

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Activating Old Baldy Lighthouse

By Bill Turner, W4WNT



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

On Saturday, April 16, **Ed Kuebert, K5EK**, and **Bill Turner, W4WNT**, who are also members of the Brunswick Shores Amateur Radio Club joined George Fryer, KI4KK, Paul Gawron, KI4SPO, and Joe Mazzei, W4NQA on a day trip to Bald Head Island off of Southport, NC. After a pleasant trip on the Bald Head ferry, it was only a short walk to the lighthouse property. The effort was to put the Old Baldy lighthouse on the air for the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society Spring Lites event. The lighthouse has been on Bald Head Island since 1817. As the weather was threatening, the lighthouse folks asked us to set up inside the lighthouse itself for protection. The original plan was to use a building which originally stored whale oil for the light where a radio beacon was housed from 1941 until 1958. A G5RV antenna was hung off the top of the lighthouse and the transceiver was a Kenwood TS-570S. Separately, a Yaesu FT-897, with a 20m dipole was set up at a picnic table outside the lighthouse. Several lighthouses were contacted as well as some DX stations and lots of hams participating in the Michigan and Ontario QSO parties which were also going on that weekend. As it worked out, the weather held off and everyone enjoyed a bright sunny day on the island.

The Bald Head Island newsletter ran the following article in their Friday April 15 edition:

[http://www.bhineews.com/index.php?function=story\\_view&id=433](http://www.bhineews.com/index.php?function=story_view&id=433)

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

## Welcome New Members!

In the month since the April 2011 Pileup was published, CDXA has enjoyed the pleasure of having four new members join our ranks.

From Rock Hill, SC we find **Lee Harmon (W7LEE)** as a new face in our midst. We've seen Lee at CDXA functions already since Lee is usually seen coming to these functions with her "significant other", Marc Tarplee.

A new family membership came to CDXA in the form of **Karl Bowman (W4CHX)** and **Gale Bowman (K4GGB)** of Raleigh, NC. A check of Karl's QRZ.COM entry shows he is an avid Collins Radio collector.

Our most recent new member is **Kyle Adams (N4ICW)** of Fort Mill, SC. Kyle is our first new member for May, so the month is off to a good start.

Welcome to all four of our newest members.

## DX Contest Reports – Addenda

Dick Williams, W3OA

I received a couple of emails after last month's Pileup went out updating scores from the 2010-2011 contest season.

W1AJT, Art, travels from his Lake Norman QTH to Canada to operate from his contest station there, VE3UTT. For the 2010 CQWW Contest he operated single op, assisted, all bands, high power. He reports the following scores:

- o CW - 2045 QSOs, 529 Countries, 145 Zones,

- 3,734,634 points
- o SSB - 2364 QSOs, 389 Countries, 125 Zones, 3,335,346 points
- Total - 7,069,980 points

Last month I reported that K4YR, Pat, qualified for the 500 QSO award in the ARRL DX contest. Pat actually exceeded the 1000 QSO level with 762 contacts in the CW contest and 340 contacts in the SSB contest.

## DXCC Numbers on CDXA Web Site, Part II

Dick Williams, W3OA

An article in last month's Pileup explained how we were changing the single band DXCC numbers shown on the CDXA Web site to reflect members' accomplishments on bands for which they had not applied for a single band award. In response to that article many members sent a screen shot of their DXCC Account Status page from their Logbook of the World (LoTW) account. These made it apparent that many members had large numbers of LoTW confirmed matches that had not been applied to their DXCC records and thus were not reflected in their DXCC numbers, both single band and mode specific. So, again in the spirit of presenting members' accomplishments as accurately as possible, it was decided to make a further change in the numbers shown on the Web site.

So what DXCC numbers will be shown on the Web site? The starting point will be the numbers shown in the DXCC standings files on the ARRL Web site. If a member has a higher number shown in the Total column on his Account Status page this higher number will replace the number from the DXCC standings files. This applies to both the DXCC Totals page and the Single Band page. The Honor Role numbers will come straight from the ARRL Honor Role standings file with no modification.

