

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA



Charlotte Hamfest 2011 is Upon Us

The Charlotte Hamfest is just around the corner on March 12-13, 2011. The event will be held at the Cabarrus Arena & Events Center at 4751 NC Highway 49 North, Concord, NC. If you have a GPS unit, the coordinates of the Center are:

Lat: 35° 23' 13"N Long: 80° 29' 51"W

You can expect:

- o Vendor booths
- o Flea Market
- o Forums
- o VE License Sessions
- o Bingo Games
- o Door prizes

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	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

Advance sale tickets are \$7. Tickets at the door are \$10.

Some great forums are on tap this year. **Rick Roderick (K5UR)**, ARRL First Vice President, will share his experience with “Operating Tips on how to work new Grids, Countries, and Zones.” **Don Daso (K4ZA)**, author of the ARRL Publication “Antenna Towers for Radio Amateurs” will share with us the “care and feeding” of your tower. Finally, Rich Moseson (W2VU) and Chip Margelli (K7JA) of CQ Magazine have a prepared presentation.

CDXA will have its booth, and we’ll have a raffle prize of a 24” HDTV. (Details on the CDXA website.) Look for us near the ARRL Booth and the W4/K4/N4 QSL Bureau Booth. The CDXA Booth is a good place to meet old friends. We hope to see you there.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.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)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

Rick Roderick (K5UR) Knows the Ropes

ARRL First Vice President Rick Roderick (K5UR) will present a forum at the 2011 Charlotte Hamfest. He will offer operating tips on how to work new grids, countries, and zones. “Ho-hum”, some will say, but not so fast. Here’s a guy you may want to listen to carefully. Following is a recap of Rick’s standings.

Band	Countries	Zones	States	Grids
160m	312	40		
75/80m	350	40		
40m	352	40		
30m	342			
20m	368	40		
17m	343			
15m	361	40		
12m	327			
10m	349	40		
6m	146	29	50	1223
2m			48	522
222 MHz			42	221
432 MHz			32	220

Does anything more need to be said?

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.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December 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.

Hamfest Banquet

Where will you be when the doors to the Hamfest close on Saturday night on March 12? If you’re not heading for the CDXA Hamfest Banquet, you must not know what that event is all about.

You’ll share a gala event with 125+ folks who love to chat, enjoy a short social hour to brag about the bargains you found at the fest, savor the good fare offered by Charlotte’s Carolina Prime Steakhouse, and then possibly go home with a door prizes. Word has it that ARRL is providing a number of prizes again, and there will be a **special door prize**. Are you ready for this? Yaesu has donated an FT-2000 transceiver for the person whose number is drawn for the Grand Doorprize.



Now that just may make you think better of going home and eating a frozen pizza after Saturday’s Hamfest, right? If we’ve got your attention, here are the details:

Where: Carolina Prime Steakhouse
225 East Woodlawn Road
Charlotte, NC (704) 522-8170

When: 6:30 PM for social hour
7:15 PM sit down for dinner.
8:30 PM Program, awards, prizes, etc.

CASH BAR from 6:30 PM until end-of-meal.
Drinks ordered from servers (or) at the bar

Menu: 9 oz. Center Cut Sirloin
Grilled Chicken Breast
7 oz. Salmon Fillet
Half Rack Honey Baby Back Ribs
House Salad
Potato of choice (or) Steamed Vegetables
Fresh Baked Bread
Soft drink, iced tea or coffee

Vegetarian meal available upon request.

Price: \$22.95, including tax and tip.
Customers to pay individually.

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



DX King News



By Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 26 inch LCD flat panel television are on page 8 of the January Pileup

<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxal101.pdf>.

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2011 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of January 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	177	38	215
WA4DT	Unlimited	136	33	169
W3GQ	Unlimited	112	29	141
W3ZL	Formula	88	24	112
K2SX	Unlimited	61	24	85
K4ESE*	Unlimited	54	23	77
N2TU	Unlimited	32	17	49
AF1E	Unlimited	24	16	40
W3OA	Unlimited	19	14	33
K8YC	Unlimited	20	11	31
KZ2I	Unlimited	10	10	20

* All 80 meters

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.

