



The Carolina DX Association

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The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Barbeque for 2008

The Annual CDXA Barbeque is just around the corner. It will happen before the next issue of the *Pileup* comes out so don't delay putting the date on your calendar. Here are the details:

What: Annual CDXA Barbeque

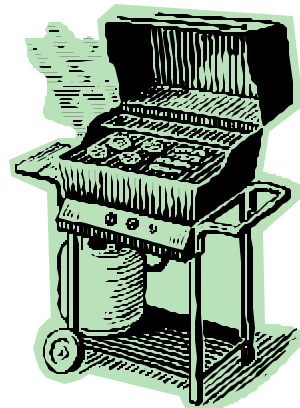
Where: Ken Boyd's spread at 6319 Farmlake Drive, Mint Hill, NC (Directions Below)

Why: To have a good time and meet fellow DXers you might not often see.

When: Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 5:30PM for social hour, dinner served at 6:30PM.

Cost: \$10 per person, payable at the "door". CDXA will provide soft drinks, beer, and wine. Plus, you should bring your favorite potluck side salad **or** dessert to share.

What else? Dinner will be catered by Ric Porter and will consist of BBQ Pork, Chicken, Cole Slaw, BBQ Beans, and Rolls, Plates, utensils, and napkins will be provided.



Please make a reservation with Vice President Paul Ponak at either pponak@carolina.rr.com or ad4ie@arrl.net letting him know how many will be in attendance in your party.

Directions: If totally unfamiliar with the Charlotte area, go to Mapquest on the World Wide Web and put in K4DXA's address to have a general idea of where his home is situated.

If coming from the **south**, take Highway NC51 east (north?) from Independence Boulevard (US74) until you come to Lebanon Road. Turn left on Lebanon Road and go 1.7 miles. Turn left on Barnsdale Lane and go 0.2 miles 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)

Farmlake Drive, turn right.

If coming from the **northeast** (Concord) area, take I-485 from the I-85 interchange (Exit 48) toward Rock Hill and proceed 10.9 miles exiting at Albemarle Road. Turn right (west) on Albemarle and proceed approximately 1.4 miles to Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road visible on the left. Turn left onto Wilgrove-Mint Hill Road, then almost immediately (0.2 miles) turn right on Wilson Grove Road and follow it (1.7 miles) until it crosses Lawyers Road where the name changes to Lebanon Road (welcome to Charlotte's road naming!!!). About 0.4 miles beyond Lawyers Road, turn left to remain on Lebanon and proceed 0.7 miles to Barnsdale Lane. Turn right on Barnsdale Lane and go 0.2 mile to Farmlake Drive.

If coming from **downtown Charlotte and points north**, take Independence Boulevard (US74) to Albemarle Road (NC27) exiting at Exit 246 on the left. Proceed 3.0 miles to Lawyers Road and turn right onto Lawyers Road. After 2.4 miles, turn right onto Lebanon Road. After only 0.4 miles, turn left to stay on Lebanon Road and proceed 0.7 miles to Barnsdale Lane. Turn right on Barnsdale Lane and go 0.2 mile to Farmlake Drive.

Hope to see you there!!

What's with Ole' Sol???

Your 'ole editor keeps getting updates from the membership regarding the news about what's happening on Our Sun. I can't print them all, and I can't do a thing to change that gigantic "fusion engine" some 93 million miles away, but it is clear that amateur radio operators are closely watching what's happening "out there".

Both Roger Burt (N4ZC) and Wilson Caselli (K1MIJ) have sent me reports stating that it has been 70+ days since a single sunspot has been observed on Ole' Sol. According to the reports, it has been almost 100 years (1913 having been the last date of such curtailed activity) since we Earthlings have experienced such little solar activity. In the past 1000 years, three previous such events—the Dalton, Maunder, and Spörer Minima, have all led to rapid cooling of the Earth. One was large enough to be called a "mini ice age". For a society dependent on agriculture, cold is more damaging than heat. The growing season shortens, yields drop, and the occurrence of crop-destroying frosts increases.

Another article sent to me traces contemporary thought on when Cycle 24 will begin in earnest and how active it will be. In the scientific community, one group is stating that the delay of the startup of Cycle 24 is a certain indication that solar activity will be modest in the upcoming cycle. Another group has supposedly modeled the "fusion engine" of the sun based on instrumentation available since earth satellite technology and sun watching has become possible. After developing their model, these scientists used known conditions observed preceding earlier cycles to predict resulting solar activity in the cycle which followed, and their predictors were found to be quite accurate. That group states their model and related predictors indicate our recent quiet solar activity is not out of the ordinary. Furthermore, they predict that Cycle 24 will begin in late 2008 and we'll have a very active cycle to follow. You can bet in academic circles a lot of bragging rights are riding on who's got it right.

