

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

2007 CWAC Wrap UP

By Dick Williams, W3OA

In 2007 CDXA continued its record of improving performance in the CQ World Wide DX Contest (CQWW) over the last few years. The scores posted on our web site show this. In 2003 we had 27 operators who submitted CQWW logs and CDXA's total claimed score was just over 18 million points. This year we had 34 operators and our total score has jumped from 18 million to over 30 million points – a great improvement.

CDXA was also well represented in the CW and phone five-man team competitions.

Our phone team -- AA4S, KZ2I, N4PQX, W3OA, and W4WTB scored 8 million, 112 thousand points.

Our CW team -- AA4NN, AA4S, IN3QBR, N2TU, and WA4DOU scored 6 million, 268 thousand points.

CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) awards in seven categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

Top Combined Score – AA4S, 3 million, 472 thousand points

Top Phone Score – W4WTB, 3 million, 404 thousand points

Top Phone Score, Low Power – WA4DOU, 457 thousand points

Top CW Score – N2TU, 1 million, 330 thousand points

Top CW Score, Low Power – K4GHS, 210 thousand points

Top Multi-Op Score – W3GQ and his team W3ZL, K8YC, and KA8FAN, 3 million, 514 thousand points

Top DXpedition Score – AA4V, 2 million, 724 thousand points

(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 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	

(Continued from page 1)

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. These winners were:

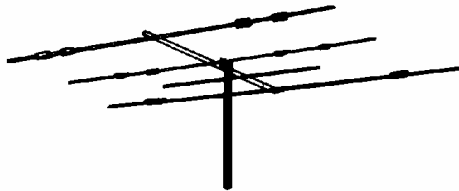
KI4TZ	KZ2I
N4PQX	N4ZC
W3OA	

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a CDXA patch. There were thirteen patch winners:

AA4NN	AD4IE	IN3QBR
IN3ZNR	K4DGJ	K4LY
K4SQR	K8YC	KI4MF
KU4V	N4AA	W3ZL
WA3GNW		

Another article in this edition of The Pileup shows important dates for CDXA members in 2008. Included there are CQWW Phone, October 24 – 26, and CQWW CW, November 28-30. Please put these dates on your calendar now to avoid any scheduling conflicts with the 2007 CQWW and CWAC. With more participants, we should improve our performance again in 2008.

—73 Dick, W3OA



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 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.

2008 Calendar

Here are some dates of important activities for CDXA members in 2008. I suggest you put these on your personal calendar now to minimize the chance of scheduling conflicts arising as we go through the year. If you, like me, don't keep your own calendar, please give the dates to your "calendar keeper".

CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 25-27
ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 15-17
CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 22-24
North Carolina QSO Party	Feb 24
ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Feb 29- Mar 2
Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 8-9
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	Mar 8
Dayton Hamvention	May 16-18
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 14-15
Field Day	June 28-29
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 19-20
Shelby Hamfest	Aug 29- Sept 1
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sept 13-14
CQ World Wide, RTTY	Sept 26-28
SEDCO/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 27-28
CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 24-26
CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 28-30
ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Dec 5-7
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 13-14

ARRL Membership Renewal via CDXA

ARRL membership renewals sent in through the CDXA Secretary-Treasurer will result in CDXA being able to keep \$2.00 of your dues submission when forwarding your membership renewal on to ARRL. If you are a new member of ARRL applying for membership the first time, CDXA would be able to keep \$15.00 of your dues submission, but we don't anticipate that will be the case often for a DX club like ours.

If you'd like a small portion of your dues money to remain in the coffers of CDXA, merely send your renewal check for the regular amount to CDXA Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL) and he will remit the net amount along with those of other CDXA members. Every little bit in the treasury will add to the funding of DXpeditions we choose to support from time to time.

Win Outback Gift Cards and Trophies in ARRL DX Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The ARRL International DX Contest is just around the corner. The CW contest starts February 15, the phone contest starts February 29. We are offering more and better prizes this year to encourage you to participate and contribute to CDXA's Club Score.

Our scores for the last several years are shown below. The last column shows where we ranked among all club entries in the medium category, 50 or fewer entries.

