The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The Carolina DX Association

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
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W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.-North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

Charlotte Hamfest 2010

Hamfest 2010 returns to the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center on March 13-14. As is custom, the Carolina DX Association will have a booth to serve as your focal point for gathering to meet old friends and from which you can roam to see both exhibitors and flea marketers in this spacious exhibition center. For CDXAers and friends, the Hamfest itself is but a single part of an enjoyable weekend. Some of the things you'll enjoy about Hamfest weekend are:

o Hamfest Exhibitors. Here you can check out the latest products from a number of exhibitors. Pick up literature and talk to factory representatives.

o Flea Markets: Are you looking for that elusive part for your homebrew project? You might be able to find it at the flea market. Maybe you want a booth to sell some of your unwanted "stuff".

o WCARS Examination Sessions The WCARS VE team will be present to offer FCC licensing exams on Saturday afternoon. Become an "ELMER" and help someone prepare for and become a ham!

o BINGO! If radio isn't your thing, there's always the BINGO room to occupy one's time and maybe even win some folding money.

o Forums CDXA often helps round up some forum speakers. This year CDXA's Joe Blackwell (AA4NN) will give us the lowdown on just how the Midway Island DXpedition (K4M) came together and details of the operation.

o Card Checking by ARRL Dan Henderson from ARRL will be in attendance to assist field card checkers with checking QSL cards for all ARRL award categories. As a Headquarters representative, Dan will be able to check your 160m cards so those precious cards will never be far away from you!

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CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
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	

(Continued from page 1)

o CDXA will raffle a portable 2,000 watt Digital Inverter generator. Tickets will be $2.00 each or 3 tickets for $5.00. Drawing will be at 11:00AM on Sunday at the CDXA booth. You don't have to be present to win, but you'll have to arrange to get the generator to you if you're not present.

o Topping off the first day in the evening is the ANNUAL CDXA BASH. This fun-filled evening gives you a chance to chat with old friends, enjoy a tasty meal, and get a chance at some wonderful prizes donated by exhibitors and friends. We are often lucky to have a number of exhibitors join us for dinner. I would be remiss if I failed to mention that our "overmountain" friends from Tennessee will be here, and that always makes for a grand time. More details of the CDXA BASH can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

On Sunday, you can finish your shopping experience and wait for YOUR number to be called for the generator!

We hope to see you at the Charlotte Hamfest in 2010.

Where's That QSL Card Been?

(The note below was sent by Robert McNeill, W4MBD, recently.)

Yesterday (January 26, 2010) I received via the bureau a QSL from YI9CW for a 20 meter CW QSO on January 28,1994. This may be a record for me, even considering the great work by Box 88, Moscow many years ago. –Robert W4MBD

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 $35 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, $20 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.

ARRL DX Contest Starts Soon
CW Starts February 19
SSB Starts March 5

By Dick Williams, W3OA

In 2008 CDXA placed 3rd in ARRL's Medium Club Category with 43 entries and 11.3 million points. We fell off a bit in 2009, placing 7th with 36 entries and 10.1 million points. We need more participants to move back into the top five. That's why we are offering such great prizes. There are first place prizes in seven categories and participation prizes at the 1000 QSO, 500 QSO, and 250 QSO levels. The details are on page 9 of last month's *Pileup* and can be viewed at:

http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa1001.pdf

Win a handsome trophy or a steak dinner!

The ARRL's rules are at http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/intldx.html. In a nutshell:

Each contest starts at 7 p.m. (local EST) Friday night and goes for 48 hours.
U.S. stations work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10m.
U.S. Hams send a signal report and state. DX stations send a signal report and power.
We get three points per DX QSO. (Canada isn't considered DX for this contest.)
Your multiplier is the sum of DXCC entities (except US and Canada) worked per band.
Your final score is your number of QSO points times your number of multipliers.

Don't forget to show your Club name as "Carolina DX Association" (spelled out, without the quotes) in the logs you send to the ARRL.

CW Skimmer spots will be available for the CW Contest. Another article in this *Pileup* has the details.

Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multiplier, final score) and entry category (single or multioperator, single band or all band, power level, with or without packet) to w3oa@roadrunner.com as soon as possible after each contest. And tell me if you want a trophy or Outback card if you made over 1000 QSOs in the two contests combined. We will publish your scores on the CDXA web site as we receive them. Our intent is to award the prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 13 so I need all scores by March 9.

