

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Results—Great Restaurant Tour of '09

A casualty of the economic times we're all in was none other than our luncheon establishment of over two years—Murphy's Food and Spirits. Thus began the "CDXA Great Restaurant Tour" to find a suitable replacement, and to allow the membership to have a say in where we'll enjoy our luncheons for the indeterminate future. The search for a replacement centered on the neighborhood where Murphy's and Murphy's predecessor—Shoney's—are located, since that seems to be a convenient central spot for many living in the Charlotte area.

After tasting the cuisine of three establishments over the past three weeks, the membership's choice is Skyland Family Restaurant, located at 4544 South Boulevard, within ½ mile of Murphy's and the old Shoney's.

The front page of this and following issue of the *Pileup* reflect the new luncheon location. Those who only are able to join us periodically for lunch should make note that we are at a new location as of July 15, 2009.

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Vice-Pres.
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

CDXA Supports Midway Island, K4M

By a vote of the CDXA officers, CDXA has chosen to offer financial support to the Midway Island DXpedition (K4M) scheduled to operate from October 9-19, 2009. Those interested in the details of the effort can visit the K4M website at <http://www.midway2009.com>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently opened Midway to visitors on a limited basis. Amateur Radio was included under some very restrictive conditions including operating location, time of operation, restrictions against generator usage, and a ban on "camping" Fortunately, the team selected complied with those restrictions.

CDXA's Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, will be one of the operators, and Joe's XYL, Margaret, will be one of the "Island Support Team". The last operation from Midway was in 2002.

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
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
NA4L (Near Hillsville, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NA4L ("C NA4L")	
NA4L (AR Cluster via Telnet)	cdxa.no-ip.org	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC	

Welcome New Members

During the summer pause in publishing the *Pileup*, three new fellows joined our ranks bringing our membership total to 180 members.

Shortly after the May issue appeared, **Mike Hyman (W4OCO)** of Mooresville, NC became a member. He was followed by **Mike Barts (N4GU)** of Raleigh, NC. Then, shortly before the Field Day exercise, **Gary Greene (W2ZV)** of Waxhaw, NC became a member. Gary quickly became known by all those participating in Field Day when he attended the work parties and got his baptism as one of the "middle of the night" crew during Field Day 2009.

Welcome to all three of you from the full membership. We hope to get to know you better as the days pass.

SEDCO Tickets Now on Sale

Tickets for the Southeast DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) Conference to be held in Pigeon Forge, TN on September 26, 2009 are now available. Details can be found on the website at:

<http://sedco.homestead.com/>

The SEDCO Conference is held in conjunction with the Ten-Tec Hamfest held in nearby Sevierville, TN which runs on September 25-26. Late September is a MARVELOUS time to be in the mountains near Pigeon Forge. Warm days with low humidity await you along with excellent presentations on DXing, station setup, and other facets of the amateur radio art. For the XYL, there is plenty of shopping, and Friday evening before the conference is a great time to take in some of the live entertainment shows in this resort area. You'll meet a lot of your friends there, too!

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2009

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.

Memories are a-Strirrin'

(Your editor was copied by Nobby Mills (W4UFO) with this note to new member George Dominick (W4UWC) shortly after George's article appeared in the May, 2009 issue of The Pileup.)

Hiya, George! Welcome to ranks of Carolina DX Assn! Also, I am ur Buro QSL sorter & bin sending you lotta cards - ur quite the prolific DX op!

Copying this to K8YC, John & close friend N1GC, Gary. I was amazed at "whatta Small World" upon reading abt you in latest CDXA "Pileup"!

Ur Elmer - John Stanberry (SK) W4DPI was my long ago boss / co-owner of WDBM - AM/FM in Statesville, NC - where I was C.E. 1959-1961. Due to his affiliation with Art Collins, we had Collins broadcast transmitters, bought thru John. He was quite the character and "pre-Elmered" me, too; although I wasn't ham licensed until 1976. I didn't ever make it to his "castle" in Gatlinburg, but enjoyed his many pix of home & ham equipment/shack.