We can only show numbers from your LoTW account if you send them to me. Last month's Pileup article described one way to do this using the Print Screen key. You can also just do a cut and paste from your LoTW page into an email to me ([w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com)). You don't need to do this every month. Just do it when there are new matches in your LoTW account.

The process from there on goes like this. I type your numbers from LoTW into a spread sheet. At the beginning of each month I run a program manipulating data in an Excel file that combines your input with the new

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## The Pileup

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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](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

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ARRL DXCC standings files. The program also compares these results to what is currently shown on our Web site and any changes and or additions are marked in the Excel file. I email this file to our Webmaster, Wayne, WB4BXW, and he makes the needed changes to the Web pages. After he's done that I run the program again using the new Web pages to detect any errors and Wayne corrects these.

Most of the data manipulation is done on the computer. There are two sources of errors I know of in this procedure. I think the most likely one is I made a mistake in typing in the numbers. The other, also very likely, is I made a mistake in writing the program manipulating the data. Either one is my fault so if you have a question, see an error, or have a complaint, please let me know (wo3a@roadrunner.com) and I'll

### Field Day 2011

Joe Barkley, KI4TZ, and  
Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA is planning on continuing its streak of very competitive Field Day entries. This year we will be operating from Joe Barkley's (KI4TZ) new QTH just north of Chester, South Carolina. All stations will be in air conditioned space. We will be using the callsign W4DXA.

In 2007 and 2008 CDXA made history by setting two Field Day class records, Class 4E (home station, four transmitters, emergency power) in 2007 and Class 5E (home station, five transmitters, emergency power) in 2008. In both 2009 and 2010 we won Class 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power). We are out to win Class 3E again.

After our regular Wednesday lunch seven CDXA members gathered at KI4TZ to plan this year's operation. The caption to Picture 1 lists who was there. Below is the plan for the 2011 effort:

Time/Date: 2 PM Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, to 2 PM Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.  
 Location: QTH of KI4TZ north of Chester, SC.  
 Class: 3E (home station, three transmitters, emergency power), 150 watts or less.  
 Stations: Three stations in the house.  
 One will be SSB, all bands, 80 through 10.



**Picture 1. CDXA members at the Field Day planning meeting with KI4TZ's new 95 foot tower in the back ground. Left to right are Ken, K4DXA, Cliff, W3ZL, Ric, AA4SC, and Joe, KI4TZ. Joe, AA4NN, Bill, W4GRW, and Dick, W3OA, were also at the meeting.**

One will be CW, 160 through 10.  
 One will be CW and SSB on 40 and 15.  
 Antennas: 160 – G5RV  
 80 – Dipole, G5RV  
 40 – Vertical loop, dipole, G5RV  
 20 – Log Periodic, Tribander  
 15 – Monobander, Log Periodic, Tribander  
 10 – Log Periodic, Tribander  
 Work Days: Saturday, June 18th, one week before Field Day, beginning at 9 AM.  
 Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, the day before Field Day, to complete set up.

Members participating at W4DXA will receive an official CDXA Field Day T shirt similar to last year's shirt shown in Picture 2 (next page). In order to be guaranteed a shirt in your size, you must sign up by June 12.

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**Picture 2. Joe, KI4TZ, modeling the 2010 CDXA T shirt. Sign up to participate by June 12 to be assured of getting a T shirt in your size.**

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**We need operators!** - If you want to join our winning operation please contact Dick at [w3oa@roadrunner.com](mailto:w3oa@roadrunner.com) or (704) 658-0915. Let him know when you can be available and your preferred operating mode(s). There is room to sleep inside on your air mattress and sleeping bag so don't be afraid to spend the night with us. And don't forget to provide your T shirt size. Do all this by June 12.

