The Pileup
Newsletter of the CDXA

The Carolina DX Association

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
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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

N4BX griDXpedition to Fox Mike 13

By Bill Fisher, W4GRW

Spending any time around old-timers like Ted (W4VHF), Ron (AA4S) and Paul (AA4ZZ), and Ken (K4DXA), on a VHF weekend in Boone with the AA4ZZ team, you hear many hilarious "War Stories"—tales about past VHF contests. Like the time, on the coast, when they were all set up and operating a VHF contest, and started receiving complaints about TVI. Seems they were interfering with the Miss America Pageant on TV, and had to go quiet, until the winner was crowned. Combine that with the ARRL's recent announcement of a new award called the Fred Fish Memorial Award (FFMA), for working all 488 grid squares in the USA on Six Meters, and suddenly rare grids were a hot topic for VHF enthusiasts. In addition, a recent survey showing the USA's rarest grids, proved what many of us knew, Fox Mike 13 was the rarest grid on the East Coast. It is located on the coast, but is 99.4% water, with only a small footprint of terra firma that includes parts of Southport, Kure Beach, and Fort Fisher.

Ted (W4VHF), Nyles (KS4S), and a couple of other veterans had operated from FM13 in the past, and in recent years, Bill (W4WNT) has operated from there. Ted and Itice Goldthorpe got everything going by taking an excursion to find potential operation sites in FM13 while on a recent visit to Wilmington. Several potential sites were identified, and Ted provided some excellent photos. Combine Ted's photos with aerial photos from Google Earth, and we had some excellent reconnaissance work completed. We made a short list of four locations, and began communicating to acquire permission to operate. Many of the sites were government controlled, like the NC Aquarium, Fort Fisher State Park, and the Fort Fisher Air Force Recreation Center. The top choice was the Air Force Recreation Center—a great complex with lodging and sprawling area to operate from, and it is right across the river from the Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal, a highly classified ammunition terminal. Permission to operate from the AF Recreation Center required written permission from the Ammunition terminal, because the recreation center was located in a "buffer zone"—not the most comforting thought when wanting to put out lots of RF. When contacting other state controlled sites we were told we would have to submit environmental impact

(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	
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)

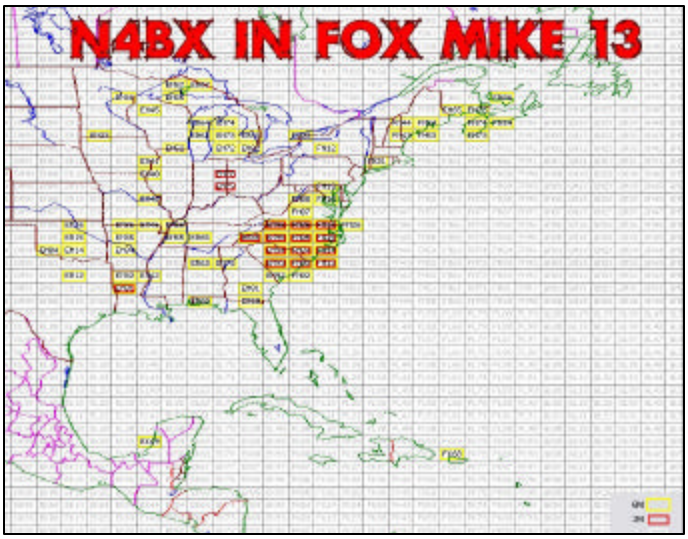
documentation! Talk about red tape, wow! Nyles and Bill suggested the Southport, NC Ferry site. Both had operated from there in the past with no difficulty. Permission was granted, and now we had a DXpedition.

The core group was assembled: Bill (W4GRW), Ken (K4DXA), Pat (N4BH), Nyles (KS4S) and Joe (KI4TZ) all signed on. The FM13 veterans advised us that conditions on the coast could range from excellent to boring, depending on band conditions. Because we had several veteran EMEers on the team, we decided to try the first Two Meter EME operation ever from FM13. Later, Ric (AA4SC), Ron (AA4S), Bill (W4WNT), Dave (W4JL) all joined the team. As many noticed, the "VHF table" at CDXA's Wednesday luncheon was buzzing with preparation discussions for weeks leading up to the event. We spread the word via the internet about our upcoming effort, and people were excited. We even got listed on the ARRL DX News , so the word was spreading. As the contest weekend approached, gear was staged and assembled, bug spray purchased, plans finalized, and the weather channel became our favorite channel. Think of most Field Day operations, and then move all the towers (3), antennas (11), tents (3), generators (2), feedlines, fans, and coolers four hours to the east.

On Friday, July19th the team traveled to Southport, and began setting up. The weather was HOT, and we had passed through many thunderstorms on the way there. Along the way we began hearing a new name—Cristabol—a tropical storm forming in the Atlantic. By Friday night we had 3 tents assembled, 2 towers raised, and a great start. Saturday morning the team headed to the site for final preparations, and the weather was becoming a major factor. Most of us stayed wet all weekend, either from the torrential rains or the heat and humidity.

