The Carolina DX Association

The Pileup
Newsletter of the CDXA

A Boy's Passport to the World

The headline on this article is precisely the headline appearing in the Charlotte Observer on Sunday, June 1, 2008. The article details the journey of a young man, Cameron Hasson, who at six and one-half years of age had recently earned his Technician class amateur radio license. Cameron is lucky that ham radio is a "family affair" at his home. You see, Cameron and his mother, Beverly, and his father, Eric, had all taken the same classes together at the Gastonia Area Amateur Radio Club and they all passed the licensing exams together!

Cameron's father, aged 46, already had "the bug" from his childhood days in St. Louis when he enjoyed Citizen's Band radio, but the Morse code requirement always seemed to stand in his way until he decided to take the licensing exam this spring. Young Cameron had also caught the bug and was already playing around with CB radio and Family Radio Service (FRS) radios. When Eric began his six week licensing class, he asked the instructor if Cameron could handle the material and the answer was a resounding "yes" from Instructor Joe Hullender. With that as incentive, even "mama" decided to get in on the fun. Recently all three passed their Technician exams. Now Cameron wants to study for his General Class ticket.

"An interesting story," you say. But here is where it really gets interesting. A while back Ken Winston, WA4OBO, had called President Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, and told him he had a Kenwood TS-50 that he wanted to give to a young, aspiring ham, and that if Ted came across such a person to let him know. When Ted read the article, bells went off in his head. When your editor read the article, he thought why not give the lad an honorary membership to CDXA. When Ted dropped your editor an email about Ken Winston's offer, the suggestion was made that we pair the radio with a CDXA membership. On Saturday, June 7, Ted and Ken went to visit the Hasson's and did just that, except that Ted and XYL Itice even went a step further. They ironed a CDXA patch on a hat for presentation to

(Continued on page 2)

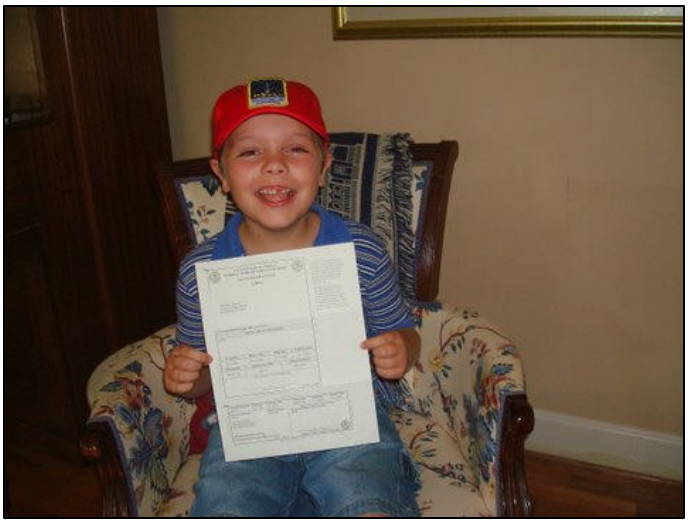
CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, 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)
Cameron.

Ted and Ken had a wonderful time presenting their gift to Cameron as can be seen in the pictures below. It even looks like Cameron's parents are enjoying the event. So Cameron has a jump start on becoming a ham. He has a neat little TS-50 on which to work the world. He has access to the DX Cluster of a fine DX organization, and he has a hat with member patch to prove it. Let's hope he uses the resources of CDXA to get all his questions answered.

Here's the happy family right after Ken Winston gave Cameron his first amateur radio transceiver.

Cameron, KJ4EDF, shows his stuff.



A new red hat, an HF transceiver, a membership in CDXA, and your FCC license — priceless.

Post Script: On June 19, Cameron and his dad showed up at the CDXA luncheon and met the "the boys". Cameron was wearing his hat! Cameron and Dad enjoyed a lunch along with the crowd.

Post Post Script: Cameron showed up at the CDXA Field Day site. He worked a few QSOs and picked up a few tips on operating in Field Day/contesting conditions. What a great start.

The Pileup
Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association

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.

Field Day 2008
CDXA Smashes Class Record but Did We Win Our Class?