### Membership Ranks Growing

Despite a sluggish economy over the past few years, we are pleased to report that many are still finding the modest dues to maintain a membership in the Carolina DX Association is a worthwhile expense. After "truing up" our membership list in early April after the Hamfest, we were at 197 members. This is about 7 more than we had after the same process in 2010 and it indicates we're still growing.

Each year our membership grows during the year. It was as high as 210+ members in December 2010. But, each year in January we start a new fiscal year and we always see some membership attrition as members move away or just decide to not renew their membership. Yet, despite the small decline from our high water mark in December, 2010, we still have more members compared to the same time last year which is the only time when we have a true picture of those members who are "in" for the coming year.

Surprisingly, we find old members "return" after finally realizing they haven't paid their current year's dues and the Pileup stops coming! It's a good bet that our membership will be over 200 again soon, and several of those members will be "returning members".

### DXCC on the Cheap

By John Scott, K8YC

Anyone who has been chasing the DXCC Award for any length of time can tell you how expensive postage has become in the past 15 years. In 1997 an International Reply Coupon cost \$.95—today the cost is \$2.10. First class International postage for the first ½ ounce (sufficient for mailing your QSL card, IRC, and SASE) was \$.60—today it is \$.98 for a full ounce which you rarely need, but a ½ ounce rate is no longer available. Hams overseas used to request "one green stamp" (a Dollar bill) to ensure a return reply, but, alas, postage is going up elsewhere and two green stamps is more the norm.

At least the ARRL no longer requires DXCC be earned from a single stateside location. Ask Roger Burt, N4ZC, about how many times he began the chase anew every time the United States Coast Guard assigned him to a new station. Each new venue meant he had to start his DXCC award collection all over again. At a recent CDXA luncheon, I heard Rog said he restarted 5 times.

Oh, and did I mention the success rate of replies? Once you send a card there is no guarantee that you'll get a reply. At last check, I had over 900 instances where I never received a reply for a QSL card I sent, and my mailings are all sent with my QSL card, a return envelope, and either an IRC or appropriate "green stamps". Therefore, with the average cost of each of those mailings over the years estimated at \$2.25, I figure I'd have a nice station accessory or two for the money spent on *unsuccessful* QSL attempts!

So, what can be done? How about getting DXCC with only Logbook of the World users? With only a little effort, all one need do is look at the CDXA AR Cluster listings. If you see a "plus" (+) sign in the "remarks" field of the cluster spot, that means the station spotted is a Logbook of the World (LoTW) user. If you don't want to sift through all spots looking for the plus signs, many logging programs allow you to show ONLY spots that are for LoTW users. If you are using AR-User (written by VE7CC) as a front end to your logging program, you can use it to select only LoTW users for reporting to your logging program. You might miss a "rare one" this way, but if you are #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll, you might not care. Or, you can turn off the filter when you know one of the rare ones is on the air.

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The ARRL does not provide a list of LoTW users. A Swiss Amateur, HB9BZA, thought it would be useful to know who they are for just such an application as cited above. He asks people to provide him a list of callsigns where LoTW provided the confirmation. He then assembles a consolidated list, and he makes the list available to anybody who wants it. (See: <http://www.hb9bza.net/lotw-users-list>). As of 10-May-2011 there are 41,811 callsigns on the LoTW users list, so it is a quite complete listing and is certainly very current.

If you upload your log to LoTW frequently, say weekly, and your QSO was with a LoTW user who also uploads frequently, you may have a QSL awaiting you when you upload! Otherwise, a QSL may appear within a day or two. It may take a little longer if the fellow on “the other side” uploads less frequently, but you sure can’t beat the price and the speed compared to mailing your QSLs or awaiting for a bureau card.. Speaking of price, depending on how many QSL credits you use in your DXCC submission the cost to claim a QSL can range from \$.25 to as low as \$.15 per QSL, and that, my friend, is surely far less than today’s \$3.00 tab to go the “old fashioned” way. Oh, if you just want a confirmation and don’t intend to use them to apply for any ARRL awards, there is no cost to use the LoTW system. What could be better than that?