Year	CDXA Score	Number of CDXA Entries	Rank in Medium Club Category
2000	3,547,737	10	24
2001	2,588,943	9	21
2002	3,407,106	13	20
2003	2,014,479	14	19
2004	6,569,034	31	16
2005	7,619,703	32	14
2006	2,747,289	21	18
2007	7,910,718	30	9

You can see 2007 was a great year for us. But we can do a lot better! We can increase our participation dramatically and stay within the 50-entry limit for the medium category. Let's get our participation up in 2008 and continue our progress in the rankings! To this end, we are offering the following prizes:

- o 1st place prizes – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card.
 - o Top combined CW plus Phone score
 - o Top CW score, low power
 - o Top Phone score, low power
 - o Top DXpedition Score
 - o Top CW score
 - o Top Phone score
 - o Top Multi-op score
- o 1000 or more QSOs total in the CW and Phone contests – Each participant can choose a trophy or a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift Card.
- o 500 or more QSOs total in the CW and Phone contests – Each participant gets a photo printed CDXA certificate and patch.
- o 250 or more QSOs – Each participant gets a CDXA patch.

An individual can only win one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (meet the 175 mile criteria) as defined in the contest rules can win a Gift Card or a trophy. These rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/rules-all.html>. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificate and patch.

DUES

Yes, it is annual dues time at CDXA once again. Hopefully, you've already sent Cliff Wagoner your check for your 2008 dues because they were payable as of January 1, 2008. If so, thank you.

If you got behind in bill-paying because of the holidays, please remit now to save Cliff from asking you whether you want to remain on the roster. Remit to cliff at: Cliff Wagoner; P.O. Box 577; Davidson, NC 28036.

Where is the Center of CDXA's Club Area? Or, Should W4VHF Move His Home to Mount Gilead?

Dick Williams, W3OA

The rules for club competitions in both the ARRL and CQ DX contests limit participation by specifying the radius of a circle that defines the club's area. The ARRL specifies 282 km, CQ specifies 275 km. In order to have your score count for CDXA's score, you must live and operate within the circle. Both organizations provide an exception for DXpeditions as long as your home QTH is within the circle.

After the contests I have to submit a list of eligible club members to the contest sponsors. This means I have to answer the question "Where is the Center of CDXA's club area?" Is it Murphy's, where we meet informally but most often; K4MQG's house, because that's where the repeater is; W4VHF's home, because he's our revered leader; or the Shanghai Restaurant, where we held our most recent formal meeting? This has become more critical as we have gained more members spread further away from Charlotte. Consultations with members more experienced in these matters taught me we could use any point we want. The trick is to find the one that maximizes our score.

In the 2007 CQWW we had entries from 34 members throughout North and South Carolina. I hoped to find a center point that would put all these entries within the 275 km radius. I got an AAA map of the two states and located each entry. This cursory look showed that my problem was to find the center of a 275 km radius circle that would include N4AA in Leicester, NC (to the west); KI4MF in Arapahoe, NC (to the east); WA3GNW in Charleston, SC (to the south); and AA4V in Isle of Palms, SC (also to the south). I tried using a yardstick with the scale on the map, marked "approximate", but felt the results were not accurate enough for our purposes.

So I turned to the Internet. QRZ.com gives an approximate latitude and longitude for each station and another neat web site, <http://www.movable-type.co.uk/scripts/latlong.html>, will calculate the distance between any two points given their latitude and longitude. That site will also calculate the latitude and longitude of a point midway between two given points. Using the data from QRZ.com told me that KI4MF was 543 km from N4AA (good, $543/2 = 271$ km) but AA4V was 284 km from the midpoint between KI4MF and N4AA (bad, further than 275 km). I needed better infor-

mation on the location of the four stations to make sure I would arrive at the right answer.

So I sent the four stations involved an email asking for their exact latitude and longitude. I suggested they use a GPS receiver if available or use another web site, <http://www.satsig.net/maps/lat-long-finder.htm>, to find their latitude and longitude. They all responded promptly and I was ready to finalize my calculations. The actual distance between KI4MF and N4AA came out to be 502 km. That was an improvement over the 543 km in my previous calculation. But the midpoint between the two was still too far from AA4V, 288 km. The latlong web site has another feature that let me solve this problem easily. It will calculate the bearing to travel from one point to another and the new latitude and longitude if you move a specified distance on that bearing. I decided to try a center 20 km from the midpoint between KI4MF and N4AA in the direction of AA4V. This gave me a center at 35 degrees, 10 minutes, 56 seconds N and 80 degrees, 0 minutes, 1 second W. Mission accomplished! This point is 268 km from AA4V, 249 km from KI4MF, 255 km from N4AA, and 262 km from WA3GNW.