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Once again CDXA has broken a Field Day record from the QTH of Ron, AA4S. This year we operated in Class 5E (home station, five transmitters, emergency power). Our score of 13,950 points beats the current Class 5E record of 9,202 points set in 2004.

Of course this doesn't mean much if another Class 5E station out-scored us this year. A look at our logs shows there were at least three other Class 5E stations operating this year. And at least one of them, K6LRG, was probably a pretty serious effort. They showed up in our log three times, two of those on CW. WA4FD was also Class 5E. That call might indicate they take Field Day seriously too. Here's our QSO count:

	CW QSOs	Phone QSOs
160 m	1	
80 m	418	366
40 m	870	490
20 m	908	314
15 m	399	4
6 m		4
Totals	2596	1178

CW QSOs count two points each, phone QSOs one point, so the total of our CW and phone QSO points is 6370. Our power multiplier is 2 because all our transmitters were under 150 watts. This gives us 12,740 points. We can add 1,210 bonus points for using 100% emergency power, attempting to get media publicity, sending a message to our Section Manager, copying the W1AW Field Day message, originating 10 National Traffic System messages, being visited by a Red Cross representative, having three operators under 18 years old, submitting our scores via the Web, and conducting an educational activity.

CDXA members operating CW were Joe (AA4NN), Ron (AA4S), Steve (AA4V), Doug (K4LY), and Cliff (W3ZL).

Members operating phone were Ric (AA4SC), Paul (AD4IE), Ken (K4DXA), Doug (K4LY), Jim (K4SQR), Cameron (KJ4EDF and under 18), Steve (KZ2I), Gary (N1GC), Thomas (N4HN), Nobby (W4UFO), Dick (W3OA), and Barry (W4ILC).

We were very happy to have four operators from Shelby who were a great help by filling in some of the holes in our operating schedule. They were Dave (AG4WC), Mark (KA4TFP), Amanda (KG4PCE and under 18), and Emily Beaver (unlicensed, under 18). Also operating was James Porter (KI4ZEO and under 18), son of Ric Porter.

A Thunderstorm Saturday afternoon provided a rare opportunity for the operators to gather and discuss how things were going. Seated in back is AA4V. Standing (left to right) are W4ILC and W4UFO. Seated in front are AD4IE, AA4NN, AA4SC, and KI4ZEO.

Our educational activity centered on a two-meter packet station operating as a Winlink 2000 node. This allowed AA4S to send an email from his "no Internet" QTH. Ron said it was the first email he had ever sent via the Internet.

Field Day—2008 (Con'd from Page 3)

K4DXA was one of our dedicated 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. operators. His smile here isn't as wide as the smile we usually see on him in the middle of the day.

Our youngest member (by far), KJ4EDF, makes his first Field Day contact.

(Putting on an event like Field Day *takes a lot of work. For the past two months, Ron Bailey did a lot of work at his homestead to prepare antennas for the event. Also, as author of the above article, Dick Williams did not give himself credit for all of the work he did in pre- and post-contest setup/takedown. Also, we owe Dick a bunch of kudos for garnering 1210 bonus points by doing all those little "extra" things to earn those points—The Editor)*

DX Summit Gets Sponsor, Horsepower

DX Summit began operation in 1998 and has delivered a worldwide spotting capability only dreamed about before the Internet became a household word.

In mid-May, Wayne Mills (N7NG), President of the Yasme Foundation, announced that it was going to offer financial support to the operators of DX Summit. Through this support, as of May 23 DX Summit was given a 1000 fold increase in computing power to relieve some of the bottlenecks that were being experienced because of its own success. The servers have been relocated to the United States, presumably to give the servers access to some extremely high capacity data circuits.

DX Summit is operated by Arcala Extremes, OH8X. Mills said that Arcala Extremes is "a group of serious hams who seek technical innovations, experimenting with advanced radio and antenna concepts to further the evolution of Amateur Radio by using a competitive spirit to attract young people." Their stations—OH8X and CU2A—are located in Oulu, Finland and the Azores, respectively.

"Traffic congestion should be a thing of the past [with the new DX Summit]," Mills said. Interested hams should reconfigure their setup to www.dxsummit.fi—making sure to update any browser bookmarks since the original OH2AQ DX Summit will soon be shut down. "While the new system begins as a stepped-up carbon copy of the original OH2AQ DX Summit, it will provide an advanced technical platform for many new features that are on the drawing board as we speak," Mills stated.

