



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXAers to the Corners of the Earth

Even though the solar flux index hasn't seen three digits in a year or more, DXpedition activity is still quite high. Four of CDXA's own will be off on DXpeditions within the next two months to some pretty interesting places.

Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) and **Chuck Gray (W4GMY)** left on Saturday, February 2 for **Cocos Island** to participate in the TI9KK operation.. We warned Joe and Chuck that there may still be some dinosaurs left on Cocos from the filming of the movie "Jurassic Park", but the lure of DX was too strong. Operations are to begin on 4 February and run until 16 February. Cocos Island is #72 on the worldwide "most wanted" list. The website for this operation is: <http://www.ti9.eu.com/>

A day before the Charlotte Hamfest begins, the TX5C DXpedition from **Clipperton Island** will crank up and continue until 17 March, 2008.

CDXA member **Dave Anderson, K4SV**, will be along on this venture. The count of Dave's DXpeditions to some pretty rare places now nears a dozen entities. Perhaps we should all pitch in and buy Dave some green beer to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on the last day of the operation. Clipperton is #21 on the worldwide "most wanted" list. The website for the Clipperton operation is: <http://www.clipperton2008.org/>

Just before the Clipperton DXpedition ends, a DXpedition to **Rwanda** will

begin and continue until 27 March 2008. On that DXpedition will be one of our "International" members of CDXA—**Fabrizio "Brix" Vedovelli (IN3ZNR – WH0Q)**. Many of you have worked Brix in recent contests when he and Mauro Tomazzoni operated from Sardinia. You'll also recognize Brix from his reports from the "other side" in the January 2006 and May 2006 issues of the *Pileup* where he reported on operations from Sardinia (IS0) and Western Sahara (S0), respectively. Lots of people will be looking for Rwanda because there had been a civil war there for the past ten years until recently. Rwanda is #45 on the worldwide "most wanted" list of entities. The website for the Rwanda operation is: <http://www.9x0r.com/operation/>.

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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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There is a double bonus for working these three entities. CDXA has chosen to provide financial support to all three of these DXpeditions so you will find the CDXA logo on your QSL card when you get it! The CDXA logo is already proudly displayed in the sponsorship list on the website for each of these DXpeditions.

Anything Wrong with the Cluster?

Joe Simpkins and Paul Sturpe do a wonderful job of keeping the K4MD and W4DXA spotting clusters up and running. Yet sometimes, it escapes them that there is a problem with one or another cluster. Paul and Joe each have the ability to reset the other node under most circumstances unless the Internet connection that allows them to look at each other's cluster is inoperative. However, sometimes the status indicator on the CDXA website showing the operating status of each cluster is not correct.

If you think something is awry with the cluster you normally use, give Joe or Paul a call on the phone—during reasonable waking hours, please—and they'll likely be able to get things working right if there is a problem.

Dues—One More Time

In mid-January, Secretary-Treasurer Cliff Wagoner still had not received dues payments from about 60 members. If you wish to remain a member of CDXA, please remit your dues payment to Cliff now. You'll help Cliff a lot, too, if you notify him that you'll not be renewing to same him from extensive follow-ups.

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: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Larry Sossoman, K4CEB (SK)



On January 29, 2008 CDXA lost one of its Charter members and a top DXer. Larry Sossoman was always ready to help a fellow ham—a event which happened often at the many lunch meetings Larry attended in recent years. Seeing Larry's ham radio gear arrayed in the lobby of the church at his funeral, we knew that ham radio was a big part of Larry's life. So long, friend.

***** Important *****

Hamfest Makeover Needed—Send Pictures

Each year at the Charlotte Hamfest, CDXA has a slide show running on a personal computer showing scenes of CDXA members and the activities in which we engage ourselves. A number of the pictures are now several years old. All members are encouraged to send in any new photos you have to Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW, (wsetzer@hotmail.com). Wayne will incorporate these pictures into a new slide show. Sooner is better, to give Wayne time to fashion the presentation.

Broadband over Power Line (BPL)—Reality or Wishful Thinking?