The contest began and there was a buzz on the air—people were listening for us and we quickly started piling up contacts. The weather outside became very interesting. Squalls were blowing through every hour or so as Tropical Storm Cristabol approached. Do you know what they call a tornado over water? Right, a water spout. Several of us watched one pass within 1000 yards of our site, and experienced the winds and noise it kicked up. What's next?

As darkness approached, it was almost moon rise and show time for EME. Unfortunately, the extreme weather conditions took their toll on EME—rain static, winds, and the swirling clouds made operating conditions very difficult. There were several milestones achieved on EME from FM13, the first European WSJT QSO from FM13 was to OZ1LPR, and 3 additional QSO's were made in USA.



On Six Meters, our high hopes of a European opening never materialized but overall conditions were excellent. We made over 160 QSO's and 70+ multipliers. On Two Meters the band never really opened up but we put over 60 QSO's and 17 multipliers were in the log.

On Sunday afternoon everyone was worn out, especially after our three hour station breakdown. That made the drive home a long one, but we learned many lessons and are happy to report that over 200 hams now have FM13 in their logs.

Stay tuned, you never know where the N4BX team might show up next... –73 Bill, W4GRW

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.

CQ Publishes Results of the 2007 CQWW SSB Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of last year's CQ World Wide SSB Contest are published in the August issue of CQ. Once again, CDXA is well represented.

This was the second year we have entered the team contesting competition. CDXA's five-man SSB team (AA4S, KZ2I, N4PQX, W3OA, and W4WTB) placed fourth world wide with 7,656,542 points. Their score was more than double that of the fifth place team. Also of interest—CDXA's team was the only all U.S. team in the competition. Each of the three teams that beat us included ops that were in the Caribbean and/or South America.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the calls of all the CDXA SSB Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) entrants who scored in the top half of their class as listed in CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number of entrants in that class. Those calls shown in bold face will receive certificates from CQ.

We hope to have similar information for the CW contest next month. We won't know how we did overall in the Club Competition until then because both SSB and CW results are used in computing club scores.

Mark your calendar for this year's CQWW contests. SSB is the weekend of October 24, CW the weekend of November 28. Those of you following the discussions about contest use of CW Skimmer will be interested to hear that the same article that reported these scores also reported that Skimmer will be allowed in the 2008 CQWW and using it will put you in the Assisted category.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No. in Class
4X0V (AA4V + 3)	9,949,404	Israel	Multi-Op, Two Transmitter	1/1, Also 2nd Place Asia
A71BX (WB4ROA + 3)	5,728,725	Qatar	Multi-Op, Single Transmitter	1/1, Also 3rd Place Asia
AA4S	1,462,240	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	3/60
AD4IE	155,310	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	26/60
IS0T (IN3ZNR)	597,744	Sardinia	Single Op, High Power, 20 Meters	1/1
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	1,443,520	Sardinia	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	1/5
K4GHS	137,052	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	27/60
K4ML	25,338	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	43/87
K4SQR	82,080	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, 15 Meters	1/4
KI4TZ	965,328	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	8/60
KU4V	286,272	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	19/60
KZ2I	881,280	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	8/61
N2TU	993,564	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	6/60
N4PQX	1,120,210	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	5/61
N4ZC	1,087,361	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	6/61
W3GQ (+K8YC, W3ZL, KA8FAN)	1,689,877	US—Call Area 4	Multi Op, Single Transmitter	2/8
W3OA	986,752	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	7/60
W4WTB	3,206,060	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/60, Also 4th Place, USA
WA4DOU	476,480	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	4/87

SSSP: Short-path Summer Solstice Propagation

By John Scott, K8YC

CDXA has a weekly luncheon which we are careful to not call a "meeting". It is an opportunity to meet your fellow Amateur Radio Operator, but it also can be a time to have some profound technology exchanges. A month ago, I was wondering aloud at our luncheon about the well-known improvement of VHF/UHF propagation in the vicinity of the summer solstice. I am a relative "newbie" to the ranks of VHFing, but the old timers will tell you that June and July are "where it's at" when it comes to VHF activity.

Not long after my musings, Lou Dietrich (N2TU) sent me a link to some original work done by Han Higasa (JE1BMJ) regarding his observations of exceptional 6 meter propagation from JA to Europe during the summer solstice in the northern hemisphere. He first noticed this exceptional propagation in 1999 via a CW QSO with OH7PI, and he's been developing his hypothesis as to the cause of what he has dubbed "Short-Path Summer Solstice Propagation" or SSSP ever since. He is quite confident that he has discovered a new mechanism—other than multi-hop sporadic E (E_s)—to create the very good long haul propagation from Japan to Europe and from Japan to North America. In fact, Han believes the same phenomenon should be present in the southern hemisphere at its "summer solstice" in December-January each year.