Mills said that Jukka Salomaa, OH2BUA, and Antti Kantola, OH5TB, were awarded the Yasme Excellence Award for conceiving, operating, and maintaining the OH2AQ DX Summit: "They created a tool that fundamentally changed the nature of HF operating, a true advancement of the radio art." The Yasme Foundation is a non-profit corporation undertaking scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries.

YASME Award May Be Yours, Old Timer

If you were an Amateur Radio operator in the 1950s through the present, you probably remember Danny Weil and Lloyd and Iris Colvin. The story of these two pioneer families in promoting DXpeditions to give the "rare ones" to all of us is fully developed in the book "YASME—The Danny Weil and Colvin Radio Expeditions". Yasme was the name Danny Weil gave to his several sailing vessels he used to gain access to many island venues. The Yasme Foundation was founded to assist radio expeditions and had its earliest associations with both Danny Weil and the Colvins. Today, the Yasme Foundation is a non-profit corporation undertaking scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries.

The Yasme Foundation has an award for anyone who has worked the requisite number of contacts with either Danny Weil or the Colvins over the years, YASME Directors or Officers, or selected YASME-sponsored DXpeditions. Thirty QSOs will earn you a nice plaque, and 60 QSOs will earn you a handsome sailboat trophy. How do you find out what contacts count? Go to http://www.yasme.org. Once there click on "Yasme Awards." Good luck! By the way, if you win the award, how about showing it to us?

LoTW Gets a Sponsor!

Perhaps you didn't notice, but with little fanfare Logbook of the World has picked up a sponsor. The most prominent announcement of the event is found when one enters LoTW to upload new log data or to check for new QSLs. There, on the welcome page, we find that Yaesu is now the official sponsor of LoTW. The form of the sponsorship is not disclosed, but we suspect that some financial help has been welcomed by ARRL.

At the end of May, ARRL had to perform a storage upgrade for LoTW. This is no doubt because LoTW seems to now have gathered the critical mass to encourage the "late adopters" to get on board. As of 7/6/2008, there are 174,500,000 records with almost 14,000,000 QSL records resulting from log matches. Even older logs are starting to be uploaded with 61,000 QSOs prior to 1960 now in the logbook and over 500,000 log entries before 1970 now loaded. A number of contest stations are now finding LoTW to their advantage with HC8N having about 112,000 log entries on file. Thank you, Yaesu, for supporting Logbook of the World.

Welcome New Members

CDXA is happy to welcome to its ranks this month a person with a familiar callsign—K4LVV. The owner of this callsign is none other than **Itice Goldthorpe**. If there is 6 meter DX on the air, you'll probably find that Itice is listening. If our memory is still working correctly, Itice was the second YL ever to earn DXCC on 6 meters. Ever the constant companion to Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, when he's "roving", Itice can usually be heard to jump in from the mountaintops when a new grid square shows up on the rover circuit. Watching for those new grids has certainly been good to Itice. The June 2008 issue of QST reports on Page 93 that Itice has 500 grid squares to her credit for the VUCC award, and a little bird told us that she's not that far away from capturing #525. So, a formal "welcome aboard" to you, Itice.

A second new member joining us this month is **Cameron Hasson, KJ4EDF**, of Gastonia, NC. Cameron joins CDXA with the expectation that he can learn a lot from the experienced hams in our numbers. You see, Cameron just passed his Technician Class license exam earlier this year, but at 6-1/2 years of age, he figures he has plenty of time to absorb a lot of information about amateur radio. See the related article, "A Boy's Passport to the World" on Page 1 of this issue. Glad to have you with us, Cameron.

ARRL June VHF Contest Happenings

The ARRL June VHF contest started rather normally, but Sunday morning brought an "opening" that made a lot of VHF contesters very happy, especially those in the USA heartland.

The AA4ZZ mountain toppers were trying something new this year. Joe Barkley and Pat Patterson came along with an EME setup to see if they could improve the grid square count with Europe by a couple of dozen grids. Success at the EME effort was only modest in part because a lightning storm shortly after the contest began damaged the steering device of the EME array, and the beams had to be adjusted manually periodically to keep the moon "in sight".