Funny story on dear John: we were installing a used Collins 1kw broadcast-type transmitter as a spare in very small transmitter bldg. @ tower (6-8 miles from studio). Just he & I working late one evening turning on transmitter to check out. Had the back off xmtr which was abt 24-30" from rear wall. We cut power to button up & John leaned over to get a tool out of his toolbox at back wall. In the process of bending over, his rear-end touched terminals of large filter capacitor with very loud "ZAPPPPP"! Scared us both outa our wits, but John was really hollaring LOUD to take him to hospital emergency room. Upon arrival there, John ran into ER shouting he'd been electrocuted. They asked where he'd touched & he immediately pulled down his pants AND underwear drawers - TO HIS KNEES! In fronta lotta folks!

I never did get John to believe my apology of rolling in the floor of the ER - laughing so hard it hurt me! Please forgive me, John - but, I'm laughing so hard, even now, tears running down my cheeks.

I feel so blessed with these remembrances & thank y'all for letting me share.

Gud DX es Vy 73 de W4UFO "Nobby" Mills

Field Day 2009 CDXA Beats Last Year's Class Winner but Did We Win This Year?

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA put on a great Field Day effort from the QTH of Ken, K4DXA. This year we operated in Class 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power). Our score of 8,876 points beats the winning Class 3E score for last year - 7,566 points.

Here's our QSO count:

Band	CW QSOs	Phone QSOs
80m	205	239
40m	582	300
20m	529	710
15m	26	10
TOTAL	1342	1259

CW QSOs count two points each, phone QSOs one point, so the total of our CW and phone QSO points is 3,943. Our power multiplier is 2 because all our transmitters were under 150 watts. This gives us 7,866 points. We can add 990 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 two operators under 18 years old, submitting our scores via the Web, and conducting an educational activity.

CDXA members who operated CW were Joe (AA4NN), Dennis (K2SX), and Cliff (W3ZL). These three operators made all of our 1,342 CW contacts using the two CW stations. Joe and Dennis were both at the site for the full 24 hour operating period plus time before and after for set up and tear down.

Members operating phone were Jim (K4SQR), John (K8YC), Ed (KU4BP), Steve (KZ2I), Thomas (N4HN), Gary (W2ZV), Bill (W4GRW), and Barry (W4ILC).

Our two under 18 operators were Kristy White, (KI4YDL), and CDXA member Cameron, (KJ4EDF).



Here are our two under 18 operators, KI4YDL, Kristy, and KJ4EDF, Cameron. Each provided us with 20 bonus points by making at least one QSO.



W4ILC, Barry, looks very focused as he logs SSB QSOs.



Thomas, N4HN, making use of the voice keyer on the SSB Station.



Cliff, W3ZL, digs deep to pull out a QSO on the 40 meter CW station.



Bill, W4GRW, operates on the graveyard shift. New member Gary Greene, W2ZV, stands by for the handoff from Bill.



N4IB, Tim, the ARRL North Carolina Section Manager, stopped by Sunday morning. Here he is showing the North Carolina Governor's proclamation making June 21-28 "Amateur Radio Recognition and Appreciation Week" to (left to right) K4SQR, Jim; K4DXA, Ken; N4IB, Tim; AA4NN, Joe; K2SX, Dennis; and K8YC, John.



Left: Underneath that hat is KZ2I, Steve, putting QSOs in the log on Sunday morning.

ARRL Seeks Court Action to Compel FCC to Comply with Ruling

(Reprinted from "The ARRL Letter", Vol. 28, No. 25 Dated June 26, 2009.)

On June 24, 2009, the ARRL filed a petition with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit asking the Court to order the Federal Communications Commission to comply with the Court's 2008 decision that remanded the FCC's ruling on Access BPL for further action

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>.