Antique Radio Charlotte Coming

Antique Radio Charlotte, the largest antique radio meet in the country will take place at the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel on March 24-26, 2011. Full details about the Charlotte conference can be found on the conference home page at:

<http://antiqueradiocharlotte.homestead.com/index.html>

There is a downloadable brochure and registration materials there. On the web page is a neat flipbook version of the brochure that can be viewed on-line. If you're at all interested in the historic beginnings of radio, this

event is for you.

-- 73, Ron Lawrence (W4RON), CC-AWA President and Conference Chairman

(Ron Lawrence is a long-time collector of vintage radio equipment. Several of his pieces were on display in the Amateur Radio Room at Discovery Place for most of the time the room was open. Ron joined CDXA last Fall. View a tour of some of Ron's collection at:

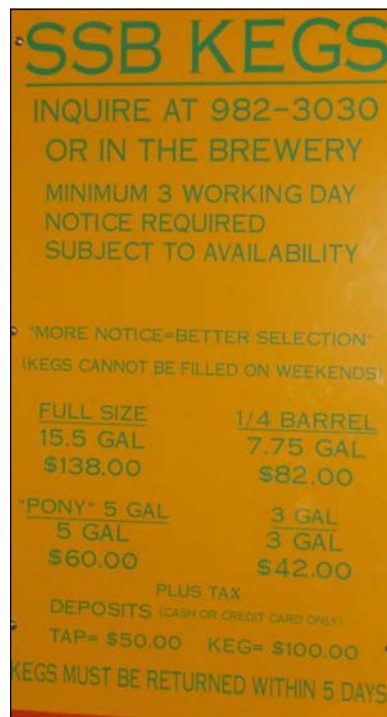
<http://www.youtube.com/user/w4ron>

—The Editor)

807's and Single Side Band

Those old timers who've been around amateur radio for more than a few years will recognize the number 807 as the designation of a popular vacuum tube readily available in surplus military gear following World War II. This tube was so popular that when it finally was not as pervasive, the designation "807" was assigned to a second passion held by some amateur radio operators—the cool liquid that flows from breweries around the world. That's right—beer!

Now your editor is no young whippersnapper, but he couldn't tell you whether the interelectrode capacitances, transconductance, or amplification factor of the original 807 ever allowed this tube to hold a place in single side-band radios. But on a recent family ski trip to Taos Ski Valley in New Mexico, a sign caught his attention that suggested there must be a connection between the more current meaning of an 807 and SSB. (See photo below.)



I am still wondering what the "tank circuit" looked like in this radio??!?!? (An hour after a great burger and some fine examples of the product of the house at Santa Fe's Second Street Brewery, I finally figured out the connection. If you're still grappling at the meaning, drop me a line.)

ARRL DX Contest Starts Soon CW Starts February 18 SSB Starts March 4

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year CDXA placed 3rd in ARRL's Medium Club Category with 46 entries and 21.1 million points. We want to do this well or better in 2011. 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 6 of last month's Pileup, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1101.pdf>. Win a handsome trophy or a steak dinner!

The ARRL's rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. In a nutshell:

- o There are some new entry categories this year. High power and low power categories for single operator assisted and multioperator, single transmitter, entries.
- o Each contest starts at 7 p.m. Friday night and goes for 48 hours.
- o U.S. stations work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.
- o U.S. operators send a signal report and state. DX stations send a signal report and power.
- o Score three points per DX QSO. (Canada is not considered DX for this contest.)
- o Multiplier is the sum of DXCC entities (except US and Canada) worked per band.
- o Final score is your number of QSO points times your multiplier.

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. And, we will be trying out a new method to exchange information during the SSB Contest. Other articles in this Pileup have the details.

Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multiplier, and 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. Please also 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 Hamfest Banquet on March 12 so I need all scores by March 7.

Big Improvements in CDXA Skimmer System for ARRL Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

In previous CW contests users of CDXA's Skimmer system have seen spots from the Packet Cluster Network plus spots from Skimmers at K4DXA, N2TU, and W3GQ. In the ARRL DX Contest next month users will be able add spots from Skimmers in different size geographical areas. These areas can be from one Skimmer to one state all the way up to the whole World. This has been made possible by two new developments—a single source on the Internet to get spots from Skimmers World wide and Cluster server software fast enough to handle the huge volume of spots generated by all those Skimmers.

The single source for all those spots is the Reverse Beacon Network or RBN. Participating stations running Skimmers also run a small program called Skimmer Aggregator which sends the Skimmer generated spots to the RBN web site. Typically there are around 50 Skimmers sending such spots and many of these Skimmers are actually monitoring seven bands simultaneously. Users can see these spots at <http://www.reversebeacon.net/index.php>. On a normal week day the RBN may put out 3,000 spots per hour. During the last CQWW the average rate was 36,000 spots per hour.

AB5K, the author who wrote the Cluster server software used at the K4MD and W4DXA Cluster nodes, has written a new version which can handle these high spot rates. It's version 6 of AR-Cluster Server or ARC6. ARC6 is still in Beta testing but I've been trying it out for the last three weeks and I think it will do what we want for the ARRL contest. I will be running it on a temporary node accessible via Telnet connections to w3oa.no-ip.org, port 23. My focus

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(Continued from page 4)

has been to make sure N1MM and the new server work together.

Most of us won't want to see all 36,000 spots per hour. ARC6 has a wide selection of filters so you can decide which spots you get. These are described in detail at <http://www.ab5k.net/arcdocsver6/usermanual/arcdx.htm>. I'll give a few examples as I describe how I'm going to set up N1MM's Telnet window for the contest.

Here are three ways you can take advantage of these new capabilities:

1) The simplest way to use the improved system involves just setting up N1MM to use w3oa.no-ip.org as your source for Telnet spots. I've set up ARC6 so that when users first connect they will get the normal human generated spots from the Cluster network plus spots for stations that are in a data file of known contest stations and come from Skimmers in North Carolina or South Carolina. If you would prefer to have a different default filter in place when you connect to ARC6 just let me know what you want and I'll set it up for you.

2) You can change the filter used to determine which spots you get by sending the appropriate command string from the N1MM Telnet window to ARC6. I want to be able to select different size geographical areas for the Skimmers sending me spots so I'll have a number of different strings to choose from. An example command string is:

set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spottercont=NA and master)

The (not skimmer) clause means I want to see the traditional Cluster spots from humans. The (spotter=NA and master) clause means I also want to see spots for stations that are in the master list of known contest stations and come from Skimmers in North America.

I will use six of N1MM's Telnet buttons to send six different strings for different spotter source areas:

Button Label	String
CDXA	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotter=w3oa-# or spotter=k4dxa-# or spotter=w3gq-# or spotter=n2tu-#) and master)
NC, SC	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotterstate=nc or spotterstate=sc) and master)
So. East	set dx filter (not skimmer) or ((spotterstate=nc or spotterstate=sc or spotterstate=tn or spotterstate=al or spotterstate=ga or spotterstate=fl) and master)
East US	set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spotterituzone=8 and master)
No. Amer.	set dx filter (not skimmer) or (spottercont=NA and master)
World	set dx filter

This way I can change the spotter source area on the fly during the contest. There are lots of other variations you may want to try.

3) AB5K is also developing a new client program for use with ARC6. It will provide a graphical user interface for easily setting spot filters. It will also have a Telnet server so N1MM can use the client program as a source of spots. As I write this it is still in early stages of beta testing. Let me know if you'd like a copy to experiment with.

There are a couple of problems you might encounter with N1MM.