In the meantime, we hams can only sit back realizing we have as much control of the sun as we do over the weather and hope that the sun's activity begins to pick up soon so we can find a little excitement in our hobby. C'mon sun!!

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.

CQ Publishes Results of the 2007 CQWW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

CQ has published the final results of last year's CQ World Wide Contest. CDXA placed eighth among the 52 U.S. entries in the club competition. Our score was 34,784,070 points. That's a big improvement over our 25,680,386 points and 12th place finish last year.

This was the second year we have entered the team contesting competition. CDXA's five-man CW team (AA4NN, AA4S, IS0/K7QB, N2TU, and WA4DOU) placed sixth world-wide with 6,679,728 points.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the calls of all the CDXA CW 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.

July's Pileup has the SSB results.

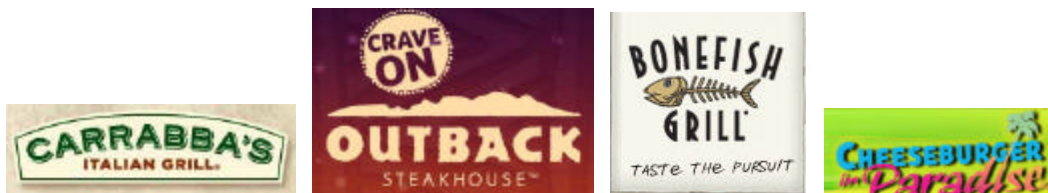
See the accompanying article in this issue announcing this year's CWAC.

Call	Final	Area	Class	Place/No. in Class
AA4NN	830,552	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	10/46
AA4S	1,792,840	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	2/64
AA4V	1,258,575	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	5/64
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	1,347,777	Sardinia	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	1/3
N2TU	1,225,588	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	7/64
N4AA	501,208	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	14/46
N4PQX	29,070	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, 15 meters	1/1
N4UFP	71,410	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	31/64
N4ZC	944,965	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	9/64
W3GQ (+K8YC, KA8FAN, W3ZL)	1,437,856	US – Call Area 4	Multi-Op, Single Transmitter	2/5
W3OA	847,346	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	12/64
WA3GNW	178,710	US – Call Area 4*	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	16/64
WA4DOU	637,007	US – Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	7/64

* CQ mistakenly listed WA3GNW's score with the 3rd call area scores.

CWAC 2008 – Not Just Steak Dinners

Dick Williams, W3OA



It's time to get ready for the CQ World Wide Contests and CDXA's CWAC (Contest Within a Contest). The phone contest is the weekend of October 24, CW the weekend of November 28. We are offering a lot of prizes to encourage you to participate in CWAC and thus contribute to CDXA's CQWW Club Score. The Outback Steakhouse gift cards have been very popular prizes in the last two years. But, if the Outback isn't one of your favorite restaurants, you can use the same card at Carrabba's Italian Grill, Bonefish Grill, and Cheeseburger in Paradise, among others.

Our CQWW Club Scores for the last several years are shown below. We made our goal of breaking into the top ten last year. It will take a concerted effort to stay in the top 10 and, of course, we'd like to move up some more.

Year	CDXA Score	Rank in USA
2002	17,364,657	20
2003	15,383,214	19
2004	23,246,423	15
2005	17,672,958	18
2006	25,680,386	12
2007	34,784,070	8

There are prizes for both serious efforts and more casual operations:

1st place prizes – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 gift card for Outback Steak House. These will be awarded in the categories listed below. An individual can only win one trophy/gift card.

- Top combined phone and CW score
- Top phone score
- Top phone score, low power
- Top DXpedition score

- Top Multi-op score
- Top CW score
- Top CW Score, low power

1000 or more QSOs total in the phone and CW contests—Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$25 gift card for Outback Steak House.

500 or more QSOs—A photo printed CDXA certificate and an embroidered patch with the CDXA logo.

250 or more QSOs—An embroidered patch with the CDXA logo.

Only members who's scores are eligible for the club competition as defined in the contest rules can win a gift card or a trophy. That means their station must be within 275 km of our club center or be on a DXpedition and live within that radius. We can choose where our club center is so don't count yourself out just because you are a little more than 275 km from Charlotte. The rules are available in full at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQWWDXContestRules8407.pdf> or page 94 of the September CQ. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificate and patch.

Prizes will be based on your claimed score and presented at the Christmas dinner.