Skimmer Operation In ARRL CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA will again be providing spots from CW Skimmer during this month's ARRL CW Contest. Operators who used the Skimmer spots in contests over the last year found them very helpful. This time our Skimmer operation will be even better.

We will have Skimmers running at three locations. One will be at K4DXA's QTH using his antennas pointed to Europe. This station will be used only for Skimmer. Both N2TU and W3GQ will be running Skimmers as part of their contest station setups. The Skimmer at K4DXA will be rotating through the bands most likely to be open at any time during the contest. Each of the Skimmers at N2TU and W3GQ will be listening to the band that station is currently working.

We will be using the same gateway program we used in CQWW last November. You telnet to it and it asks you for your callsign. The gateway then signs into the K4MD Cluster node using your callsign. Everything you send to the gateway is repeated to the K4MD node. And everything the node sends to your callsign at the gateway is repeated to you. The gateway also sends you spots from the Skimmers at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ. If the K4MD node goes down for some reason I can connect the gateway to another Cluster node and you will continue to get the spots from the Cluster network. And it's easy to add connections to Skimmers at other stations. So if you will be running a Skimmer please let me know.

Last fall some users experienced difficulties in connecting to our Skimmer gateway with N1MM. Here's a step-by-step procedure for that:

Setup:

Go to the "Config" option at the top of N1MM's main window and select the "Configure Ports, Telnet Address, Other" list item to open the "Configurer" window.

You will see a tab called "Hardware" and at the bottom left corner of that tab is an "Edit" button for the Telnet Cluster. Click on the "Edit" button.

This will open the "Change Telnet Cluster List". Add a listing for our Skimmer gateway by putting "Skimmer gateway" in the left column and "w3oa.no-ip.org" in the right column.

Click "OK" to close the "Change Telnet Cluster List" window.

Click "OK" to close the "Configurer" window.

Operation:

Go to the "Window" option at the top of N1MM's main window and select the "Packet/Telnet" list item to open the "Telnet" window. If the "Packet" window opens, click on the "Telnet" tab to get the "Telnet" window.

There is a drop down list in the upper right corner of the "Telnet" window. Use it to select the Skimmer gateway option.

Now you can either type your callsign in the one-line text box at the top of the "Telnet" window and press enter; or, if one of the buttons at the bottom of the "Telnet" window is set to send just your callsign, click on that button.

Some users have reported that if you fail to connect initially shutting down and restarting N1MM may solve the problem.

Now for some FAQs:

How do I get the Skimmers spots? Just telnet to w3oa.no-ip.org. You can use the same software you currently use to get spots from K4MD and change the IP address to w3oa.no-ip.org (note the .org at the end as opposed to the .com at the end of K4MD's IP address).

What will I see? Both the spots from the three Skimmers and K4MD. You won't lose the K4MD spots by connecting to W3OA. The Skimmer spots and K4MD spots will be interleaved together in time sequence. The Skimmers will be set to only send spots from verified DX stations calling CQ.

Will Skimmer Spots look just like Cluster spots in N1MM? Almost. Skimmer spots are marked on the N1MM bandmap with a "#" after the beam heading. These are the stations you may want to work first because you know they were heard by a station in this area.

Can I test this out before the contest? Yes. The software will be running 24/7 from now until the contest is over. Send me an email if you have difficulties (w3oa@roadrunner.com).

CDXA Hamfest BASH

Come join us for the Hamfest BASH on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the conclusion of the first day of the Charlotte Hamfest. We have room for over 100 people.

Where: Carolina Prime Steakhouse
225 East Woodlawn Road
Charlotte, NC

When: 6:30 PM for social hour
7:20 PM for sit-down dinner

Fare: Special CDXA menu items for the evening

Cost: $22.95 including entrée, coffee/tea, tax, tip. Dessert, if chosen, is extra.

Libation: Alcoholic beverages are at your expense.

Reservations required with Paul Ponak: (pponak@carolina.rr.com)

Door prizes Await Lucky Winners!

A highlight of the Hamfest BASH is the awarding of some nice door prizes atop an evening of good comradeship. We'll have prizes from Yaesu, ARRL, CQ Magazine, Ten-Tec, SEDCO, Vibroplex, and individual contributors.