### Daffynitions

Washington Post's Mensa Invitational asked readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here’s some of what resulted:

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Inoculatte : To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Beelzebug (n.) : Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.

### The Demons of Flintwood Lane

One dark and stormy night it happened! I felt the terror of escaped electrons emanating from the bowels of the K4MD Node computer. After thousands of hours of dispensing DX info, the node had succumbed to the dreaded loss of electron captivity. They went everywhere . . . . except on the screen where they were supposed to perform their orderly march at a blinding 120Hz refresh rate. There I was, plunged into the depths of silence! The computer was surely a wreck judging from the stench of the electrons spewing hither and yon, and there I sat pondering the fix.

The fix was not to be had this night. All was quiet within while the winds blew hard and the rain came rushing down from the angry clouds. So I did what any good ham would do, and tried to communicate on one of the other computers in the house. I sent a messages to all our CDXA members telling of the silenced node. So went the night. No spare on hand to just swap the main computer out. Alas!

Then came the sun after the storm with a most generous offer from Tim, W4YN, to give to the club a computer surplus to his needs. WOW! So I quickly called him to say THANKS and arrange the transfer. I met him at his office and received for the club possession of the cutest little box I had ever seen! Yes, it was small, but powerful and complete for our needs. I took the computer to the internet where Dave Zeph inserted the mammoth amounts of data we call the Cluster. After several reboots and more programs interlaced to provide you with top notch information, I rebooted for (hopefully) the last time for a while. A truly generous gift by Tim and Dave put us back in the Packet business!

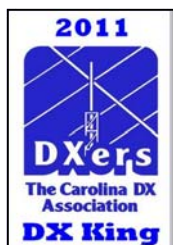
The original computer has been repaired, and trimmed of all it’s blown electrolytic capacitors! It shall be returned to service as quickly as is possible.

The computer guru of all time is our friend Dave Zeph, W9ZRX, who single-handedly purged and fed data most of the night to restore our extremely important files to the new “little” addition to the Node.

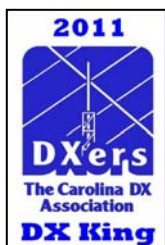
Please take a moment to email these two great folks for their generous gifts to CDXA: Tim O'Rourke ([w4yn@earthlink.net](mailto:w4yn@earthlink.net)) and Dave Zeph ([zeph@indy.rr.com](mailto:zeph@indy.rr.com))

And a good night to all !!!

73, Joe, K4MD



**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/cdxa1101.pdf>).

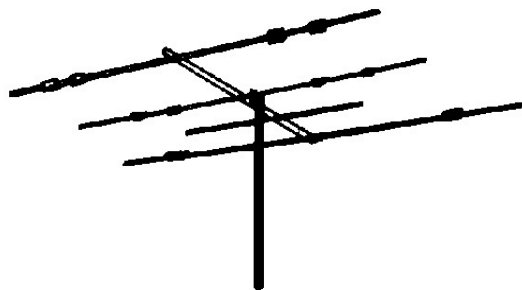
Item 2: Here are the 2011 DX King scores I have as of April 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	247	40	287
W3OA	Unlimited	230	39	269
WA4DT	Unlimited	221	40	261
W3GQ	Unlimited	217	38	255
K3XC	Unlimited	203	39	242
W1AJT	Unlimited	185	39	224
K1MIJ	Unlimited	181	38	219
N4PQX	Unlimited	174	39	213
KZ2I	Unlimited	173	39	212
W3ZL	Formula	175	36	211
K8YC	Unlimited	153	34	187
N2TU	Unlimited	142	33	175
K4ESE*	Unlimited	133	34	167
K2SX	Unlimited	127	35	162
W4WNT	Formula	134	28	162
K3IRV	Formula	122	31	153
W4NZC	Formula	121	29	150
W4UFO**	Unlimited	104	30	134
AF1E	Unlimited	63	23	86