When Han made his first discovery of this phenomenon, he noticed that the signals were quite pure without the flutter he would have expected from a multi-hop path. Yet, the distance of his contacts suggested that at least four hops (three returns to Earth along the path) would be required to span the 8,000 km path from JA to EU if E_s were the propagation mechanism. Han hypothesizes that after a signal first encounters the ionosphere (the first control point) it is propagated via chordal hops along the bottom of an ionized layer until it reached the terminating control point at which time it returns to the Earth's surface. But what is the mechanism and what is the layer? As with many scientific endeavors, the person setting forth a new hypothesis to explain an observed phenomenon is often chastised for his/her views. Han has his share of detractors, yet he has persisted.

From reading Han's disclosure of his findings, it is clear that he's shown the experimenter's diligence in quantifying and understanding what he was observing. It is also clear he did a lot of reading of contemporary scientific literature. In his searches, he came upon some studies done by physicists trying to understand why certain radar signals were exhibiting unusual echoes in northern latitudes. In a learned physics journal article, the researchers defined what is called the "Polar Mesospheric Summer Echo" or PMSE. The research showed PMSE happens in a plasma layer about 88km above the ground—very near to the height of the E-layer—and it is very efficient at refracting 50 MHz signals. The PMSE region consists of very small suspended ice particles which are formed at about 150 degrees Kelvin. The particular conditions described by PMSE promote fairly long duration (10 minutes to hours) plasma structures. Other studies have shown that the low temperatures (150° K.) are a result of greenhouse warming effects which may explain why Han is observing the phenomenon with greater regularity in the last decade. You can read more about PMSE by "Googling" it or you can look at the following URL: http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/4/2601/2004/acp-4-2601-2004.pdf.

Han's operating conditions are not average, however, so perhaps not everyone observes SSSP as does Han. He uses a 1KW amplifier driving vertically stacked, 8 element yagis on 33 foot long booms. He's found that about 10 degrees elevation of his array will reduce local QRN from the underside of the main antenna lobe by 6 to 10 db. Once his array is elevated, the improvement in signal-to-noise ratio lets the weak DX signals pop out of the noise. If you want to know more, come to lunch so we can talk some more. If you're farther away, drop me an email.

(Note: Lou Dietrich found Han's article on a website. It was a translation from the Japanese CQ Ham Radio *publication. For some reason, perhaps copyright considerations, the article has been withdrawn from the site. Several weeks ago, several CDXAers worked JA on 6 meters. Could it have been SSSP?—The Editor)*

Gridsquare Collector

In the July, 2008 issue of *The Pileup*, we welcomed **Itice Goldthorpe (K4LVV)** as a new member. Itice was only a new "dues paying" member, because as President Ted Goldthorpe's XYL we've all known Itice for years as a supporter of CDXA along with Ted. Recently, she has received acknowledgement from ARRL for collecting 525 Maidenhead Gridsquares on 6 meters. As a point of reference, you need to know that there are 488 gridsquares needed to cover the continental United States. Congratulations to you, Itice, for this feat.

So That's How it Works!!

Having seen the Aurora Borealis a few times in my life, I always wondered just how much energy is expended to produce this spectacle or the analogous spectacle in the Southern Hemisphere—the Aurora Australis. Surely, there must be a very large amount of energy to create such a dazzling display. A glimmer of understanding was offered in an article appearing in the July 25, 2008 edition of the Charlotte Observer.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has placed a small fleet of five satellites, called Themis, into orbits around the earth to permit looking at the earth's magnetic field in greater detail. Using this tool, scientists recently noticed a geomagnetic storm some 80,000 miles above the Earth—nearly 1/3 of the way to the moon. Apparently solar winds stretch and deform the earth's magnetic field to be far from the typical view we hold of the earth's magnetic field as nicely curved lines of magnetic flux converging on the magnetic poles. Scientists observed these stretched flux lines suddenly "snapping" back in a phenomenon called magnetic reconnection. It was during one of these magnetic reconnections that the coincidence of Aurora Borealis was noted. As amateur radio licensees, all of us are familiar with the effects of collapsing or expanding magnetic fields used to induce voltages in transformers. In fact, we know antennas can be made to radiate by a rapidly changing electromagnetic fields. So, my "aha moment" came when I began to think about what kinds of currents might be generated when a magnetic field quickly changes through 60,000+ miles! I guess that would light things up a bit.

The scientific community is still not in full agreement about the cause of the northern lights, however. Many scientists still think that magnetic events occur much closer to earth. More observations by Themis should help scientists perfect their hypotheses. My money is on the recent findings of Themis.

Waddayouthink?

(*In typical fashion when Themis was launched last year, its name was an acronym—Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms. That mouthful alone should make its findings true!! If you'd like to learn more about the THEMIS program, there is an informative website at: http://themis.ssl.berkeley.edu/index.shtml—The Editor.)*

Stepping Back in Time

Paul Deyo, N1PD (Ex WA4ZMM), was recently sifting through some old photos and came up with those shown below. Does anybody know these folks? Does anybody care to reminisce about them?

Could it be? Is this the N4ZC Contest Station?