How Amateur Radio sees BPL:

BPL Found Wanting in Austin, TX

(The following report was prepared by a member of the amateur radio service who was acting as a liaison with the City of Austin, Texas and observing its examination of BPL technologies in that city. The article is reprinted with permission of ARRL Austin, TX BPL Team Report-October 2007. –The Editor)

The BPL trial by the City and Austin Energy, in east Austin, has ended. Mr. Pete Collins, CEO of the City Telecommunications Department, reported that BPL test did not meet the City's expectation and there are no plans deploy it on the AE grid. The test produced disappointing results in the areas of data throughput, installation/maintenance complexity and cost benefit when compared to both RF and fiber networks.

In his report to the City Telecommunications and Emerging Technology Commission, Pete stated that BPL test network demonstrated:

- o "speed fluctuated from 250 KB/s to 750 KB/s"
- o "download function performed at the lower rate when competing network resources existed."
- o "Limited network speeds if expanding to provide multiple products & services"
- o "Network reliability & availability questionable."
- o "Internet telephony either failed completely (no dial tone) or performed poorly when competing network resources existed."
- o "Participant surveys indicated low satisfaction from a user's perspective for both Internet and telephony services."
- o "Real time design provided only limited reporting"
- o "Does not provide for Utility required cyber security nor customization."
- o "Limited network monitoring & management tools and advanced applications."
- o "Expensive in comparison w/other available technologies."

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How Government sees BPL:

NTIA Report on Broadband in America 2007 Inflates BPL Figures

By David Sumner, K1ZZ, CEO/ARRL
February 1, 2008

On January 31, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released its report Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007. The NTIA is part of the Department of Commerce, so it is not unexpected that the report attempts to show that the Administration has largely succeeded in meeting President Bush's goal of "universal, affordable access" to broadband technology by 2007.

Those more expert than I on the general subject of broadband deployment will offer their own critiques of the NTIA report. My own expertise is with regard to broadband over power lines (BPL) and was reluctantly acquired over a five-year period in the course of addressing the serious problem of interference from BPL systems to the radio frequencies that are used by licensed Amateur Radio operators.

BPL technology uses power lines to distribute broadband signals. Unfortunately it has a propensity for polluting the radio spectrum, since broadband signals operate at radio frequencies and the power lines are not shielded to prevent them from escaping. Despite this inherent flaw the Administration, through the NTIA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), has devoted considerable energy to promoting BPL. Yet, the FCC's own data show that BPL has failed to catch on. My particular interest in reading the NTIA report was to see the extent to which BPL would be credited with having contributed toward meeting the Administration's goal, thus justifying its promotional investment.

By the way, BPL manufacturers have made considerable progress in engineering their devices to avoid the radio frequencies that cause the most interference. The FCC deserves no credit for this, since the Commission has shown little interest in enforcing even the inadequate rules against radio interference that it hurriedly adopted in 2004 to promote BPL deployment.

At one time the FCC's semi-annual reports, High-Speed

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3) **How Amateur Radio Sees BPL**

o "Deployment costs high compared to other technologies."

o "BPL network maintenance costs high."

At an "overall cost \$300,000", the test system consisted of only 5 water meters, 5 electric meters, 3 IP phones, 4 computers, 2 TV cameras and 1 home security system for an average cost of \$20,000 per connection.

Collins stated he would be monitoring BPL, but has no plans to deploy the technology.

As verified by testing in my presence, the BPL Network:

o Operated within FCC regulations w/optional filters added @ 5 MHz & 10 MHz WWV

o Ham band filtering remained operational after power loss and power up.

o Identified RF noise filtered at a 40db level (standard is 30db) virtually disappeared.

The Austin test has demonstrated two important facts about BPL technology:

o BPL is not the high capability technology that industry advocates have claimed.

o BPL systems can be operated without the kind harmful interference experienced in places like Manassas, VA, Cottonwood AZ and Briarcliff, NY.

During my last visit to the east Austin test area, the BPL equipment was still in operation. Pete Collins plans to decommission the equipment and turn off the system during January. Both Pete Collins of the City and Jerry Hernandez of Austin Energy were extremely cooperative and helpful during the course of the test. They demonstrated a high level of professionalism, technical knowledge and concern for our BPL issues.

PowerGrid and Corinex, the BPL folks, were also very cooperative despite their contrary interests to ours.

Special thanks go to Gene Preston, K5GP and Bob Morgan, WB5AOH for their work in support of the BPL effort. Ed Hare, the ARRL Lab Manager, and BPL guru provided invaluable support and resources from the League.