We're lucky to have the support of these contributors. Many of them are likely to be sitting beside you at the banquet! We are particularly pleased to be able to report that a Yaesu FT-857D transceiver will again be awarded as the Grand Prize. See you at the BASH.

Yaesu

FT-857D

North Carolina QSO Party
Sunday, February 28

By Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA won the North Carolina QSO Party In State club competition in 2005, 2006, and 2007. We are working to get back into first place in 2010. This year we will be operating from Roger Burt's QTH, N4ZC. While the rules limit us to having one transmitter on the air at any one time there is no prohibition against additional receivers. So Roger will have two stations set up, one for running and one to look for multipliers on another band. **This is your chance to see what it's like to operate a killer station with a 120-foot tower.**

The contest runs from noon to 10 p.m. EST on Sunday, February 28. The complete rules are on the Internet at http://www.w4nc.com/2010ncqsoparty.html. A new entry category is available this year, Club/In State/SSB Only. We have traditionally entered the Club/In State/Mixed Mode category. We will decide which category to enter based on operator availability.

If you are interested in joining our operation please contact me, Dick Williams (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Let me know what times you can be available and your preferred operating mode. Please do this by February 17 so we can finalize the operating schedule.

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

QSL Card Checking At Hamfest 2010

ARRL will have Dan Henderson (N1ND) in attendance at the Charlotte Hamfest to check QSL cards for various ARRL awards. Since only an ARRL representative is authorized to check QSL cards for 160m contacts, here's a chance to have your 160m cards checked without having to send them off to ARRL HQ. (You are careful with those hard-earned QSL cards, aren't you?)

There is a small premium for this service to help defray the cost. A $7.00 fee is added to the application when field checking is done at an event where ARRL HQ staff is in attendance for card checking. It doesn't matter whether you have any 160m cards—it only matters that a HQ staffer is involved in field checking. Thus, expect to pay $21.00 for the first 120 cards that are checked—$12 for basic application fee, $2.00 for return postage fee of your processed application, and $7.00 for having HQ staff here in Charlotte doing the checking.

A Top Band Loop Antenna

By: Dick Genaille, W4UW

(This article was originally published in the January, 1969 issue of CQ Magazine. It is reprinted here with permission of CQ Magazine and the author Questions? Drop Dick a note, he's a long-time member of CDXA!)

The recent revision of amateur frequency assignments and power maximum in the 1.8 to 2.0 MHz band, the availability of the new Heathkit HW-18 series SSB transceiver, and the approach of winter with improved band conditions are certain to rekindle the interest of many hams and produce an increase in the amount of activity on the 160 meter band. It suffices to say that increased activity also means increased QRM.

The author regained interest in the top band several years ago by designing and constructing a transmitter described in CQ.[1] Operation of this transmitter on the 160 meter band during the past few years has convinced the author that a need exists for a simple, rotatable, receiving type directional antenna to help like the interference problem. There isn't too much one can do about constructing a full size, rotatable antenna for transmitting and receiving on the 160 meter band. The mechanical problems would be tremendous, to say the least.

Since, generally speaking, most stations use omnidirectional antennas for receiving and transmitting on the top band the most reasonable approach is to attempt to provide some means of directional discrimination for receiving. The purpose of this article is to describe a simple approach to the construction of a directional loop antenna for receiving on the top band.

Loop Theory

The usefulness of loop antennas in rejecting unwanted signals is well known and accounts for the wide use of loops for direction finding, aboard aircraft and vessels. Amateurs have used loops on all bands although loops of small physical size in comparison to the wavelength at which they are being operated are primarily used on frequencies below 4 MHz for direction finding in transmitter hunts. The physical arrangement of a loop antenna need not be restricted to a circle, and shapes such as squares, triangles, octagons, and diamonds are often used. The mechanical simplicity of the circle makes this shape most desirable, however. Whatever physical arrangement the loop assumes, maximum directivity will be along the plane of the loop with a pronounced null at right angles to the plane. This null or minimum can be extremely sharp in a well designed loop providing accuracy of one degree or better in low frequency direction finding application. The antenna pattern is very much like the familiar figure 8 field pattern of a doublet antenna.

Electrically, the loop senses the direction of signal sources by virtue of the voltages induced in the loop wire by electromagnetic waves generated at the source. The induced voltages in turn produce a current flow depending upon the position of the loop with respect to the electromagnetic wave front. When the loop is exactly broadside to the incoming wave front a current cancellation is effected which results in little or no signal voltage appearing at the loop feedpoint. Repositioning the loop with respect to the incoming wave front causes an unbalance with incomplete cancellation of the current and consequently a signal voltage at the feedpoint.