So, to answer the two questions posed in the title of this article, CDXA's center is, or more properly, was, just south of Mount Gilead, NC. It can move at anytime. And no, we don't need to ask Ted to move there—which is probably a good thing because the satellite photos indicate it's a heavily wooded area.

CDXA "Gear"

Do you still want to purchase some CDXA "gear"—a shirt or jacket with the CDXA logo embroidered on it? Dick Williams reports that a recent Lands End catalog he received shows the "minimum order quantity" is still one unit through the end of January, 2008. While it has been extended from a period starting mid-year in 2007, there is no guarantee it will be extended again.

The logo embroidery fee is something like \$6.00 per item for the CDXA logo if it is ordered in quantities of 6 items of a particular product type. Otherwise, the embroidery fee was double for less than the minimum order quantity. The minimum order quantity has been one unit for about 8 months, making it convenient for any CDXA member to order as he/she pleased with no premiums for a single unit order. Instructions for using the on-line order system can be found in the May 2007 issue of the *Pileup*—readily viewed from the *Pileup* archives on the CDXA website. Remember, if you'd like your name/callsign embroidered above the logo, that is an additional \$5.

Important AR-Cluster Bulletin

* * **IMPORTANT—PLEASE READ** * *

A number of CDXA members are now using VE7CC's software to access the CDXA AR-Cluster. The September, 2007 issue of the *Pileup* provided a review of the capabilities of this fine addition to help you with spot management. ***There is one feature of this software which presently is causing a problem for all users of the CDXA cluster, and the sysop asks that you disable it, until further notice.***

The feature that needs to be disabled can be found on the "BANDS" tab. It is the "Missing Spots" feature. Please disable this feature or at a minimum, change the number of missing spots retrieved to 10 spots or less. The default value when VE7CC is first installed is 100 missing spots. Upon login, the software automatically retrieves the last 100 spots, and when it does so it causes AR-Cluster to essentially cease doing any other processing. It is also believed that this same function is invoked when a lost connection is restored by VE7CC's "keepalive" feature.

Joe Simpkins and Paul Sturpe are investigating what can be done to work around this problem. Since VE7CC is designed to work on at least three different cluster node software types, it is believed that the problem seen on AR-Cluster may be more pronounced than on the other systems. Until such time that Joe and Paul advise us otherwise, please curtail the use of this feature.

Welcome New Members

The year 2008 is off with a bang as regards new members with three new members signing up since the last issue of the *Pileup*.

A familiar call was noted when **Dave Ellis (WA8WV)** rejoined our ranks. Dave lives in Charleston, WV. If the "gray matter" of your editor is working correctly, Dave was the Section Manager for WV when he was last with us. I guess he has more time now to enjoy his DXing. Welcome back, Dave.

Tommie Wood (N4YZ) of Salisbury brings with him to CDXA an interest in RTTY. It's good to see more interest in digital modes in the club. We'll have to get Tommie together with Lou Dietrich (N2TU), Ben Antanaitis (WB2RHM), and Dick Williams (W3OA)—all

of whom are more than dabblers in RTTY.

Another new member with some "history" with CDXA is **Jim Crisco (WA4YIZ)** of Denver, NC. Jim writes, "I've been in the CLT area for my whole life. . . known a lot of the club members for years. . . I'm on the board of the W4CQ club—active there. I was a CDXA member years ago, I think. I spent a lot of time on towers after Hugo. I've been to the mountain with the VHF group a couple of times. . . lived in Fort Mill for a while, about a stones throw from Gary Dixon. I've known Ken Boyd, well, longer than I'd care to admit. I'm living in a townhome on Lake Norman. . . got an IC-7000 and a Comet vertical antenna—not great for DXing—but it's all I could get past the HOA board. I mainly joined to show support for the club and members, but do hope to chase some DX when the bands open some. 73, Jim."