The BPL787 Group will remain active for a while. "In building" BPL is still a potential challenge and is being deployed in many locations.

Glen Reid, K5FX, The ARRL Austin BPL Team

(Continued from page 3) **How Government Sees BPL**

Services for Internet Access, lumped BPL in with fiber optic lines. The FCC eventually recognized that this was inappropriate, since the two technologies have absolutely nothing in common, and stopped doing so after 2004. For some reason, the NTIA's report continues to treat the two together. Even so, reading the executive summary offered a glimmer of hope that the report would be realistic with regard to BPL; it notes that while "the total number of high speed lines delivered over fiber and power line connections grew 789 percent from December 2003 to December 2006...[f]iber optic lines...appear to be almost entirely responsible for this expansion." (The latest FCC report that is available is for December 31, 2006; it was released in October 2007.) Less encouraging was the fact that the term "BPL" occurs no fewer than 45 times in the 60-page report, an emphasis that is hardly justified by BPL's miniscule market share.

Turning to the body of the report, on page 5 "removing barriers to innovative new applications such as...BPL" is mentioned as one of "...a number of targeted pro-growth telecommunications policies that have also contributed to robust technological development in the broadband sector." So, exactly how much "robust technological development" has occurred as a result of this policy of "removing barriers" to BPL that is described more fully on page 8 as a cooperative effort between the FCC and NTIA? One has to wait until page 26 to find the NTIA's answer—and modest as it is, it is still startlingly at variance with reality. Here the report admits that "BPL has yet to make significant inroads in the broadband marketplace." Then comes the following incredible paragraph:

Reliable BPL subscribership figures are difficult to find. The FCC's most recent data identify fewer than 5,000 BPL customers as of year end 2006. That figure appears low, however. TIA [Telecommunications Industry Association] estimates 200,000 current BPL subscribers, increasing to 700,000 by 2010. Another source forecast about 400,000 customers by the end of 2007, growing to 2.5 million by year end 2011.

WHAT IS GOING ON HERE? The FCC's data showing fewer than 5000 BPL customers—a number that dropped in the six-month period covered by the report—are taken from forms that service providers are required to submit. Why does the NTIA not regard this figure as reliable? The only way that it "appears low" is by com-

(Continued on page 5)

North Carolina QSO Party – Fourpeat? Sunday, February 24)

By Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA has won the North Carolina QSO Party in-state club competition the last three years. Each of those three years we scored more than twice the points of the second place club. Will we repeat again? Last year a new Club, the "North Carolina Kilowatts" posted a score much higher than ours. But their entry showed they were running high power, while the rules specify a limit of 100 watts, and their entry was categorized as a check log. We have reason to believe they will put forward a serious effort this year. Let's show them we are up to the challenge.

Here are the details. The contest runs from noon to 10 p.m. EST on Sunday, February 24. The complete rules are on the Internet at <http://www.w4nc.com/2008ncqsoparty.html>. As in our past successes, we will be operating as W4DXA from Discovery Place using a Ten-Tec Orion running to a Mosely Pro 57 atop a 50 foot tower on the roof with additional dipoles for 40 and 80 meters.

Parking will be free if you use the Discovery Place parking building.

Previous results show that our CW operators were one of the keys to our success. Only one other in-state club has shown a significant number of CW QSOs. So it's important that we have a well-balanced effort between CW and SSB. If you are interested in joining our operation from Discover Place, please contact me, Dick Williams (w3oa@roadrunner.com or 704-658-0915). Let me know what times you can be available and your preferred operating mode. Please do this by February 15 so we can finalize the operating schedule.

And if you can't join us, please work W4DXA on as many bands/modes as possible. The suggested frequencies are 3.540, 3.740, 7.040, 7.140, 14.040, 21.040, 21.140, 28.040, 28.140 for CW and 3.860, 7.260, 14.260, 21.360, 28.360 for SSB.

Charlotte Hamfest—March 8-9, 2008

The Charlotte Hamfest is once again on the horizon. Look for some interesting forums this year as usual.

We expect to be among the earliest in the USA to hear a first hand account of the DXpedition to Cocos Island. Joe Blackwell and Chuck Gray will have been back from Cocos for less than three weeks by the time the Hamfest rolls around.

(Continued from page 4) **How Government Sees BPL** parison with the excessive industry and government hype.