The null property of the loop antenna, which makes this type of antenna so useful for direction finding by nulling out signals, can also be used for discriminating against interfering signals providing that these signals are not coming in from the direction in which we wish to receive. It can easily be understood from previous discussion, that a loop will have two nulls—one at zero degrees and one at 180 degrees. This presents certain complications when using the loop for direction finding but not when discriminating against interfering signals such as we wish to do. Good loop electrical balance is required for accuracy in direction finding work and, although the loop circuit design shown is not perfectly symmetrical, excellent results may still be obtained even though the bearing accuracy may be impaired. Since signal discrimination is the prime function of the subject loop, and not direction finding, bearing accuracy is not of major importance.

Static electricity in the air is a source of much noise in 160 meter band reception. In fact, static noise level is what accounts for the rather limited activity on this band during the summer months. Static noise pickup is greatly reduced by enclosing the loop wires in a non-magnetic shield. To enhance the over-all receiving signal-to-noise ratio the loop wires are completely enclosed by a copper tubing shield except for a narrow transverse gap or break at the apex of the electrostatic shield. The noise reduction capability of the shielded loop should increase operational activity during those periods when the static noise level is high or when high levels of man-made noise are encountered.

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Circuit Arrangement

The loop antenna that is the subject of this paper can be tuned over the major portion of the 160 meter band with the components specified in the schematic diagram. The feedpoint impedance will be very close to 52 ohms. The construction of the loop is quite simple and straightforward and the cost of the materials used represents a very small investment for the results obtained. All of the components of the loop antenna circuit are readily available from electronics suppliers and/or your neighborhood home improvement center.

The schematic of the loop is shown in Figure 1. Winding L_1 is a continuous loop made of 4 turns of #12 enameled or formvar insulated wire. Transformer T_1 is a matching transformer with slug tuning which with capacitor C_1 tunes the loop to the desired frequency. The capacitors and transformer are housed in an aluminum box with suitable dimensions to permit freedom in making the necessary internal connections. My particular rendition of the box is shown in Illustration 1.

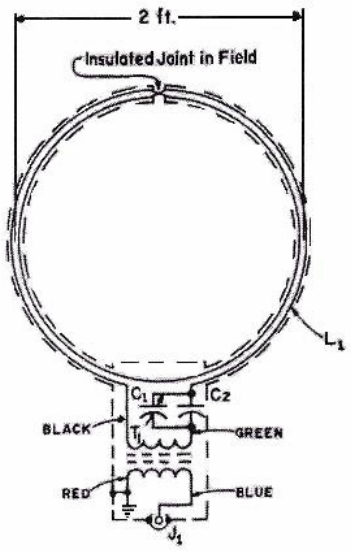

Figure 1—Schematic of a 160 meter loop antenna and impedance matching network. The network is contained in a 4" x 4" x 2" aluminum box and is fed to a 52 ohm line. The loop is formed from a 6-1/2 foot length of 1/2" ID soft drawn copper tubing.

C_1—4.6 to 51 mmf variable capacitor. E.F. Johnson 167-3 or equivalent.
C_2—100 mmf mica capacitor
J_1—UHF type coax connector, SO-239
L_1—4 turns #12 wire wound as directed (see text)
T_1—Antenna coil, J.W. Miller #B-320A or equal. Amidon Associates is a good alternative source for this transformer.