After Pat and Joe found out how cold the June nights can become on a North Carolina mountaintop, they seemed to warm up when Sunday dawned bright and sunny. Things got "cheery" when an Internet connection showed a bright red patch in a map of the USA in-

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dicating a growing opening near the center of the USA. In less than an hour, that opening extended to Boone, NC and the real fun began.

In a three hour period, many new grid squares were put in the log, and lots of Qs rolled in on all bands available to a limited multiop contest station. Watching the 6 meter QSOs roll in on the networked contest software was a hoot, but things were hopping on the 2m, 220MHz, and 70 cm. stations as well. Paul, AA4ZZ, got real excited when he was able to work New Mexico on 220!

When these openings occur, one always wonders how other contest stations are doing. The central USA had this great opening before the east coast did, and the opening lasted in the central USA after it subsided in the East. Yet, the AA4ZZ team had one of its better recent outings with a score of about 480,000 points.

After the contest, one of the contest reflectors showed a SOOB operator in Texas had over 500,000 points on 6 meters alone! Yet, one of the big competitors for AA4ZZ in the eastern states posted a score that indicated the opening didn't quite make it to them. Excitement ran high in post contest reports from the midwest. One contest group from Kansas City even had a video recording on the web of AA4ZZ's QSO with them. Ahh. . . . the magic of propagation found in VHF contests never allows for a dull moment.

CDXA Barbeque on Horizon

Mark your calendars now for the CDXA Barbeque so you don't miss out on the fun. Mark October 4, 2008 as the date and mark Ken Boyd's (K4DXA) spread as the place. More details will follow as we get closer to the date.

W1HQ Snake Gets Name, Call Sign

ARRL staff members may have W1AW nearby, but the Maxim Station is primarily used for official business and for guest operation by member-visitors. The staff finally got a club station (W1HQ) for its own use a while back so that they could take part in contests and the like. Membership manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, purchased a six-foot long stuffed yellow-green toy snake as a way to make the refurbished station a bit friendlier. Besides the fun of having a mascot, Breen said, "the snake comes in handy when stressed out trying to get that DX that is just out of reach! With all the serious sides of ham radio, it's important to remember that is it fun—and to not take ourselves too seriously."

The only problem was, the snake needed a name, and the Headquarters Club opened the naming process to the membership.

With more than 400 votes tallied, the W1HQ snake finally has a name. Sean Kutzko, KX9X, president of The Laird Campbell Memorial HQ Operators Club, announced that the snake not only has a name, but a call sign, as well.

"Members of the club met over lunch to discuss and vote on all the names that were sent in. The winning entry came from Charlie Liberto, W4MEC, of Hendersonville, North Carolina. He, along with former ARRL staffer R. Dean Straw, N6BV, submitted the name Hamaconda. **Paul Trotter**, AA4ZZ, of Charlotte, North Carolina, submitted "H1SS" as a name. We liked the idea of the snake having a call sign, so the club decided, out of all the great names and call signs sent in, that Charlie's and Paul's submissions fit our mascot perfectly." Both Liberto and Trotter will receive their choice of an ARRL Handbook, ARRL Antenna Book or ARRL Operating Manual.

Kutzko, the ARRL Contest Branch Manager, was voted in as president of the HQ club at the meeting. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, was selected as vice-president. ARRL Lab Manager and W1HQ Trustee Ed Hare, W1RFI, was selected as the club's technical officer, and ARRL MVP Associate/Production Assistant Carol Michaud, KB1QAW, was selected as club secretary.

In this case, it is probably appropriate to give Paul a "H1SS" for his success in naming the W1HQ snake.

To the right in the tender grasp of Katie Breen is the new mascot of W1HQ station—H1SS—as named by Paul Trotter.

KU4BP Reports In

A while back Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, reported that his job would have him "on the road" for quite a while. Ed does get back home every once in a while. On one of his recent visits he wrote:

"I know a lot of CDXA hasn't heard from me in a while. My work/travel schedule has taken me across the country twice, and it gets me "home" to NC once a month for a day or two. Anyway, I wanted to send the attached picture to you for possible inclusion in *The Pileup*. This is one IOTA I would love to activate.