CDXA Scores in 2008 ARRL International DX Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX Contest have been published. CDXA placed third among all Medium Category clubs in the Affiliated Club Competition. As the QST article said, "The Carolina DX Association made a big jump up to third this year … having increased the number of log submissions dramatically." Our number of logs submitted went from 30 last year to 43 and our score went from 7.9 million points to 11.3 million. That moved us from ninth place last year to third place this year.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the individual CDXA entrants who scored in the top half of their class in the CW and phone contests. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area. Additionally, K4ZA was one of the operators at W3LPL, a multi-multi entrant that placed first in the CW contest and second in the phone contest.

QST publishes Top Ten lists of scores for many different categories. CDXA members appear in four of these lists: N4ZC for phone, single operator, assisted; W4ZV for CW single operator, 160 meters; and W3GQ (plus W3ZL) for both CW and phone, multi operator, single transmitter.

CW Results

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4S	1,089,960	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands Also 4th in Southeast Region	1/9
K4DGJ	140,448	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	5/9
K4GHS	144,300	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	31/61
KH6/ AA4V	60,945	Oceania	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/4
N2TU	698,058	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	8/61
N4AA	304,386	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	2/9
N4ZC	808,665	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	5/61
W3GQ (+W3ZL)	1,328,250	US – Call Area 4	Multi Op, Single Transmitter Also 10th in USA and Canada	2/4
W3OA	504,900	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	15/61
W4LM	142,713	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	4/9
W4ZV	67,266	North Carolina	Single Op, 160 meters Also 1ST in USA and Canada	1/1
W7DO	360,930	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	21/61
WA3GNW	121,176	South Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	1/5
WA4DOU	455,700	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands Also 5th in Southeast Region	2/15

The Phone results will be found in the table on the next page.

CDXA Scores in 2008 ARRL International DX Contest (con'd)

Phone Results

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4S	457,380	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/13
K2SX	150,213	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	25/67
K4GHS	172,593	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	18/67
K4QVK	5,022	North Carolina	Single Op, 15 meters	1/3
KH6/AA4V	97,188	Oceania	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/3
N1GC	241,956	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	2/13
N2TU	289,476	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	10/67
N4AA	189,732	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	3/13
N4PQX	459,597	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	4/67
N4UFP	123,093	South Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/5
N4ZC	709,794	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands Also 9th in USA and Canada	1/67
W3GQ (+W3ZL)	575,640	Call Area 4	Multi Op, Single Transmitter Also 9th in USA and Canada	2/8
W3OA	400,020	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	6/67
W4UNP	191,646	Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	16/67
W4WNT	28,914	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	4/8
WA2EMF	91,584	South Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	3/5

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . . . .

Ten Years Ago

President Joe Simpkins, K4MD reflected for members in his Presidential letter in the Pileup that Roger Webb's, W4MW, presentation on moonbounce communications at The Wood Shed in Stanley had created a "buzz" for those attending. . . Joe was also in the midst of converting some commercial GE Phoenix radios for use on the PacketCluster (remember those RF connections?). . . . Editor Don Daso, K4ZA, provided some "wisdom" from Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, on concerns the "host" of a multi-multi station operation must deal with from his operators . . . . John Devoldere, ON4UN, provided a review of the DX4WIN logging program . . . the Western Washington DX Club had just published an anthology on Top Band DXing edited by Ward Silver.

Twenty Years Ago

Editor Scott Douglass reported that the P40V team was cranking up to win it all in the upcoming CQWW SSB competition . . . a planned DXpedition to East Timor had been recently cancelled, but a team was preparing to activate Cocos-Keeling Island on October 10-19 . . . . PacketCluster use was soaring with up to 60 users being observed on the cluster on weekends as the peak of the solar cycle was approaching . . . . under new rules promulgated by the DXCC committee, Rotuma in the Fiji Island group seemed to qualify for "entity" status" and plans were being made to activate it despite lacking clear acceptance of its entity status by DXCC. Northern California DX Foundation stepped in with financial support knowing if the acceptance was granted that a number of other entities would soon qualify.

Roving Reporter Wanders West

The Roving Reporter ventured west this month—all the way to Waynesville to talk with **Ron Tingle, K4ML**. Many CDXA members met Ron face-to-face for the first time at SEDCO III last September after joining CDXA earlier in the year. We've been fortunate to see Ron at the Christmas Dinner/Annual Meeting as well as the Charlotte Hamfest, so we guess Ron doesn't mind driving. Waynesville is about 25 miles west of Asheville.

Roving Reporter: Ron, I just have to ask you how you got started in amateur radio, because, after all, this is a ham radio newsletter!

K4ML: I had an interest in radio as a youngster, a number of years before I actually became a licensed ham. My father was a pilot in the US Navy, and being around military installations, I became keenly aware of the presence of radio. I started out as a short wave listener, and was fascinated by Morse code. I actually got somewhat skilled at copying the code, solidly but not at great speed. I really got hooked when I was a high school student. A number of my classmates and I decided to become hams and we formed a radio club. All of us just lived for Field Day during those high school years. It was 1964 when I took my license exam and was given the callsign WN4YHS. As most old timers know, the "N" in the prefix meant "Novice" and you had one year to upgrade. It was 'up or out' back then. Well, I did manage to upgrade to Technician and then to General and my callsign became WA4YHS with the upgrade. Fortunately, from my early interest in Morse code, what some consider the tough part of becoming licensed was not an obstacle for me.