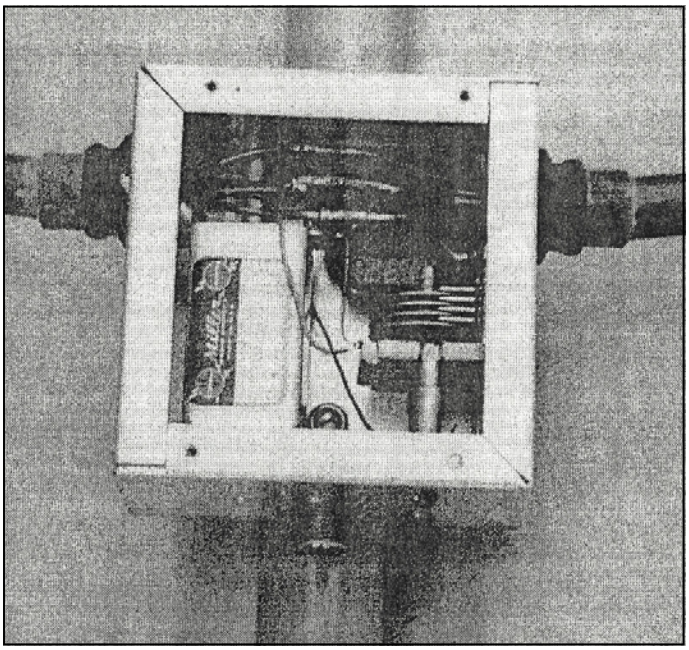

Illustration 1—Aluminum box, containing components specified in Figure 1 mounted on wooden closet pole mast. Copper tubing forming the loop comes into box through weather sealed conduit connectors on the right- and left-hand sides. (See text)

The electrostatic shield for the loop wires is made from a length of soft drawn copper tubing with a ½ inch inside diameter. This tubing is available from any plumbing supply house or most home improvement centers. A length of inexpensive plastic hose with a 3/8 inch outside diameter is used inside the copper tubing to protect the loop wires when pulling them into the tubing loop. The hose is not absolutely necessary but it may help prevent abrasion of the wire insulation and subsequent operational troubles. The plastic hose also provides additional loop rigidity lost by the necessity for a gap in the copper tubing at the apex of the loop.

Construction Details

The first step in the construction of the loop proper is to stretch out about 6½ feet of copper tubing on a level floor and straighten the tubing so as to remove all bends. After the tubing has been straightened, solder a ½ inch tubing to outside thread adapter to each end of the cop-

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per tubing. Next measure to the exact center of the length of the tubing and make a suitable reference mark for future cutting. A piece of masking tape will do quite well. The loop can now be formed into a 2 foot diameter circle by using a suitable form. The author used a hot water tank having a diameter of 2 feet as a form. Using a tubing cutter or hacksaw cut the tubing at the center of the loop. A 2 inch long piece of plastic pipe having an inside diameter of 5/8 inch can be slipped over the center cut to hold the apex of the loop together during the plastic hose and wire threading operations that are to follow. The plastic pipe is of the variety used for cold water lines in many areas. If the plastic pipe is used, care must be taken to ensure that the copper tubing ends at the apex do not make contact. A small air gap must be maintained between the two sections of copper tubing in order for the antenna to function properly.

Insert a 7 foot length of plastic hose into one end of the copper tubing loop and, by working it slowly, pass the hose through the tubing so that equal lengths of hose remain outside at each end of the tubing. At this point, four 7½ foot lengths of #12 insulated wire should be pulled through the hose and tubing with equal lengths of wire remaining outside at each end of the tubing.

Before fitting the loop to the aluminum box, cut back the excess plastic hose. The wire insulation should be removed by scraping or by using paint and varnish remover, making sure that the insulation is not removed where the wires begin to "bundle" upon entering the tubing, and the wire ends tinned. The tinned wire ends should not be permitted to short together.

Assuming that suitable sized holes have been cut in the aluminum box at the appropriate locations (See Illustration 1), screw a conduit nut up on each tubing adapter as far as possible. Fit the adapters into the aluminum box and secure the adapters with conduit nuts inside of the box.

The wire ends should be soldered so that one continuous loop is made. Identifying the individual wire ends may be accomplished by using an ohmmeter or a dry cell and buzzer or pilot light combination. After the loop wires are all connected, the remaining components may be mounted approximately as shown in Illustration 1 and the wiring inside the aluminum box completed.

The loop proper is now electrically complete and should be mounted n a manner convenient to the builder. The author mounted the loop and associated box on a 5 foot length of 2¼ inch O.D. wooden closet pole. Don't use a metallic support for the loop proper otherwise the electrical operation of the loop may be impaired. A simple TV antenna-type rotor was used for antenna rotation. To help keep water out of the tuning box the author "gunked" around the tubing adapters on the outside of the box with plastic rubber cement.

Tuning and Impedance Matching

Tuning the loop to resonate in the 160 meter band is not much of a problem. It is accomplished in the same manner as tuning and impedance matching of other types of antennas for this band or other bands. A standing wave ratio bridge or reflected power meter can be used. *(Today's "antenna analyzer" would work just fine.—The Editor)* With your instrumentation and a suitable RF frequency source applied to your antenna, adjust C_1 and the slug in T_1 for minimum reflected power. A standing wave ratio very close to 1:1 should be obtained at the adjustment frequency.