To all three of you, welcome to CDXA. We're glad to have you with us.

Contest Results above 50 MHz

The December and January issues of QST quietly reported results of the June 2007 VHF contest and the August 2007 UHF contest. Unless you are an aficionado of the world above 50 MHz, you might not have noticed that CDXA individuals and CDXA as a club garnered a few kudos.

First, as a club CDXA finished fifth nationally in the Medium Club category with its six entries in the June VHF QSO party. This was not bad considering the four clubs ahead of us in the category all had three times the number of entries of CDXA.

Individual honors went to the AA4ZZ team in the VHF contest with a national 4th place finish in the Limited Multiple Operator category and a 2nd place finish in that same category for the Southeast Region. Doug Allen, K4LY, finished 2nd in the Southeast Region in his category.

In the August UHF competition, Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ) went it alone this time as did Doug Allen (K4LY). Paul and Doug gave it the old "one-two punch" in the Southeast Division by taking the 1st and 2nd places, respectively. The same two gents ended up in the top 10 nationally in 8th and 9th place. This is a very respectable showing considering several of those ahead of them apparently live in the northeast metroplex where there is lots of VHF/UHF activity and a few mountains to extend your signal far and wide.

Has This Happened to YOU?

By John Scott, K8YC

Late Sunday afternoon, with less than ½ hour to go in CQWW-CW 2007, I was doing a little hunting for some contacts on new DXCC bands. (I was still recovering from some extended hours operating CW at W3GQ's multi-single effort.) A spot showed up for, D2NX (Angola) on 40 meters. I had not read that Angola was to be activated for this contest, and a quick check of my DX4WIN reports showed that I still needed Angola on 40 meters.

A quick spin of the dial found me listening to a CW operator who was really "smokin'" along at 35 to 40 words per minute. With me as a totally average CW operator, hearing a good CW operator at that speed sounds something like the gatling gun on a C-130 gunship. A 599 signal report sounds something like Brrp, Brrrrrp, Brrrrrp, etc. As an old hand at contesting—as taught to me by fellow CDXAers—I first felt I had to confirm the spot on the cluster. I listened. Sure enough it ended with an X, but it seemed to start with the letter "T". Some more listening, and I was sure the spot should have been IR4X. So, I put up a corrected spot for IR4X with the words, "Smokin' Along. . ." added in the comments field.

I was a little disappointed that I wasn't going to get a shot at Angola as I sat before my radio monitoring this speedy operator. What was that? Listen again. My God, it was the callsign K8YC coming at me at 40 wpm followed by a question mark. It came again, even though I hadn't even called IR4X. I quickly answered at a modest 24 wpm rate, and I got back 599 15! Surely my cluster spot had wound its way to Europe via the Internet, and the Italians in the shack must have alerted their "el speedo" to give me a call. That was a first for me. I forgot all about Angola after that. I was laughing too hard.

New Beam Heading Chart Available

With the arrival of Saint Bartholomew (St. Barthelme, FJ) as a new entity and the prefix change of Bosnia-Herzegovina from T9 to E7, the DXCC entity count for #1 on the Honor Roll moves up to 338.

A new beam heading chart available as an Excel workbook has been edited to reflect these changes. If you'd like a copy of this workbook, drop an email to your editor requesting it. (Please note that the editor has a new email address, available on the CDXA website or on QRZ.COM.)

Officers for 2008

Officers for 2008 were elected at the Annual Meeting/Christmas Party on December 13, 2007. You'll recognize all but one of the "new" officers as incumbents to their respective offices. After serving CDXA as its VP for four years, Thomas Wright decided to "hang 'em up". In his place, Paul Ponak, AD4IE, has stepped forward. The newly elected officers are:

President:	Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF
Vice President:	Paul Ponak, AD4IE
Secretary-Treasurer:	Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
Cluster Mgr:	Joe Simpkins, K4MD
Cluster Mgr. North:	Paul Sturpe, W3GQ
Webmaster:	Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW
Editor:	John Scott, K8YC

Bada Bing! Another Bell Does Ring!

Shortly after the November, 2007 newsletter went out, the message below arrived from one of our newly announced members, George Hall (W4BUW):

Hi, John... good issue of The Pileup!