Let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or need help in preparing for CQWW. Also, please let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for CQWW.

—Dick Williams (W3OA), w3oa@adelphia.net, (704) 658-0915

Mystery Picture Solved

In the August, 2008 issue of The Pileup, Paul Deyo provided some photos from a bygone era. Your editor threw out a challenge to see if anyone could identify the participants and when the photo was taken. On the first Wednesday luncheon following publication, Roger Burt (N4ZC) told your editor that he had done some super sleuthing and had “nailed” the date and event. Following are Roger’s comments:

John,

I guess I better send you this info before I forget again. When I saw those old pictures, two things jumped out at me. The basement walls and windows were not painted and there was no gray hair on this old chin. I knew it had to be 1979 or an early 80s contest. Since we did much more CQWW than ARRL DX, I looked at all the old CQWW logs first. The microphones told me it was a phone contest. That was Mike (N4AYO) sitting beside me and it was easy to see Larry (K4CEB, SK) in two of the pictures. I think one of the others, from the back, is Ron (AA4S).

I moved to NC when I retired from the USCG Jan 1, 1978. The house was finished and we moved in in mid Dec 1978. After looking at all the old CQWW

logs to see who the ops were, I couldn't find those in the pictures.

Looking at the ARRL DX logs I'm sure it was the March contest of 1980. While I have the cover sheets with score and ops for all the other contests, there isn't one with those logs. We were never that big in ARRL because the rules didn't allow the use of an extra station to work multipliers while the run station operated. We operated multi-multi which put us way out of our class. Operating CQWW as Multi-Single was a far different matter.

Here's the results and U.S. standing for our 80s efforts in CQWW—all were MS except 1988. You can see the score and QSOs go up and down with the spots.

Our first CQWW multi-multi came in 1988. We didn't contest in 1989 due to Hugo damage. Multi-multi really makes a big jump in the score.

I didn't bother to look at the 90s logs because the chin had gray hair and the walls were painted by then! It was fun thinking back 20 to 30 years ago about all the guys that helped us break all those pile-ups and make all those runs to make it into the CQ top 6 breakdown box listings each year.

73 Roger

Year	Place	Score	QSOs	Zones	Countries	Class	Team Members
1979	8 th	2,769,120	1826	138	402	MS	N4ZC, K4MQG, WA4OBO WA4ZMM, WA4ZQQ
1980	3 rd	3,411,725	2111	144	427	MS	N4ZC, AA4VK, N4AXT, N4CQ, WA4ZMM, N5TR
1981	4 th	3,749,108	2156	151	462	MS	N4ZC, AA4VK, K4NYV, N4CQ, N5TR
1982	5 th	3,148,890	1732	154	491	MS	N4ZC, AA4VK, K4NYV, N5TR
1983	2 nd	3,007,719	1713	153	474	MS	N4ZC, K2SD, N4CQ, KD4RH, WA4UNZ, WB4TLX, N5TR, W6NWS
1984	4 th	2,653,413	1555	148	461	MS	N4ZC, K2SD, N4CQ, WA4UNZ, N5TR, W6NWS
1985	9 th	2,938,985	1643	147	482	MS	N4ZC, K2SD, AA4S, K4MQG, KD4RH, WA4UNZ, W6NWS, WA8MAZ
1986	5 th	3,587,985	1968	149	490	MS	N4ZC, K2SD, AA4S, HB9DCQ, K4MQG, KF4HK, WB5BTF, WA4UNZ, N9CC
1987	5 th	3,705,794	1865	162	544	MS	N4ZC, K2SD, AA4S, K4MQG, KD4RH, N4GVF, WA4UNZ, W8ZF, WD4BTF
1988	7 th	9,198,158	4250	170	578	MM	N4ZC, K2SD, AA4S, K4MQG, KD4RH, N4GVF, WA4UNZ, W8ZF, WD4BTF

Welcome New Members

Three new members arrived on the scene during the last month. First to arrive was **Irv McWherter (K3IRV)** from Lillington, NC. In his application letter, Irv writes: “Sandy (N3LDY), my XYL, and I are moving from MD to NC. Although I am a ‘little pistol’, I hope to add some points to the club’s contest scores. Our plans are to operate from VP9GE as VP9I during this year’s CQWW SSB contest. I enjoy DXing and contesting and spend a lot of my time as a QSL Manager for several DX stations. Sandy and I are, and will continue to be, sorters for the 3rd Call Area Bureau.”

A little later **Dave Ledford (W4JL)** from Shelby, NC showed up at a CDXA weekly luncheon and decided to become one of our numbers. Dave enjoys DXing, contesting and apparently is also a DXpeditioner.