In its Petition for a Writ of Mandamus, the ARRL asks that the Court "order the Commission to comply with the terms of the Court's mandate by (1) soliciting comment on the unredacted studies placed in the rulemaking record, and (2) providing a reasoned explanation of its choice of an extrapolation factor for Access BPL (or issue a further notice of proposed rulemaking proposing a different extrapolation factor), within sixty days"

<http://www.arrl.org/news/files/BPLCourtMandamusPetition06242009.pdf>.

"What's at issue is the fact that after over a year the FCC has not complied with the Court's order," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "The FCC needs to ask the public to comment on the scientific studies conducted by the FCC and on which they relied in their BPL decision. It also must either offer a reasoned explanation, based on the scientific studies already in the FCC's record, for its determination of the rate at which radiation from medium voltage power lines carrying BPL decays with distance from the power line, or issue a new Notice of Proposed Rule Making and seek comment on an appropriate standard."

The Court of Appeals issued its decision April 25, 2008 and its mandate on June 13, 2008. ARRL's petition asserts: "By March 31, 2009, the Commission had taken no action with respect to the disclosure of the unredacted scientific studies and had not therefore solicited public comment on the unredacted studies. Petitioner, therefore, filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Commission seeking the unredacted versions of the studies that the Court ordered be included in the rulemaking record, and about which an opportunity for comment was to be provided by the Agency."

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said that "We have been waiting patiently for the FCC to fulfill its obligations under the Court of Appeals decision, but after more than a year, it's clearly past time for the Commission to act. Thanks to the release of the unredacted staff studies in response to the ARRL's most recent FOIA

request -- a request that should not have been necessary for us to make -- we finally know what the FCC withheld from public view back in 2004

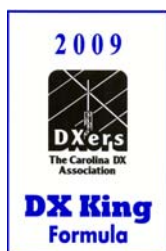
<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/05/08/10811/?nc=1> and what they now must deal with in order to resolve the regulatory uncertainty that continues to hang over BPL. We are hopeful that under its new leadership, the FCC will get back on track and will revise its rules governing BPL interference to be consistent with the technical record and sound science."

On May 1 of this year, the Commission released the unredacted studies without comment or notice. As the ARRL's petition continues, "To date, no public notice of that action has been given and no further action has been taken by the Commission with respect to the provision of an opportunity for the public to comment on the unredacted studies."

Henderson explained that "the release of the unredacted studies is only a partial fulfillment of the Circuit Court's decision. The ARRL's position is that further delay is not warranted by any reasonable, factual standard. There is precedent in law that 'a reasonable time for agency action is typically counted in weeks or months, not years.' It is 14 months since the Court's decision, and still the FCC has no timeline to meet its mandated obligations."

The ARRL is asking that the Court order the Commission to comply with the Court's order within 60 days. The petition states: "Given the simplicity of the Commission's compliance with the two components of the Court's Mandate on remand and the amount of time that the Commission has already taken following the issuance of the Mandate, the Court need not be concerned with the question of how much more time is needed for the Commission to complete its tasks. Sixty days is more than enough to solicit public comment on the unredacted studies and to justify, if it can, the extrapolation factor, or to reopen the rulemaking proceeding in order to determine a different, appropriate extrapolation factor."

(In the past few days, President Obama has made his fourth appointment of a new FCC Commissioner. The latest appointee was formerly the head of the NTIA. The NTIA, is the same organization which reported to Congress without substantiation that there were 200,000+ BPL lines in existence when the FCC database showed no more than 5,000 lines. Despite proof to the contrary by the ARRL that NTIA's report was faulty, the NTIA under direction of this latest FCC appointee has never retracted its faulted study. We'll have to wait to see if "change" in the FCC is really coming.—The Editor)



DX King News
Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: At the end of June we passed the half way mark in time to participate in this year's DX King competition. But even those who haven't made any contacts yet have more than enough time left to make the 150 points needed to enter the raffle and win the 26-inch TV.