While the design of the top band loop is not perfectly symmetrical, excellent nulls may still be obtained provided that the loop is not installed in close proximity to power lines, other antennas, gutters, downspouts, or other large metallic objects. Reradiation from nearby metallic objects acting as antennas may be as strong or stronger than the direct signal received by the loop, resulting in poor null response and, consequently, unsatisfactory loop operation.

Operation of the loop needs a little commentary. After connecting the loop antenna feedline to the receiver and listening for signals, one will find that the signal levels are lower than those obtained on the regular station antenna but that the signal-to-noise ratio will be somewhat improved over the conventional station antenna. Rotation of the loop, when listening to a signal, should produce two very sharp nulls broadside to the plane of the antenna loop where the signal is completely eliminated or considerably attenuated. You will also notice that once the null position has been passed the received signal will stay almost at the same level while the loop is being rotated through 180 degrees to the opposite side null. Weaker signals which previously were drowned out by QRM and QRN now can be copied by nulling out the QRM, providing the QRM is not arriving from the same direction as the desired signal.

The 160 meter band promises to become more active than ever. Constructing the top band loop antenna described in this article will give you a distinct advantage over interference and static noise conditions and will increase your operating pleasure considerably. ❑

Follow-up Notes from January Pileup

In the January, 2010 issue of *The Pileup*, we reprinted Dick Genaille's article on "Low Noise, Coaxial Link Antennas". About 20 months after Dick's article appeared in CQ Magazine, Michael Crabtree (AB0X) authored an article on his experience with this antenna in the same publication. Mr. Crabtree's version of Dick's antenna was constructed in a horizontal plane using clothespins on shingle edges to secure the loop several feet above the eaves trough on the rectangular roof of his ranch-type home. Crabtree reported that despite the signal being lower than that observed using other more conventional antennas on 40 meters and 80 meters, the *signal-to-noise* ratio was so much better using the Coaxial Link Antenna that he could hear stations that he earlier could not hear with his transmitting antennas.

Sao Tome Creeps Back on Most Wanted List

(This note was posted on the CDXA reflector on 14 January. Did you work Charles Lewis and/or Lesley when they were on Sao Tome?—The Editor)

Friends in CDXA and NCDXCC,

I just received my Jan./Feb. copy of the DX Magazine and read the report on the latest top 100 most wanted survey. I was surprised to see that Sao Tome has slipped back onto the survey's report at #95 in the "Asia Rankings - Mixed Modes" list. I believe this is the first time that Sao Tome has made one of these lists since Lesley and I drove it off them as S92YL and S92SS during our first five year tour of duty there back in '92 to '97. In our first year of operation, I saw Sao Tome listed in the 50's in an overall top 100 list. I think I recall it was #56. By the time the next year's report came out, Sao Tome was ranked somewhere in the 90's. After that, it was absent from the top 100 most wanted DX entities lists until, I believe, now. Lesley and I were *by far* the most active hams in the country during that period, so it was neat for us to realize that we were mainly the ops who banished it when it disappeared from those lists.

Please forgive me if by recounting this I sound puffed up, but I can't help feeling some pride in the very small, but demonstrable and long lasting effect Lesley and I had on the DXing world.

There has been no active resident S9 operator since I retired from VOA three years ago, after my second five year tour of duty on Sao Tome Island. I'm only aware of one remaining resident ham, an expat, and he has never been an active DX operator. I was a thrilled to work on 30M CW a German ham who visited there briefly a few months back.

73, Charles - KY4P
(ex A22AA, S92SS, SV0LM, A25/KY4P, S9SS)

(Lesley - N3TIA: ex S92YL, SV0LN, S9YL)

PS - I have many pix of Sao Tome in albums at http://picasaweb.google.com/s9ss160m

Ten and Twenty Years Ago . . . .