Roving Reporter: Where were you living when all this took place?

K4ML: I was living in Portsmouth and Newport News, VA because a lot of Navy activities are centered in that area, and remember, Dad was a Naval aviator.

Roving Reporter: I suppose there were not tall towers around a Naval Air Base, then?

K4ML: Well, not on our turf . I used wires wherever I could string them up. Most military families also don't make too many "permanent improvements" because we can be moved about.

Roving Reporter: Did you have an "Elmer"?

K4ML: I had a number of "Elmers". Several are now SK's, but they meant the world to me. Specifically, I remember Griff, W4MT, and Barney WA4MNH and Meade, WA4CVF. Great guys. Some of the 'elmering' was done by my contemporaries in the radio club since we were all learning and sharing everything.

Roving Reporter: Have you been active since 1964?

K4ML: Like a lot of fellows, when I went to college, my "priorities" changed somewhat when young ladies became a bigger part of my life. Along the way, I let my license lapse! Then in the early 1980s, I suddenly became interested again when I found myself in Atlanta. When I passed the exam again, I became KC4CAU. I quickly upgraded to General Class, then Advanced, and I held the callsign N4SBI. When I started this revival, I decided that if licensing was worth doing, it was worth doing right, and I needed to set some goals. I set five goals for myself to attain within a 36 month time frame.

Roving Reporter: You consciously set five goals? And those goals were?

K4ML: They were:

1. I was going to earn Worked All States Award, and fast.
2. I was going to earn DXCC unassisted, that is, without the use of a spotting network.
3. I was going to find and talk to my "ham hero", Barry Goldwater, K7UGA.
4. I was going to have a QSO with someone in the city where I was born—Beijing, China.
5. I was going to earn the Extra Class license.

Roving Reporter: That's quite laudable. What prompted those particular goals, and how have you done on meeting them?

K4ML: Along the way—and probably my early exposure to Field Day had something to do with it—I found I really loved HF radio and working DX. In fact, I enjoy meeting people on the air from different countries even more than merely collecting their callsigns as new entities. Perhaps that interest came from being a military dependent and being born in a foreign country. So, earning WAS was a way of at least reaching across the continent. As for DXCC, spotting nets weren't that prevalent when I began my quest, and there certainly weren't many Packet-Clusters, but I still wanted to earn DXCC the "old fashioned" way—Listen, Listen, and Listen some more to find my first 100 countries. I did, and before you judge me as being too odd, let me tell you I do make heavy use of our spotting systems today!

Roving Reporter: Okay, that's two goals down. Did you ever talk to Barry Goldwater?

K4ML: As a matter of fact, I did. And, I have to say even before you ask me, *that* was one of my more memorable moments as a ham. Our QSO began with, "Hello, my name is Barry." It was a wonderful rag chew. Barry could have been the guy across the street. Here's a guy

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)
who was a U.S. Presidential candidate, a renowned U.S. Senator of many years and we talked about a lot of just plain stuff. We hit upon our mutual interest in aviation, and we just went on and on. I'll never ever forget the sense of finding a new friend that I got from ham radio on that day.

Roving Reporter: I know from your callsign that you've met your fifth goal to get your Extra Class license, but you've set me up to ask me how you came to be born in Beijing?

K4ML: You'll recall that I told you my Dad was a Navy Pilot. Well, before that he actually flew 'The Hump' during WW II. He worked closely with Claire Chennault of Flying Tigers fame. After the war, Dad was stationed in Beijing, and I was born there in 1948. We left shortly after I was born as relations with mainland China became "strained" to say the least. With that experience, I wanted to speak with someone from my birthplace, and that fit right in with my love of talking to people in far away places on the radio. And, yes, I snagged a QSO with BY-land within my 36-month timeframe.

Roving Reporter: With a Dad as an aviator, did any of that rub off on you?

K4ML: Most definitely. I have an equal love for ham radio and general aviation. I am an instrument, and multi-engine rated pilot.

Roving Reporter: Have you been chasing any other awards?

K4ML: I'm working on WAZ now. We moved to Waynesville a few years ago as a perfect retirement spot and to be near my wife's family since she grew up in these parts. We opted for a mountainside home, but we don't have a mountaintop site, so you can imagine that I have some difficulties with radio propagation in certain directions. Recently, I've run into a few local hams that have got me interested in 6 meters, so I'm checking that out.

Roving Reporter: What is your preferred mode?
K4ML: I really like CW. I told you I had an early interest in Morse code. Yet, as I moved into ham radio later, I found out I had learned the code the wrong way (visually) and I had to rid myself of some seriously limiting habits before I could move upward to 20wpm. Today, I do fine in a CW rag chew.

Roving Reporter: What was your most memorable rig?