You can send commands to ARC6 by entering them into the Type: box at the top of the Telnet Window. But if you put an "=" sign in that box the radio starts transmitting (an N1MM feature). So substitute the macro "{EQUAL}" for "=" to avoid this problem.

N1MM has built in packet filters. You can set these from the right click options on the Telnet window. If you don't see all the spots you expect from ARC6 it might be because N1MM's filters are set too tight.

If you will be running a Skimmer during the contest let me know and I'll include you in the CDXA system. I hope this article encourages you to give our Skimmer system a try during the ARRL contest. Let me know (w3oa@roadrunner.com) if you'd like some help getting set up to use it.

A SSB Skimmer for ARRL SSB Contest??!

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA members who have used our CW Skimmer spots in recent CW contests have discovered how useful a steady stream of spots for stations that are being heard in our geographic area can be. Roger, N4ZC, said jokingly we need an SSB Skimmer. We don't have that but I've developed a way to generate more spots during SSB contests. A few members tested it out during CQWW last fall and found it very helpful for 'search and pounce' operators. This is especially true during slow periods on Sunday when traditional spots provide very few new stations to work.

The idea is for each CDXA member to send a spot for every station he hears to other CDXA members. A spot will go out to a custom configured Cluster node for every station typed into N1MM's entry window. Anyone connected to that node will see these spots plus the normal Cluster spots.

You might ask how we get users to send out all these spots. This is done with a small program that runs on each member's computer. The program looks for call-signs typed into N1MM and if you are not running stations the program sends out a spot through a telnet connection to the cluster node at w3oa.no-ip.org. This happens even if you don't work the station. After all, a station that's a dupe for you may be new one for someone else.

I'll be distributing the program and setting up the node after the CW contest, about February 22nd. If you'd like to participate let me know (w3oa@roadrunner.com) and I'll send you a copy of the program and detailed instructions.

Voice of America in Sao Tome

(Many know that CDXA member Charles Lewis (KY4P) was the Transmitting Station Manager of VofA in Sao Tome before retiring a few years back. His operation as S9SS during his stay there pushed Sao Tome well off DX Magazine's "most wanted list" It still has not climbed onto the world wide most wanted list for 2011. There are still a few surprises for Charles as noted in his recent letter below.)

--John,

I was surprised to come across the article referenced below for the first time on the Internet in the past few days. You might find it interesting. (or maybe not!).

A visitor to the VOA station, unbeknownst to me, chronicled a tour of the station I offered him.

<http://www.dswci.org/specials/DXpedititions/saotome.pdf>

--Charles Lewis (ex S9SS)

Still Climbing???

(If you're in the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame and #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll you probably own a climbing belt. That fits CDXA Member Lynn Lamb (W4NL) to a tee. Yes, and that's the same Lynn who is one of the "Tennessee 8". What you might not know is that Lynn's XYL Rosie Lamb (KA4S) is ALSO #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll and also climbs towers! Oh, and Rosie is now a member of CDXA, too. -The Editor)

John—

The picture below was scanned recently from a 35mm slide which I think was made by Pete, K3ZR, in 1974 at our QTH in White Plains, MD. Rosie, WA3NGS (now KA4S since 1978) is in the orange pants. The tower was an AB-105 military tower and we are at 65 feet, on the way to 103 feet.

I gave her belt away a few years ago, now it's pay back time but I have mine hid. HI!

73, Lynn (W4NL)



Ten and Twenty Years Ago

(Material in this column is extracted from back issue of The Pileup, available in the archives on the CDXA website. —The Editor)

Ten Years Ago

The 3Y0C single-man DXpedition run by Astronaut Chuck Brady (SK) was in full swing at this time ten years ago. . . . Tom Harrell (N4XP) visited CDXA at our luncheon meeting at Shoney's to give us a slide presentation of the recently completed DXpedition to Kingman's Reef (K5K). . . . The AA4ZZ mountain VHF team had a big-time visit by Mr. Murphy in the recently completed January VHF Contest. A catastrophic cable failure on the tilt-tower destroyed the beam which had to be replaced in freezing conditions, and then the rotor was literally "frozen", but all was working by contest time. . . . Mauro Tomazzoni (IN3QBR)—one of our two members from Italy—was scheduled to arrive in mid-February stateside to give us a presentation on his recent visit to Laos as XW3QBR. The event was held at the Woodshed in Stanley.