Item 2: The list of scores below shows even those with very modest stations can make 150 points. W3ZL made all his points using only antennas in his attic. And he got his first 150 points in just two months. See page 3 of last October's Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0810.pdf>, for all the details on our DX King competition.

Item 3: Here are the scores I have as of June 30

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
N4ZC	Unlimited	253	40	293
K4MQG	Unlimited	244	40	284
K4YR	Unlimited	217	40	257
W4HG	Unlimited	215	40	255
W3OA	Unlimited	213	37	250
W3GQ	Unlimited	208	39	247
N4PQX	Unlimited	188	40	228
AA4SC	Unlimited	187	39	226
WB4ROA	Unlimited	189	37	226
KZ2I	Unlimited	182	40	222
W3ZL	Formula	168	35	203
N1GC	Unlimited	163	36	199
K4DGJ	Unlimited	151	37	188
K4ESE	Unlimited	150	32	182
N2TU	Unlimited	145	35	180
K8YC	Unlimited	141	34	175
K1MIJ	Unlimited	137	29	166
WA3GNW	Formula	123	30	153
N4UFP	Unlimited	108	29	137
NK0S	Unlimited	101	29	130
WB2RHM	Unlimited	81	24	105

Item 4: Don't forget to send me your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100. (w3oa@roadrunner.com)

—Dick, W3OA

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

(Material for this article has been extracted from the archived copies of the Pileup, available under the "Newsletter" tab on the CDXA website.)

Ten Years Ago

Bruce Gragg, K4ZO, was featured by the "roving reporter" of that day, and Bruce is still a member of CDXA a short treatise on the value of loops for Low Bank use was offered by K4ZA the then-new printed circuit board to delay the "brake" deployment on Hy-Gain rotators when the brake switch was released was discussed along with a strong recommendation to purchase this effective tool.

Twenty Years Ago

The July 8, 1989 meeting of the CDXA was held at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Rock Hill. Many will recognize that as the restaurant owned by Ric Porter (AA4SC). The meeting had Ron Oats (AA4VK) speaking on the joint USA/Soviet DXpedition Ken Boyd (K4DXA) was CDXA President, Skip Richardson (SK, AA4U) was VP, Bill Jennings (W4UNP) was Secretary-Treasurer, Roger Burt (N4ZC) was Net Manager, and Bill Crowell (N4HPG) was Editor.

Logbook of the World goes "Critical"

A recent milestone was realized by your editor when the percentage of QSLs reported by Logbook of the World (LoTW) surpassed 25% of log entries submitted. More and more amateur radio aficionados the world over are submitting their logs to LoTW, and it couldn't have come at a better time since postal rates seem to be on the increase in many countries of the world.

In recent months, the "Triple Play" award has shown just how many worldwide are now using LoTW. You'll recall that the Triple Play award is given to stations who confirm each of the 50 States of the USA using voice, CW and digital modes. The first country outside the USA to earn the Triple Play award was Scotland. A Venezuelan station was the first South American station to earn the Triple Play award. Other countries represented as Triple Play award winners are: France, Malta, Columbia, Poland, Germany, Mexico, Sweden, and Russia.

Shelby Hamfest on Horizon

If you haven't received a notice about the Shelby Hamfest, you won't be seeing one, but the event is still "on". The Shelby Amateur Radio Club recently sent out an announcement that it will not be doing a mailing to publicize the event this year. You can read all about the event at:

<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org/hamfest.htm>

The location for the event this year is the Gaston County Park near Dallas, NC and the event will be on September 5-6, 2009.

CDXAers "On the Road"

Last December, CDXA was invited to make a technical presentation to Piedmont Chapter 126 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA). At that time Dick Williams (W3OA) made a well-received presentation on CW Skimmer. CDXA was prepared for a second presentation for that event, but Dick had more than enough material to fill the allotted time. Therefore, CDXA was asked to return on June 13 for "the other half" of our planned presentation.