K4ML: My first rig. I had a Harvey-Wells TBS-50D that put out 50 watts on AM and CW using an 807 as a final. It is nothing compared to the modern rigs of today, but I guess we all have fond remembrances of our first rigs. I'm restoring one right now, with some help from Bob Heil, K9EID.

Roving Reporter: What is your station like today?

K4ML: Modest and minimal. I have an Icom-746Pro today. My shack is in my study and I still have wires—dipoles, slopers, and inverted vees wherever I can hang them. With our thickly wooded mountainside location, we just can't think about cutting down trees for a tower and rotating yagi, and it probably wouldn't help much in our location, anyway. But I'm exactly where I want to be after 35 years in the Treasury Department. I retired as Director of IT Systems Planning for the IRS, an executive position I thoroughly enjoyed, but 35 years was quite enough.

Roving Reporter: One last question—What effect would you say amateur radio has had on your life, if any?

K4ML: I often think of all the people in Amateur Radio who will help you at the drop of a hat. There is always someone who will provide a helping hand or some technical expertise. Then there is the wonderful experience of learning the world's geography by actually talking to people who live in those far away places and learning about their worlds. The help freely offered by others is infectious—so much so that I find that I try to do the same, and that's just a great, great feeling!

K4ML Today

The "Nanosecond"—My Path to the CQ DX Hall of Fame

by Bob Schenck, N2OO

(Bob Schenck was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame at Dayton in 2008. You'll probably recognize Bob's callsign as the QSL Manager of one or more of your "rare ones" needed for DXCC. Bob's "nanosecond" in the attached article has a very close connection with the Carolina DX Association through Steve Sullivan, KZ2I. The original article appeared in the newsletter of the "Old Barney Amateur Radio Club" in New Jersey. Bob kindly provided the article for us.—The Editor)

Thirty years ago, I had one of those life changing experiences. It was Ham Radio. It was DX. A nanosecond in my life threw me down the DXpedition path. Life would never be the same again!

March 12, 1978 was when it happened. On March 11th I came across a huge pileup on 20 meter SSB. It was one of those non-stop pileups that just kept on going. Once in awhile, a weak signal would come through and work one of the callers. It was ZL4LR/a on Campbell Island. His name was Ray and he was working at the scientific base on this sub-Antarctic island. He mentioned that he was running an FT-101 into a dipole up 10 feet. He had no external VFO so he had to work transceive. Campbell Island was quite a rare DXCC entity to work at that time. You had to catch a licensed ham doing duty on the island in order to work it. Since I needed Campbell Island very badly for my DXCC, I started calling. Finally after several calls, he came back to me and we exchanged reports. Back then, we had no internet. No packet. All we had was a needed DXCC list that we shared with each other. My DXing buddies were Gary N2CW and Steve WB2VFT (now KZ2I). If any one of us heard a country that the other needed, a call could be made on the telephone AT ANY TIME. The following evening (March 12th) I heard Ray come on again. The pileup was huge! I called Steve and Gary who both still needed Campbell. Both started into the fray. Now Steve lived only about 300 feet down the street from me. When he keyed up, he would light my overload lamp on the back of my FT101E! He was VERY LOUD—pin the meter LOUD. Anyway, the non-stop pileup continued and very few were getting through. Here comes that nanosecond I was telling you about. Finally, the pileup eases and Ray ZL4LR/a comes through a little weak but clearly. He says something like this: "I can't work any of you. I need some help. Could someone please help me work more stations?" Bear in mind that I am just listening. I already worked Ray the night before. Steve, knowing that I was listening and that I have a pretty decent station and antenna, keys up and whispers the word "please". His signal pegs my meter! But I instantly understand what he is asking me to do. The nanosecond has occurred. I start calling and sure enough, Ray comes back to me. I immediately take control of the frequency and take a short list of calls to work Ray. Of course, Steve and Gary are first on that list. I ran through a bunch of guys that night to work Ray and agree to meet Ray the next night to do it again. This turned into a nightly schedule that would completely change my life.

After a few nights, Chuck ZL1ADI comes on frequency and tells me that he has been listening and he would like to help from his end. He might be able to hear USA stations better than me on occasion. In the ensuing nightly skeds, Chuck would show up early and help me take a list. Then we would chat while we waited for Ray to show up. One night he tells me that he is involved in a DXpedition to the Spratly Islands with Harry Meade VK2BJL and that Harry was looking for a couple of more ops and some USA support assistance. I volunteer to help, but not actually go on the DXpedition. I ended up arranging the loan of two FT901DM's from Yaesu, the donation of Cushcraft monobanders, and assisted in locating other ops from the USA. K4SMX, K1MM, KP2A, N4WW all join the team and I communicated with them regarding trip plans. By November, the planning was nearly complete. The 38 foot ketch Banyandah captained by Jack and Judith Binder and their two small children would meet the team in Brunei where Moody (VS5MS), Graeme (VS5DX) and Alan (VS5TX) would assist with local logistics. Then one night, I called Harry on the telephone and asked if I could join the team. He said YES!