Just wanted to give you a bit more ammo... I also was one of the fortunate ones to work BS7H for the last entity needed to "have 'em all", and just filed with ARRL DXCC desk this past weekend with the submittal... so you can reflect that the number of members has now progressed from the noted 22 to 23!

I am also trying to get my DXCC records updated, as when I first started chasing DX was during the days of Don Search at ARRL, and before the computerized version of the records was in place. I got this call when 12-13, and will be 69 next May, so got an early start in the hobby... Don only kept records on two sheets, one for Phone credits, listing country credit only, and also one for Mixed credit, country only, as there was no CW DXCC at that time. So I have been having fun first finding my old QSLs, and then getting them listed correctly for ARRL submittal. That can be a real challenge when listing either Phone/Mixed/CW, by country, and then listing for the 80/40/20/25/10, then 160, as well as 30/17/12 Meters... I have not done much on 6M outside stateside, or 2m, so not much to add there. At any rate, I surely was glad to find the big box that had all my QSLs in it that had survived moves from NC to Fla, to Va, back to SC over the past 45+ years!

73 de George Hall, W4BUW

Any others in CDXA land who haven't spoken up?

SRO at Holiday Party—2007

Reservations just kept on coming in for the 2007 Christmas Party/Annual Meeting until we arrived at the limit of what the Shanghai Restaurant could legally hold. Ron Tingle (K4ML) wins our awe for someone who came the farthest to join in the festivities. Ron lives in Waynesville, NC—about 20 miles west of Asheville! Bob Southworth of Hiddenite, NC, Joe Spears of Conover, NC, Wayne Ashworth of Salisbury, NC, and Gary and Lynnette Martek of Blythewood, SC deserve honorable mention for the distances they traveled to join us.

Following a social hour and dinner, elections of officers were held. Then we moved on to the “fun” parts of the evening. Dick Williams (W3OA) recognized those who had made a good showing for CDXA in the “Contest Within A Contest” (CWAC) during CQWW 2007. Lots of door prizes were passed out for those in attendance thanks to the generosity of ARRL, Mary Hunt (N4MH), and your officers for 2007, all of whom donated prizes.

Will we see you with us next year?



Left to right: Barb Scott, Mrs. and Mr. Caselli, Cliff Wagoner, Ron Tingle, Rod Southworth (the camera shy guy) and Bob Southworth. Ron and Bob came a long way to dinner. (See text.)



Gary and Carol Dixon and Bill and Priscilla Jennings paired up for the evening. These two INDEXA officers were not allowed to talk shop about INDEXA this evening!



New Vice-President Elect, Paul Ponak and spouse Christine Ponak with their tablemates, Guy Titman and spouse anticipate dinner's arrival.



Wayne Ashworth (W4HG) and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Spears (Af1E) toast the event. These folks came a long way for dinner, too!



The Back Page

VERY IMPORTANT AR-CLUSTER News for CDXA members. See Page 5.

“Contest Within a Contest” (CWAC) wrap-up by Dick Williams in on Page 1.

Don't miss any milestone events in 2008. The **CDXA calendar** is on Page 2.

If you haven't paid your **CDXA dues** for 2008 yet, you are now in arrears. Help Cliff out by sending in your dues now to the address shown below.

Get ready for the **ARRL International DX Contest** in February and March. See Page 3.

Where is CDXA “located”? Did you ever wonder whether you were within a 175 mile radius of CDXA for contest purposes? See Page 4 for the answer to this often-asked question.

You can still order a **CDXA shirt from Lands End** without paying the “quantity extra” fee. See Page 4.

You didn't make the **2007 Christmas Party/Annual Meeting**? Highlights on Page 7.

UPCOMING CONTESTS:

Date(s)	Contest	Comments
Jan 12-13	North American QSO Party—CW	
Jan 19-20	North American QSO Party—Phone	
Jan 25-27	CQWW 160m—CW	
Feb 15-17	ARRL International DX—CW	
Feb 22-24	CQWW 160m –Phone	
Feb 24	North Carolina QSO Party	
Feb 29-Mar 2	ARRL International DX –Phone	

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First Class Mail

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