Further distorting the picture, at the bottom of page 26 is an out-of-date map taken directly from the United Power Line Council (UPLC), an industry source with a vested interest in BPL. It purports to show BPL deployments "updated as of July 10, 2007." However, a number of those shown had already been decommissioned by that date and others have been taken out of service since then.

I have followed the ups and downs of the BPL industry very closely for more than five years. There are very few commercial deployments of BPL, and examination of the FCC data state by state shows all of the significant ones are included. The idea that there could be another 195,000 customers out there, happily connected to the Internet by BPL—yet unreported by their service providers—is utterly ludicrous.

Even more absurd is the NTIA's citation of the "forecast" of about 400,000 customers by the end of 2007, drawn from a year-old Web promotion for a \$3000 "industry report."

It is indefensible that the NTIA chose to include in its report unsubstantiated industry estimates and forecasts that inflate the FCC-documented figure for BPL subscribership by 3900 percent to 7900 percent. If the agency wishes to retain a shred of credibility, it will issue a corrected report with the UPLC map, the TIA estimate and the unsupported forecasts deleted.

(Extracted from ARRL website—The Editor)

Hamfest (Con'd)

Representatives of FlexRadio Systems are to be in attendance to give you insight into their Software Defined Radio (SDR).

In what has become a tradition, we expect to find the "Tennessee 8" in attendance again. It always makes for a good time when the gang from near Knoxville is in town. Several members of that group have told us they already have their hotel reservations made.

As expected, CDXA will be having a dinner on Saturday Evening, March 8. More can be found on the dinner on Page 6 in this issue.

Monk Apollo Biographical Sketch

I've only heard Monk Apollo from Mount Athos once in the twelve years I've been chasing DX. He was somewhat enigmatic because I was able to find out little about this Monk who lives in the monastic peninsula of Greece which is granted its own amateur radio callsign. His entry on QRZ.COM consisted of the minimal entry we often see—until November, 2007 that is.

Recently, I did a query on his callsign (SV2ASP) on QRZ.COM. I don't know what urged me to do it, but I was pleasantly surprised to find Monk Apollo has a very informative sketch on his role in the monastery, how he got into amateur radio, and several of the good things he feels have resulted from his involvement in amateur radio.

You might be interested to know that an eye injury to a brother while tending to his fraternal garden chores, and an extremely long journey to a hospital in Thessalonica is what prompted the attending physician—himself a ham—to recommend that “someone” on Mount Athos should have amateur radio capability. Apollo became that person. Apollo is only able to “fit in” his ham radio activity as time permits from his chores in the monastery. His particular skill sets as a brother include hydraulics, electrics, heavy machinery operations and other general duties related to the maintenance of the monastery. He is almost apologetic that he can't be more active, but he also relishes the people he's met through amateur radio.

His bio sketch is a wonderful article. I encourage all of you to read it.

Discovery Place and NC4DP Remodels

By John White, NC4DP Station Mgr.

By now most of you have seen in the news that Discovery Place will be closing during 2009 for a pretty extensive refurbish. Resulting from some informal chats over the past year this is not a surprise, we just didn't know details about when or how much and I didn't want to spread rumors or “idle conjecture”. Now that the project has become reality, the answer is: NC4DP will be off the air, packed up, and stored, about the first week of 2009. The building will be vacated while construction is being done. We hope to be refurbished and back on the air early in 2010.

I have started the dialog with Discovery Place that I trust will continue through planning and construction. There are many details to be addressed and there is a very concrete budget limit to work within.

Come to Hamfest Dinner!!

Enjoy a good time! Come to the CDXA Hamfest Dinner. Lots of door prizes and good fellowship are in store.

What: Charlotte Hamfest Dinner

When: Saturday, March 8, 2008

Social Hour: 6:30 PM

Dinner Time: 7:15 PM

Where: Shanghai Restaurant

8418 Park Road

Charlotte, NC (704-556-1688)

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

Libation: “Cash” Bar—credit cards cannot be used!

Make your reservations with Vice-President Paul Ponak (AD4IE) — pponak@carolina.rr.com or (704) 332-1882.