Up until this time I had never been out of the country (except for Canada). I had only been on a plane a few times but no further than Florida. Before I knew it, I was on a JAL flight to Hong Kong via Tokyo and after a day of operating in Hong Kong I was on a Cathay Pacific flight to Brunei! The team promptly went to the local telecom office and we all got Brunei licenses. Mine was VS5OO. As we gathered local materials for a couple of days, we filled time in by operating from Brunei at Moody's house. Then we set sail for Amboyna Cay, our destination in the Spratly's. On April 1st, 1979 after a 2 ½ day slow 2 knot windless sail we approached Amboyna Cay. What was supposed to be

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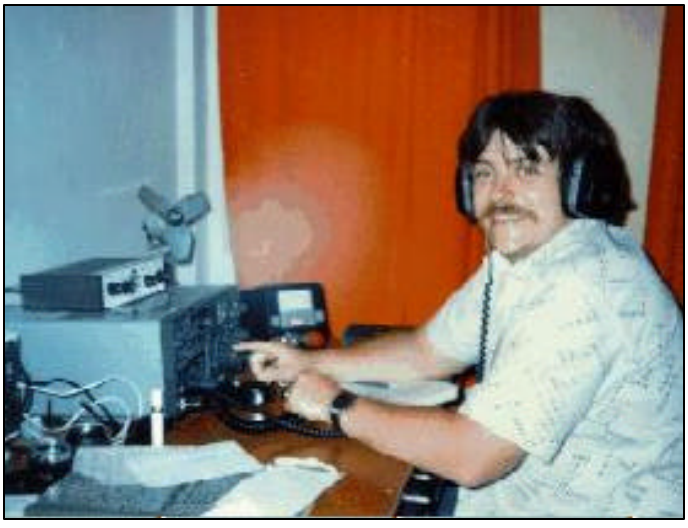
an uninhabited sand cay 900 feet wide, was found to be transformed into a mini fort. As we approached the island about a mile or less offshore our captain Jack decided to go ashore to see who these people were. Perhaps they were just Pilipino fishermen. As he uncovered the dinghy, four loud mortar rounds reverberated from the center of the sand cay. Jack quickly swung Banyandah around and we were sailing back to Brunei. As we sailed back, a plan was made to do some more research in Brunei to see if there were any other islands that we could operate from. Stew (K4SMX) and Bill (K1MM) researched the local library and made calls to ham friends at the US State Department back home. A backup plan was implemented to sail to Barque Canada Reef, just 43 miles away from Amboyna Cay. Our emergency room physician op Austin (N4WW) opted to return home. John (KP2A) and I decided to stay in Brunei to provide more reliable communications to Banyandah and to mount a backup operation from Brunei. Up until that time Brunei was a fairly rare DXCC entity by itself. John would stay with Graeme and I would stay with Moody (VS5MS). While Banyandah set sail with K1MM, K4SMX and VK2BJL, VS5OO and VS5KV were ON THE AIR. I ended up making about 10,000 QSO's in a total of 10 days of operating and made a lot of DXers very happy! Meanwhile, the Banyandah "plan B" team located Barque Canada Reef which had a very small 30 foot wide sand cay about 1 foot out of the water at high tide and set up 3 stations and operated for 70 hours making some 13,700 QSO's as 1S1DX. They returned to Brunei and we all headed for home.



A slightly younger Bob Schenck operates as VS5OO in 1979 from "the other side".

This was all the result of me responding to Steve's whispered "PLEASE" in that nanosecond of time back in March 1978. The Spratly trip wetted my appetite for DXpeditions and in 1980 I would return to the area with Gary (N2CW) and John (KP2A) for a DXpedition from East Malaysia where we would meet and befriend Alfons (9M6MU) and revisit Brunei with Alan (VS5TX) activating VS5OO again as well as Gary's call, VS5GM. After that the DXpeditions continued off and on for the next 30 years. I became Moody's QSL Manager since he was not very good at doing QSL cards. This marked the beginning of my QSL Manager duties. I eventually became the QSL Manager for Charlie (SV0AA) in Athens and we became good friends. I went to Greece twice for DXpeditions to Rhodes with Charlie. The second time I brought an Old Barney ARC member along, Charlie (WA3TYF), who had a ball with us! Overall, I have been on 33 DX and IOTA operations over the past 30 years. I have been to 15 DXCC countries and 4 USA IOTA's. Several of these locations were visited more than once. I have been to Sabah seven times, Brunei five times, Hong Kong, Spratly, Rhodes and USVI twice each. Other locations include Desecheo, Navassa, Greece, Macao, Singapore, Wake Island, Hawaii, Taiwan and Pratas Island. USA IOTA's include LBI (NA111), Assateague (NA139), Sheffield (NA136) and Smith (NA140). What a ride I have been on, all due to Steve's whispered "PLEASE".

(*Continued on Page 12)*

Officers of the South Jersey DX Association. Left to right: Gary (N2CW), Erich (K2TJ), Bob (N2OO), Don (W2SQT), and Steve (KZ2I).