73, Ed KU4BP/1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,0"

KU4BP is working at finding out the IOTA number of this island. Can anyone help him? HI!

Roving Reporter Heads North

During my semi-annual reprieve from my reporting duties, your Roving Reporter headed north to the UP (Upper Peninsula) of Michigan—home of the "Yoopers". A Yooper is a resident of the UP while those of us who grew up in the Lower Peninsula (south of Mighty Mac bridge spanning the Straits of Mackinaw) are called "Trolls" because we "live below the bridge".

My purpose in getting up to the Straits of Mackinaw was to take a look at the recently retired U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker Mackinaw (WAGB-83). Just before heading north, the July 2008 issue of QST (See page 20) reported that this icebreaker turned museum ship has been outfitted with an amateur radio station by the Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet Counties Public Service Communications Organization (CCECPSCO—now there's a mouthful for you!). The Mackinaw was somewhat an old friend to me. During five Port Huron to Mackinac Island sailboat races covering 259 nautical miles, it was always comforting to know the Mackinaw was shadowing the fleet in fair or foul weather. The Mackinaw was decommissioned several years ago, but on the very next day a new icebreaker, also named Mackinaw, was commissioned to take its place. The Mackinaw has played an important part in the history and commerce of the Great Lakes, but more on that later.

On the weekday we arrived, the radio station, W8AGB, was unmanned, but there was plenty to see and do, so I was not overly disappointed. Below is a view of the bow of the icebreaker.

An icebreaker does it's "business" by running that visible break in the bow contour up on the ice and relying on the weight of the vessel to break through ice up to several feet thick found in the upper Great Lakes until the shipping season is suspended from about mid-January until the end of March each year.

What you cannot see in this bow configuration is a large propeller just below the bow section which turns to break the large slabs of ice into smaller chunks. With too much ice under the vessel, the vessel will soon act as if on dry land and come to a halt. By breaking up the ice, the water/ice mixture is allowed to "wet" the hull to allow easier passage. What you cannot also know unless told is that the hull thickness is 1-5/8" thick throughout the hull, and the ribs supporting the hull plates are configured 16" on center—far closer than on a conventional ship. At the back end of the vessel are

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twin screws to propel the vessel. The screws are powered by six Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines, each developing 2000 horsepower. Because the Mackinaw often had to maneuver around the 600 to 1000 foot long ore boats seized in the ice, the rudder assembly has an "ice horn" to prevent ice from jamming into the rudder area and rendering the ship unsteerable. For many years, the Mackinaw was the most powerful icebreaker in the world, and she had to be to move the large lake freighters carrying thousands of tons of cargo.

There is no keel on the Mackinaw because of how it is used to break ice. One of the museum tour guides served on the Mackinaw and he said the ship had a tendency to roll heavily in the winter storms of the upper Great Lakes, and seasickness—even amongst seasoned sailors—was commonplace. To avoid the worst situations, the Mackinaw could "park" by slowly pulling its bow up onto the ice and waiting out the worst storms. So, how does she get off the ice? There is a giant pumping system in the hull which allows the captain to transfer 115,000 gallons of water back and forth across the beam of the ship every 90 seconds to permit "rocking" the ship off the ice!

Those of you who are boaters know that "shore power" is a requirement once you dock your vessel. Pictured below is one of the "plugs" that the Mackinaw uses to pick up its shore power.

Built in 1944, the 290 foot long Mackinaw has served faithfully, but keeping her going had become very costly in recent years. To repair a bad crankshaft in one of her engines in recent years, a long search turned up a rusty castoff in Texas that had to be purchased for $118,000 and have considerable refurbishing work done to make it usable. Not only parts were becoming hard to find, but it took a crew complement of 75 to operate the vessel. The "new" Mackinaw has a crew of less than 35, and most of the ship controls are done by "wire".

The crew of the Mackinaw plays a humanitarian role, too. Besides their summer role of shadowing the large sailboat regattas from Chicago to Mackinac Island and Port Huron to Mackinac Island, they run an annual "Christmas Ship". The Christmas Ship picks up a large number of Christmas trees from the UP of Michigan and delivers them to Chicago where they are dispensed to families who otherwise could not afford a Christmas tree.