(The information below was extracted from the archived copies of the Pileup *which can be found on the CDXA website. There's some enjoyable reading there. Check it out. –The Editor)*

Ten Years Ago:
With WY2OO active for welcoming the new millennium, N4ZC found himself facing a wall of Europeans interested in getting a QSL card from this unusual callsign . . . . "Uncle Henry" Elwell, SK,(N4UH) operating as WY2OOO using his famous rhombic antenna farm had logged over 1300 QSOs in 57 countries by January 26 . . . . Even the VHFers got a shot at working WY2OOO when K8YC risked life and limb by racing up to the summit of Mt. Mitchell (6,684 feet and highest point east of the Mississippi River) in January. After working AA4R and K4MQG, hams in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Kentucky were able to put WY2OOO in the log before K8YC felt it was time to run home before the next snow began falling.

Twenty Years Ago:
With the novelty of the PacketCluster came the usual abuse in the form of excessive ANNOUNCE messages (nothing's changed!) and an exhortation by SYSOPS to moderate use of this resource consuming function . . . . The K4LVV VHF contest gang had operated from atop the mountain in the January VHF contest and while not enthused about the conditions still turned in a respective score while having fun. . . . There must have been some serious VHFers in that era, too, because the February Pileup had a table of the expected meteor showers for the 1990 calendar year.

DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: CQ has published the top five *claimed* scores for the 2009 DX Marathon. CDXA member **W3ZL's score is shown as fifth in the world!** Way to go Cliff.

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2010 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of January 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	141	36	177
W3GQ	Unlimited	142	31	173
K4YR	Unlimited	128	33	161
W3OA	Unlimited	98	27	125
W4HG	Unlimited	90	32	122
W3ZL	Formula	92	27	119
K8YC	Unlimited	70	26	96
K4ESE	Unlimited	55	23	78
N4PQX	Unlimited	45	25	70
K4DXA	Unlimited	18	14	32

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (*w3oa@roadrunner.com*) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

Welcome New Members . . .

Compared to the recent months, this was a "slow one" as regards new members. We can only welcome one new member in the past month and he is **Bryan Beam (W4HLD)** of Mooresville. You just have to like a fellow ham with a last name of BEAM, huh? I'm told Bryan has been a ham for awhile but is just now getting excited about some of the different opportunities to be found in the hobby. Bryan works up towards Hickory, so making lunch will not be a regular thing. But, W4UFO and K8YC have already been over to Bryan's QTH to see what can be done to get some metal up in the air.

Last month, we made the error of getting **Larry Jones** callsign messed up in welcoming him to CDXA. Larry's correct callsign is KN4FO as shown in the online roster. We apologize for the error.

Welcome to Bryan and Larry.

CQWW VHF Results from July 2009

The February 2010 issue of CQ Magazine reported that **W4MW** finished 6th in the USA in the Multi-operator category and **W4VHF** finished 7th in the Rover category. Congratulations for this fine showing.

Telegraphers Oil

Lou Dietrich (N2TU) sent along this advertisement for CW Oil, a telegraphers oil for all bands. It is guaranteed to lubricate, clean, and prevent rust in old operators. Available in a hardware store near you!!

The Back Page

Come 'on down to **Charlotte Hamfest 2010**. Here's what's happening! Front Page.

Contesting season isn't over yet. The **ARRL International DX Contest**, both CW and SSB, is just around the corner and there are still some CDXA prizes to be earned. Page 2.

Dick Williams continues to improve the **CW Skimmer** capabilities available to CDXA members. Check his latest improvements out herein. Step by step instructions are available to make this work using N1MM logger. Page 3.

Don't miss **CDXA Hamfest BASH** for 2010. A great evening out, good food, and lots of old friends are standard fare. Oh, and did we mention that there are door prizes available? Does a GRAND PRIZE of a Yaesu FT857D pique your interest? You can't win if you don't come out. Page 4.

Do you want to help recapture the club title for the **NC QSO Party** at the end of February? Old man Murphy arrived early for St. Patrick's Day the past two years day and haunted our operation. Get out your four leaf clovers, and help us chase Murphy out in 2010. Page 4.

ARRL will have a **field card checker** at the hamfest. If you need those 160m cards checked and can't stand the thought of them ever being out of earshot range, here's the opportunity to soothe your nerves. Page 4.

Dick Genaille is back with a technical article on **Top Band Loop Receiving Antenna**. Get on 160m with a home-brew, small, low noise, receiving antenna. Page 5.

The team that took **Sao Tome (S9) off the "DX Most Wanted List"** reports that with their absence, it has now crept back on the list. Page8.

At the end of January 2010, the **DX King Competition** was off to a fast start. Page 9.

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First Class Mail

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