(Continued from Page 11)

Finally, back in 2001 I got upset when I heard that some QSL Managers were announcing that they would be closing their logs out. I thought this was a cruel thing to do. I tried contacting them whenever I saw the announcement. I would offer to take over the logs, but never did get any. Then I had an idea. Let's organize a QSL Manager's on-line club and set a "creed" that all members would have to agree with. I passed the idea by famous QSL Manager Steve KU9C and he said "go for it". So, with my limited web page skills, I started the QSL Managers Society. www.qsl.net/qslmanagers It was publicized pretty much by "word of mouth" and it got reported in the various DX Newsletters. The group has grown to over 200 members from around the globe. In 2002, Skip (N1IBM) and I went down to Virginia and picked up 60 logs and many thousands of blank QSL cards from QSL Manager Jim (K4JDJ) who had gotten most of these logs from SK manager John Parrott (W4FRU). The logs and cards were only a few days from being thrown in the dumpster if no one came to get them since Jim was moving to a small retirement location and there was no room for them. We filled the pickup truck bed with the cards, which included some 30,000 blank VK0IR (Heard Island) cards. The operations were divided and new QSL managers were assigned from the membership.

My induction into the DX Hall of Fame was done primarily for my QSL Manager duties as well as being the founder of the QSL Manager's Society. However, I would like to think that it all evolved from that little whisper back in 1978 by Steve. I am a true believer in "fate" and "order". . . . Thanks Steve for that nanosecond back on March 12th, 1978!

Harry Dannals Gets "Press"

Jim Morris (KQ4O) sends along a message that Harry Dannals, Past President of ARRL and the QCWA, was written up in the Charlottesville, VA newspaper. Mr. Dannals talks about how "Amateur" Radio operators are amateur only in the fact that they cannot accept remuneration of any kind for their volunteer services. Yet, many hams are leaders in the electronics and communication sciences. If you'd like to read the article, go to:

http://www.dailyprogress.com/cdp/lifestyles/local/article/ham_radio_ambassador_nothing_amateur_about_this_form_of_communication/25421/

SEDCO IV Program Announced

Organizers of the Southeast DXing and Contest Organization (SEDCO) have announced the lineup of speakers for SEDCO IV scheduled for September 27, 2008 in Pigeon Forge, TN.

This year's speakers and topics include:

- Reidar "Radar" Larsen (Y2PT/YI9PT): "YI9PT DXpedition—Iraq 2008"
- Bill Beyer (N2WB): "J5—Guinea Bissau, 2008"
- Mark Speck (K0EJ): "V49—ARRL CW—100 Q's Per Pound"
- Jay Slough (K4ZLE) & Wayne McKenzie (K8LEE): "TX5C—Four strong Winds That Blow Lonely, Seven Seas that Run High"
- Becky (AF4QB) and Jeff Clark (NY4N): "QSO's Per Mile?. . . Mobiling Contest-Style"
- Dee Logan (W1HEO): "Top DXers Tips & DX Dunce Awards"
- Joe Blackwell (AA4NN): "Cocos Island—TI9KK"
- Dennis Motschenbacher (K7BV): "V36-5J0M, a 6 meter DXpedition"
- Dave Anderson (K4SV): "EME, DX Style"
- Bob Allphin (K4UEE): "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly. . . Untold Stories—DXpeditions of the Year"

The SEDCO program is always planned to coincide with the Ten-Tec Hamfest. The program starts at 12:30PM on Saturday, giving you time to visit the Hamfest. Convention tickets are $25 and banquet tickets are $25. Banquet seating is limited to 160. There's lots for the XYLs to do in Pigeon Forge, and the banquet is a nice event, so bring your spouse along.

Web pages for more information:
http://radio.tentec.com/hamfest/
http://www.SEDCO.homestead.com

Call Ten-Tec (Scott and Stan) at 865-453-7172 for convention tickets and banquet tickets. For rooms, call Mainstay Suites at 865-428-8350 and mention "SEDCO" for the special group rate.

Question or help? Contact Lynn Lamb W4NL@charter.net

The Back Page

Did you get in the log of the **GridDXpedition to FM13**? Bill Fisher tells us all about putting FM13 on the air. See Page 1.

How did CDXA fare in **CQWW SSB-2007**? Check out Dick William's recap on Page 3.

A new theory on **6 Meter Summer Solstice Propagation**. Could this be how CDXAers recently worked JAs on that band? See Page 4.

A new constellation of scientific satellites is unlocking the secrets of the **Northern Lights**. Read how THEMIS is helping scientists put the puzzle pieces together. See Page 5.

Step back in time. Can you identify when and where? See Page 5.

CDXA moves up in the rankings in **ARRL International DX Contest**. Dick Williams provides the details on Page 6.

The **Roving Reporter** traveled to Waynesville this month. See Page 8.

Recent **CQ DX Hall of Fame** inductee, Bob Schenck (N2OO), and CDXA's Steve Sullivan (KZ2I) go back a long way. Read all about it starting on Page 10.

SEDCO IV organizers announce the program lineup for September's conference. Do you have your reservations yet? See Page 12.

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