing field for Amateur Radio. —The Editor)

The Back Page

Seventeen members of CDXA had reported their scores for the **ARRL International DX Contest** to Dick Williams as of Tuesday, March 6. With a few larger expected scores still outstanding, CDXA had amassed more than eight million points in the two contest segments. The club winners will be announced by Dick Williams, W3OA, at the Charlotte **Hamfest dinner** to be held Saturday night. (See the article on the Hamfest on Page 2.)

A recap of the **North Carolina QSO Party** starts on Page 1.

A few dollars of your **renewal dues to ARRL may accrue to CDXA** if you choose the renewal option outlined on Page 2.

Help support the DXpedition to **Scarborough Reef**. AA4NN will be our “representative” on the rock! See Page 3.

Echolink access now improved for W4DXA/Repeater. See table on Page 1 and article on Page 4.

ARRL seeks **information from FCC regarding BPL complaints**. See Page 5.

Contest season winds down:

Date(s)	Contest	Remarks
Mar 24-25	CQWW WPX SSB	Information available at CQ Magazine website
May 26-27	CQWW WPX CW	Information available at CQ Magazine website

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

cliffw@adelphia.net

First Class Mail

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