On June 13, John Scott (K8YC) headed off to Denton, NC to make a presentation on HamCap propagation prediction software. HamCap provides a graphical user interface (GUI) to display worldwide propagation using VOACAP as the "predicting engine". About 25 members of QCWA were present. Following a refresher PowerPoint presentation on the fundamentals of radio propagation, most of the features of HamCap were demonstrated using the actual software. Many probing questions were asked by this learned group of radio operators.

CDXA's Kent Miller (K4MK) is the presiding program chairman for the QCWA chapter this year. Kent advises us that he had a number of queries regarding the website from which HamCap can be downloaded, so it may be presumed that our second presentation session also stirred some interest.

Save the date for Holiday Bash

If you keep a calendar for your future activities, you might want to pencil in Thursday, December 10 as the date of the Annual CDXA Holiday Party. At least one dining establishment has been secured with sufficient room for this year's planned event. More to follow as we get closer to December

CQWW VHF Contest—July 18-19

(Below is an email generated by Bill Fisher on July 13.)

Hello All,

I just wanted to let everyone know about the CQ Worldwide VHF Contest upcoming this weekend. This is a great contest and there are usually great conditions and band openings for all to enjoy. It begins at 2PM local time on Saturday July 18 and runs 27 hours until 5PM on Sunday July 19th. The only bands involved are Six Meters and Two Meters, so it is a very simple contest to operate as well. Please check out the rules, there are some great categories that are very attractive for operating (e.g. Hill-Topper QRP). Rules can be found at:

[CQ World Wide Contest Rules](#)

A multi-operator group from Charlotte & Raleigh will be heading to Boone, NC to operate the contest as **W4MW**. Please listen for them. **W4MW** will be active on Six Meter SSB/CW, and also Two Meter SSB/CW and FM Simplex. They will use **146.550 MHz** as their primary FM Simple frequency—listen there for them.

Also, for contest newcomers there is an excellent VHF Contest School series of articles that do a great job of explaining how to get started in VHF Contesting. (See: <http://kc9bqa.com/>) This weekend is one of about four annually that usually have good activity here in the Carolinas. If you are interested in operating, there are several free contest logging software programs available on the internet, one of the best is from [N1MM](#).

If anyone has any questions, write me at wvfisher@gmail.com.

--73, Bill (W4GRW)

(Other CDXA members will be 'out and about' for this contest. Ted, W4VHF, will be conducting a "casual" effort on the Blue Ridge Parkway between Charlottesville and Fancy Gap. Thomas (N4HN), Paul (AD4IE), Bill (W4WNT), and Pat (N4BH) often work VHF contests, but their plans for this contest are unknown. If you hear 'em, work 'em! —The Editor)

The Back Page

As of July 15, CDXA will be meeting at the **SKYLAND FAMILY RESTAURANT** for our weekly luncheons. This restaurant is located at 4544 South Boulevard in Charlotte within 1/2 mile of our old spot at Murphy's Food and Spirits. (See Page 1.)

Tickets for the **SEDCO Convention** are now on sale. Late September is a great time to be in Pigeon Forge. If you've never been to this convention, ask someone who's been there to tell you about it! (See Page 2.)

Dick Williams gives us a nice recap of **Field Day—2009**. (See Pages 3 and 4.)

ARRL asks U.S. Court of Appeals to order Federal Communications Commission to stop dragging its feet on complying with the court mandate to revisit BPL rulemaking. (See Page 5.)

DX King competition rolls on in 6th month of activity. (See Page 6.)

Logbook of the World (LoTW) continues to turn up big numbers in terms of worldwide usage. (See Page 6.)

You won't find a flyer in your mail about the **Shelby Hamfest**, but it is still going to happen. (See Page 7.)

Don't miss out on the opportunity to collect gridsquares in this weekend's **CQWW VHF Contest**. Contest starts at 1800Z on July 18 and runs for 27 hours. This is a 6 meter and 2 meter only contest. Have some fun! (See Page 7.)

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

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

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