Discovery Place and NC4DP (Con'd)

I expect we will be part of an expanded main exhibit floor, our communication capabilities should remain similar to what we have now, but with improved station visibility, visitor traffic, and new feedlines (replacing those now more than 16 years old). I've made a list of requirements including guest operator access, etc, so we can continue to do contests, special events, programs, and ARES drills. If we're successful with the main relocation task, I also have a wish list that might be worked on after the dust settles in 2010 (business as usual).

In my opinion our main purpose is to explain Amateur Radio to our community. My gratification comes when one of “our young visitors” gets interested in radio and the science that comes with it. (I have 2 [Now You're Talking](#) books currently both loaned out.) I get a real kick out of talking with parents and their kids about how Ham radio might make a good family project.

There will be lots of details to keep up with during 2008, and lots of dust raised during 2009. Support from our Ham community is very reassuring. I'll try to keep everyone informed when the details get past the rumor stage and will keep my receiver tuned to your frequency. With the reopening and greater visibility, I expect that we'll have to use our experience to be more accessible in explaining Amateur Radio to more varied visitors, more attentive to our station housekeeping, and more innovative in our displays and appearance. Already thinking about that Special Event Station on March 6, 2010.

73, John WB2NHQ@arrl.net

ARRL DX Contest This Month CW Starts February 15 SSB Starts February 29

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year CDXA placed 9th in ARRL's Medium Club Category with 30 entries and 7.9 million points. We are hoping to move up in the standings with more entries and more points per entry. That's why we are offering more and better prizes for this year's ARRL contest than in the past. There are first place prizes in seven categories and participation prizes at the 1000 QSO, 500 QSO, and 250 QSO levels. The details are on page 3 of last month's Pileup

<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0801.pdf>. Win a handsome trophy or a steak dinner!

The complete rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/intldx.html>. In a nutshell:

Each contest starts at 7 p.m. Friday night and goes for 48 hours.

U.S. stations work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.

Send a signal report and state. DX stations send a signal report and power.

Score three points per DX QSO.

Your multiplier is the sum of DXCC entities (except US and Canada) worked per band.

Your final score is your number of QSO points times your number of multipliers.

Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multiplier, final score) and entry category (single or multioperator, single band or all band, power level, with or without packet) to w3oa@roadrunner.com as soon as possible after each contest. We will publish your scores on the CDXA web site as we receive them. Our intent is to award the prizes at the CDXA Hamfest dinner on March 8 so I need all scores by March 3.

Hats off to Honor Roll Arrivals

Working your way up the ladder on the DXCC list of entities is a highly personal quest that can only be done by spending a lot of time in a chair in front of a transmitter and receiver. There's no crowd cheering you on. There are plenty of frustrations along the way and a fair amount of money to be spent sending for QSL cards. So arriving at the Honor Roll level deserves mention. Since the *Pileup* "staff" did its last report, three new

(Continued on page 8)

Some remain Some returned!!

What's that headline mean? I'm glad you decided to read this because there is some good news to report regarding the **2007 CQ WW VHF Contest**

Now who was it that remained? **Josh Fisher, W4WJF, remained** as the winner of top honors in the USA in the SOOB (2 meters) portion of this contest for the third straight year with 10,260 points. Josh's closest competitor had 7,380 points, so Josh took the honors going away, as they say.

So, who returned? **Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF**, ably assisted by **Itice, K4LVV, returned** to the top spot in the Rover category. Going into the 2007 CQ WW VHF Contest, Ted had won the Rover category six consecutive times, but he was unseated in 2006. Ted just couldn't "hang 'em up" with that taste in his mouth, so he returned with determination in 2007 and put together an 87,330 point performance. His closest competitor had 55,286 points so Ted's roving through four grids in the mountains of North Carolina certainly paid off handsomely.

Both Josh and Ted expressed thanks to CDXA members who gave them QSOs. The help provided a rover in giving contacts on both bands as he moves to various grid squares helps tremendously. All members of CDXA congratulate Josh and Ted for a good showing.

Welcome, New Members!

Two new members have joined CDXA since last month's Pileup was published. When we say "east meets west", it is true even in CDXA because one of our new members comes from Oriental, NC and other from Greer, SC!

David L. Purifoy, WD4PDZ joins us from Oriental, NC. I've seen David on the K4MD AR-Cluster a few times, but have yet to meet him in person. Perhaps we'll all meet David at the Charlotte Hamfest.

The other new member is **Gregory D. Shorey, KI4SVQ**, of Greer, SC. Gregory is another I've seen on the CDXA cluster from time to time.