Twenty Years Ago

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, had just been appointed to the DX Advisory Committee of the American Radio Relay League. He's still a member today. . . . Ted Goldthorpe, Ric Porter, Gary Dixon, and Bill Parris (all still CDXA members even today) were in the early stages of planning a DXpedition to Bermuda in June 1991 (we'd love to hear the stories that came out of that trip!). . . . the Merchandise Mart was undergoing a grand opening for the Hamfest after some enhancements. . . . a Hamfest party was planned at Valentinos Restaurant near the Merchandise Mart. (Old-timers will have to let me know if that was the year of the "big snow" that set CDXA back financially because of the commitment to Valentinos for an event that didn't happen.)

Living "Green"

By John Scott, K8YC

There is a treasure of information to be found in reading some of the biographical sketches on QRZ.COM. As a group, amateur radio operators are an interesting lot.

This past week I noticed a familiar callsign KH6/AA4V (Steve Reichlyn) apparently operating while on vacation in Hawaii. A few days later I noticed a callsign AH6V appearing on the Cluster. Could Steve have acquired a Hawaiian callsign? Was he taking up residence in Hawaii? Well, nothing that dramatic, but when I read the

bio for Jeremy Storm (AH6V), I was amazed. You see, Jeremy is a retired broadcast radio engineer living on "the big Island". He tells you that to get to his solar-powered home you must go to the end of the road and get ready to walk. Power line hash? None, because no power lines are near. CC&Rs? None, because he's so far removed from anyone! Using solar panels, golf cart batteries, and inverters, he powers the house, including cooking, lights, and radios without a connection to any power company. Apparently his supply of pork comes from an occasional wild boar that comes calling. His cat keeps the vermin under control, and his dogs advise him of visitors. Oh, and I guess his horse helps him get to Hilo when the spirit moves him. This is a recommended read for you.

When you're looking up the address for that desired QSL card, take a moment to learn about your fellow ham. It's educational and fun. And, if you run across a bio that we all ought to read, let me know, and I'll reference it in the *Pileup*.

Amazing Home Remedies!

Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.

Men may avoid arguments with the women in a household about how to leave the toilet seat. Use the sink, instead.

For high blood pressure sufferers—simply cut yourself and bleed for a few minutes, thus reducing the pressure on your veins. Remember to use a timer.

Paraprosdokian

A paraprosdokian is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part. Here's a few:

- o We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.
- o War does not determine who is right—only who is left.
- o Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- o The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.

The Back Page

Are you ready for the **Charlotte Hamfest** in March. Details on Page 1.

Charlotte Hamfest forum Speaker, **Rick Roderick (K5UR)**, can back up what he'll speak about. Story on Page 2.

CDXA's Hamfest Banquet is a highlight of the Hamfest. Check out the Grand Doorprize for 2011! Page 2.

Ed Kuebert (K5EK) is off to a fast start in **2011 DX King Contest**. How does 215 points sound at the end of one month? Page 3.

Antique Radio Charlotte is coming in March as told by Ron Lawrence (W4RON). Ron is President of the Antique Wireless Association as well as a member of CDXA. Page 3.

CDXA needs you to participate in the **ARRL International DX Contest**—both versions. Contest manager Dick Williams has some improvements in the CW Skimmer that will surely impress you. See Page 4.

How about a **SSB Skimmer**? “Impossible”, you say? Well, maybe not! See Page 6.

Take a tour of **Voice of America in Sao Tome**. Page 6.

Gentle as a Lamb. Not the Lambs we know. See Page 6.

Find the **little treasures** on QRZ.COM. 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.