Just as this issue was being compiled, our club secretary sent me a note that **Bill Ward (K4IZE)** of Newell, NC is now also a new member. We all hope to get to know Bill and his interests in the coming months.

On behalf of CDXA, to each new member, welcome!

Some Interesting Reading

Every once in a while I check out the newsletters of different clubs. Recently the PVRC club had an item about two articles written by Jim Brown (K9YC). (Now there’s a nice callsign, huh?) Jim is an audio and RFI expert. He has authored a number of articles about audio matters. Yet he seems to “hide” a few articles on his corporate website for his ham buddies. You won’t find them as a “pick” on the website, but if you put the following URLs in the proper space of your browser, you’ll go right to them.

PowerPoint presentation in PDF format on “Computer to Rig Interfacing”: (Note: The URL seems to be case sensitive.)

<http://www.audiosystemsgroup.com/HamInterfacing.pdf>

“Comparing Vertical and Dipole Antennas for 160m”:

<http://www.audiosystemsgroup.com/ComparingVerticalsandDipoles.pdf>

If you do stop by this website, be sure to just look at the items on the main website because there are some interesting articles on acoustics available there.

(John Scott, Editor—K8YC)

Ten and Twenty Years Ago . . .

Ten Years Ago:

Don (K4ZA) was beginning to get “psyched” for his upcoming venture as DX from Saint Martin for CQWW SSB. . . . Gary Dixon (K4MQG) announced that three new entities (Temotu Province, Austral Islands, and the Marquesas) were to be added to the DXCC on October 1, 1998 bringing the entity total to 331 . . . then *Pileup* editor, Daso, put his editorial focus on carefully explaining why a “perfect” lamp filament would last forever while the “real” ones do not and thereafter he shed some light on why that soft glow from the filaments on your old tube amplifiers suffer the same fate.

Twenty Years Ago:

Editor Scott Douglass (K2SD) pointed out that 10 meter activity was starting to really show some life making him happy coming off the previous nadir of solar activity . . . CDXA members were being urged to participate in CQWW and enter a club score before the days of CWAC (the more things change, the more they stay the same!) . . . solar flux for the previous month had averaged 152.3 and was the third month in a row with the average over 150 (will those days ever arrive in 2008-9???) . . . everyone was getting enthused about the benefits of PacketCluster versus VHF voice nets for announcing DX, and Treasurer Bill Jennings was soliciting \$50 contributions from each user of the system to help repair some lightning damage to the system and extend its capabilities to a wider area.

Once More For SEDCO IV

The Fourth Annual Southeast DXing and Contest Organization Conference (SEDCO IV) will be held on Saturday, September 27 at Pigeon Forge, TN beginning in the early afternoon. On Friday, September 26 and on Saturday morning, the annual Ten-Tec Hamfest will be held in nearby Sevierville, allowing you to attend both events.

SEDCO IV has an outstanding program again this year as outlined in last month’s issue of *The Pileup*. It is also a great opportunity to meet some outstanding DXers, DXpeditioners, and fellow hams who you may have only met on the air.

Convention tickets are \$25 and banquet tickets are \$25. It’s late, so ticket availability may be limited, but give it a try if your schedule now permits you to come. Details can be found in last month’s *Pileup*, available from the archives on the CDXA website.

The Back Page

The annual **CDXA Barbeque** will be held on October 4, 2008 at K4DXA's spread. Details and directions can be found on Page 1.

Will "Ole' Sol" ever awake from the doldrums of the **solar minimum**. Some think so, some say NO! Check out the views of scientists on Page 2.

Results of CQWW CW 2007 are in. CDXA's five man team can take a bow! As for that matter, so can many other CDXA members who gave their best in the effort. See Page 3.

CDXA's annual **Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) for CQ World-Wide** is right around the corner. Dick Williams lays out the guidelines for this year's effort on Page 4.

N4ZC provides the "detective's solution" to last month's "**mystery photo**". See Page 5.

New Members , Last Call for SEDCO IV, and what was happening **10 years ago and 20 years ago in CDXA**—all on Page 6.

Upcoming Contests:

<u>Date(s)</u>	<u>Contest</u>
Sept 13-15	ARRL September VHF QSO Party
Sept 14	North American Sprint, SSB
Sept 27-28	CQWW DX, RTTY
Oct 25-26	CQWW DX, SSB
Nov 1-3	ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
Nov 15-17	ARRL Sweepstakes, SSB
Nov 29-30	CQWW DX, CW

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First Class Mail

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