The Mackinaw was built on a crash program in World War II to ensure iron ore from Duluth, Minnesota could be delivered to steel plants in Gary, IN Erie PA and Pittsburgh, PA. More than 90% of the iron ore used for producing steel in the United States moves through the "Soo" locks in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Also, a lot of grain moves via the mammoth lake freighters. Both the "old" and the "new" Mackinaw icebreakers keep the avenue of commerce of the upper Great Lakes open for business almost year around.

HDTV on a Rooftop Antenna?

In a recent article in the Charlotte Observer, Bill Husted—a professed Amateur Radio operator—told subscribers that a rooftop antenna may be just the thing for your new HDTV set. The full text of the article is available at:

http://www.charlotte.com/business/moneywise/story/689280.html

One key bit of information that Bill lays out is that HDTV signals delivered via cable or satellite are compressed, and that over-the-air signals with less compression often give superior picture quality. Bill's article gives several links to websites which assist you in finding distance and direction to TV stations in your area as well as suggested industry stan-

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dard antenna types to meet your specific needs.

Some of us have deed restrictions regarding outside, rooftop antennas. Yet, PRB-1 may give relief from those restrictions, since it came into existence after many of those restrictions were put in place. At some point, your editor recalls PRB-1 gave relief from even CC&Rs for public broadcast services. You had better check this out before installing a rooftop antenna if unsure. If an attic antenna is your only choice, you should be aware that roofing materials do attenuate signals and that may alter your choice of antenna. *(The comments in this paragraph are from the CDXA Editor.)*

The balance of Bill Husted's article addresses the importance of height, climbing safety (if a do-it-yourselfer), antenna rotors, and electrical power line safety for antenna installation. (All the usual stuff the we hams are supposed to know!) This article is a recommended read for the short time it takes to read it.

Rare Grid Square Coming in CQWW VHF

A group of CDXA members will be relocating a lot of radio gear to the Fox Mike 13 grid square for the CQ Worldwide VHF contest on July 19-20. FM13 is pretty rare because it is 99% covered with water! The team will be using the club call of N4BX.

CQWW VHF is a 27 hour, two band contest featuring the 2 meter and 6 meter bands only. Operation will be from 1800Z on July 19 through 2100Z on July 20. The CDXA group is out to break the record for the most contacts made from FM13 and needs your help.

Besides conventional SSB operations on the two bands, you can expect to see the team working 6 meter WSJT Meteor Scatter (JT65M), 2 meter WSJT Meteor Scatter (FSK441), 2 meter WSJT EME Moon Bounce (JT65B), and 2m FM Simplex.

You should find the 6m SSB operation somewhere near 50.137 MHz and the 2m SSB operation somewhere near 144.212 MHz. If 2m FM is your mode, use 146.55 MHz.

A special website has been set up to give you all the details. Load the following URL into your browser:

http://nfourbx.googlepages.com/fm13dxpedition

And mark you calendar to make sure you give the team your QSO.

A Glass Half Full

Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF, at one time had a tower, tri-band beam, wire antennas and various VHF antennas at his fingertips, but in recent years Ted has become an "urban dweller". Most apartments and condominiums exhibit intolerance for antennas of any kind! Faced with that resistance, many would have complained of "a glass half empty". Yet, Ted preferred to view his glass as being half full.

Ted contacted the Board of Directors of his apartment complex to see if an unobtrusive antenna could be placed on the roof. There seemed to be no major objections, except that a cellular telephone company had been granted "exclusive" use of the roof for its antenna system. Undaunted, Ted contacted the cellular company's engineers and found that they would grant him the right to install his antenna if it could be shown to not cause interference to their network. Ted was able to accomplish that task with some diligence on his part. Back to the Board of Directors to tell them he had satisfied the cellular company. Okay to go, said the Board.

Now on to the technical issues. How does one get a feedline from the 3rd floor to the roof of a high-rise apartment building? Again, back to work. Ted found that Kenwood TS-2000's SkyCommand system would let him control a remote TS-2000 using the 70cm band of one radio to control the other. A proof of concept test soon showed that to be a viable solution. A utility penthouse on the roof was found to have an available niche, and a power takeoff where the rooftop electronics could be located.