Welcome to both of you from all members of CDXA.

Erratum

In the January, 2008 issue of the *Pileup*, the picture editor has mistakenly transformed Mrs. Wayne Ashworth into Mrs. Joe Spears. Through the magic of Adobe's Photoshoph, we have returned Mrs. Ashworth to her correct state as Wayne's wife. We apologize for this error.

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names appeared on the list.

One of the names is **Dave Ellis, WA8WV**. Dave was recently announced as a new member returning to the fold. He's not exactly new to the Honor Roll ranks because he sits at the top of the Honor Roll—I assume he'll stay there even when St. Barthelemy becomes a counter, but he's "new" as far as CDXA membership is concerned. Congrats to you, Dave.

But the sluething staff caught up with those who were too reserved to tell us that they had "arrived".

One in that category is **Wayne Ashworth, W4HG**, who quietly crept onto the list and didn't tell the editor. Congratulations, Wayne.

The other reserved member in our number who crept onto the Honor Roll was "**Nobby**" Mills, **W4UFO**. I guess it's that UFO in his callsign that keeps him from calling attention to himself. Congratulations to you, Nobby.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

Twenty Years Ago

Bill Jennings was calling for payment of \$15 dues (same amount as in 2008 even though gasoline was probably less than \$1/gallon!) . . . "Uncle Henry" Elwell was trying to sell his Commodore Plus/4 computer. . . . Scott Douglass had just received a QSL card from China with a note encouraging hams to come to China to visit, lecture on ham radio, and operate the club station. . . then President, Ken Boyd, was calling for more seasoned DXers to not forget to call out interesting DX they'd heard on the *repeater spotting network* so newcomers could work the "new ones."

Ten Years Ago

Joe Simpkins was the incoming President. . . . membership dues now had a \$15 adder for those who were users of the PacketCluster system—a technology that had come into being in the ten years since 1988. . . . Don Daso was in the process of building his dream station with 170 foot towers in the woods between Stanley and Lucia. . . . Maintenance of the digipeater at Beamer Knob was a problem (no more—its not there) as was some perceived repeater interference with our digipeater at Young Mountain. That was soon fixed by moving our antenna 200 feet higher onto a large tower on Young mountain where it still resides. . . . Roger Burt was just beginning to get annoyed by an intermittent problem with the W4DXA Cluster node residing at his home. The node was subsequently relocated to W3GQ's QTH with a better path to Young Mountain. The problem went away, but nobody seems to know why to this day.

Who are those guys?



As long as we've gone back in time on this page of the *Pileup*, we thought you'd enjoy trying to identify these "hunks" from day's gone by.

This crisp black and white photo was passed around at lunch in recent weeks and stirred a few memories from some of the "old-timers".

Those that were there date this photograph as being about 1992. Can anybody challenge that date?

Have you figured out who they are? Well, in case you don't know these chaps, they are (left to right) Scott Douglass (K2SD), Don Daso (K4ZA), Roger Burt (N4ZC) and Ron Bailey (AA4S).

There was a whole lot of hamming experience in that group then. Can you imagine now, about 16 years later, what's been added?

The Back Page

The **Charlotte Hamfest** is coming on March 8-9. The **Hamfest Dinner** will be at Shanghai restaurant again this year. See details on Pages 5 and 6.

Wayne Setzer needs new photographs to highlight CDXA activities for a slide presentation for the Hamfest. See Page 2.

CDXA is sponsoring three **DXpeditions**, all due to happen in February through March. Members of CDXA will be present on all three DXpeditions. See Front Page.

What's going on in **BPL trials**, and what does the government say is going on? See the two views compared and contrasted in two separate articles starting on Page 3.

ARRL International DX Contest will provide challenges and opportunities to win CDXA awarded prizes for being active in the contest. See Page 7.

Josh Fisher, W4WJF, and **Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF**, sit at the “top of the heap” in their respective CQWW VHF contest divisions. See Page 8.

Be looking for CDXA operating as W4DXA on Sunday, February 24 in the **North Carolina QSO Party**. Dick Williams is still looking for “a few good men” to help with man the station. Operating hours will be from Noon until 10:00PM at Discovery Place. Can we make it four in a row? With your help, we can! See Details, Page 5.

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

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

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