Ted designed and had a cabinet built to house his gear in the utility penthouse. It is pictured below.

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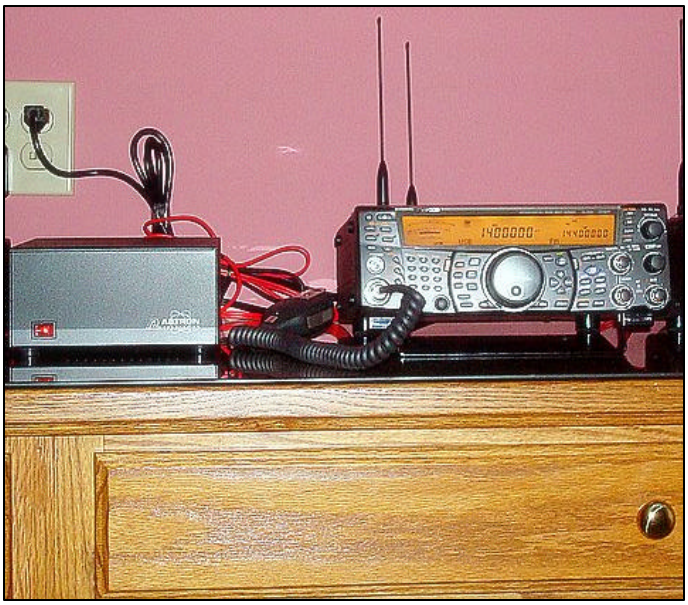
Next, install the gear on the working end of the remote link.

Then, put up a small "antenna farm".

At the top of the next column is pictured the operating end of the remote link—comfortably situated on the desk in the study on the third floor. The SkyCommand link allows Ted to control almost all of the functions of the TS-2000 at the rooftop location. If you've heard Ted on the air, about all you'll notice is what appears to be a short "squelch tail" at the conclusion of his transmission while the radios both get themselves reset to be in the receive mode. It's a small price to pay for being able to operate your radio from your urban home.



Ted has been happily working a lot of 6 meters lately. An MFJ multi-band rotatable dipole gives him HF capability down to 40 meters. Now his cup runneth over! Priceless.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . .

Ten Years Ago:

Roger Webb, W4MW, was being lined up to make a presentation at The Woodshed in Stanley on 2 meter EME activity. . . .K4ZA and N4ZC wrote recaps of their Dayton adventures—K3LR had run another good antenna forum and K9AY had made a presentation on "New Low Band Receiving Antennas" In the contesting forum someone explained how to interpret the relatively new UBN report. Don and Roger counted 64 countries represented at Dayton, and Roger noted that their buddies were "aging" because most of the hospitality suites were nearly empty by 2AM!. . . . Editor Don explained one more time the meanings of the solar flux index, Planetary A factor and the k-factor, noting that a SFI of 60 was about as low as it can go. (We know that's true of late!)

Twenty Years Ago:

Jim Smith (VK9NS) was wrapping up his operation from Central Kiribati (T31JS). . . .An operation from Malyj Vysotskij Island had just completed. ARRL had suggested in 1970 this island would be given DXCC status if activated, but it took 18 years to happen. . . . . . .KH6LW/KH7 was making many happy by an operation from Kure Island. . . .an American and Canadian group was preparing to activate CY9 in August.

The Back Page

CDXA helps a **new, young ham get on the air**. He's now an honorary CDXA member for 2008! (See Page 1)

Field Day 2008 went quite well for CDXA. Now we must wait to see how well others did. (See Page 3)

DX Summit gets a new sponsor which will boost performance. (See Page 4)

Logbook of the World (LoTW) has also had a sponsor step forward. (See Page 5)

ARRL's **June VHF Contest** was awarded a great opening in the central USA that created quite a buzz in the VHF contesting community. (See Page 5)

Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, does things other than run a good VHF contest station. (See Page 6)

Roving Reporter joins the "yoopers" in Michigan's UP and gets a first hand view of **Mackinaw Icebreaker**. (See Page 7)

Do you need **grid square FM13**? A group of CDXAers hope to put it in the air "big-time" in the upcoming CQWW VHF Contest on July 19-20. (See Page 9)

Check out the **new shack of W4VHF**. Teddy's back! (See Page 9)

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