\* All 80 meters

\*\* New Entry

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



## How to Win CQWW CW

By Dennis McAlpine, K2SX

*(This article is an adaptation of an article that Dennis prepared for the March/April 2011 National Contest Journal. For those of you who don't subscribe to the NCJ, we're sure you'll enjoy reading about a winning effort in the recent CQWW CW Contest.—The Editor)*

### The Disadvantage of Living in the South

There were many positive aspects to retiring to the South but there was one major negative, i.e. I moved into a gated plantation where there is virtually no chance of putting up a tower. Out went my dreams of a multi-tower superstation or a more modest multi-beam station or, even, a small tribander. Instead, my antenna farm currently consists of a Butternut vertical, a center-fed doublet and an inverted L for 160 meters. That means the odds of being able to be among the leaders in a major contest are about as good as seeing an iceberg land on Pawleys Island beach. How could I ever earn one of those CDXA trophies or a dinner at Outback? But, there is more than one way to skin a cat. Since I could not have a big antenna at home, the alternative was to go some place where they did have a competitive station.

Over the years, I have operated from a number of big Multi-op stations, e.g. K2LE/1, W2PV, K1KI, etc. so I know what a difference those big antennas can make. I have also learned that it is very difficult to make up for lousy antennas, particularly if band conditions are not good. The first few years in South Carolina I went to a large M/M station, NQ4I, and operated CQWW CW and ARRL DX from there. I soon learned what I had already suspected—being in the Northeast means an extra hour or two per day of band openings into Europe more than what we get here in the Southeast and also the ability to hear the weak Europeans on the low bands at night. Even huge antennas—and NQ4I has them—can't make up for geographic shortcomings.

### DXpeditioning is an alternative

Then another option reared its head—why not go outside the U.S and operate CQWW from a DX location? Given the point differential, i.e. three points for QSOs with a different continent vs. one point for those with the same continent (two for North America), it made sense to operate from either Africa or South America. This is one reason why you see top scores consistently from places like Aruba, Canary Islands, Cape Verde Islands, etc.

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### Off to Hawaii

My first trip was three years ago to Hawaii where I operated from AH6XX. It was a fun trip as I operated M/2 from AH7C's QTH in the hills above Pearl Harbor. My wife came and enjoyed the trip, especially since one of the other ham's wife also went and they were able to hang out together and go shopping in Waikiki while the men played radio. We did fairly well even though we only managed to come in second from KH6, losing out to a very large KH6LC station. It was a pleasant surprise to work a number of stations in Asia that would have been unreadable in the States, including hordes of BYs, BVs, 9Ms, VUs, etc.

### And then to the Galapagos

The following year, I managed to wangle an invitation to operate from HC8N (using the call HC8GR) on San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos. Talk about a superstation in a super location. The operating QTH is a house about 800 meters above sea level with multiple 150' tall towers, sporting multiple fixed beams, usually four or five per band, each pointed in a different direction. Because the station is essentially in the rain forest, rotors have a life expectancy of less than a year, ergo the fixed beams. The island is located on the equator due south of W5, which gives it great propagation to most of the world. In addition to being a rare country multiplier, HC8 is also in Zone 10, often making a QSO a dual multiplier in CQWW.

The year that I went, the station had a great group of contest operators including N5KO, W6NL, N3RD, W6RGG, W2VJN and N6GQ. Being low man on the totem pole, I was the primary 10 meter operator. Much to my surprise, we had some decent 10 meter openings and I managed nearly 1300 QSO on that band. In addition, I relieved on some of the other bands, including 20 and 40 and got to experience how well those bands played. It was probably no shock that we ended up first in M/M by a wide margin with over 34 million points. In fact, the next highest score was an M/2 operation from the Madeira Islands off the coast of Africa, CR3L.

Prior to the contest, my wife and I enjoyed a seven day cruise through the Galapagos, which we found to be totally fascinating. There are not many places on the earth where you can swim with a family of sea lions, stand 10 feet away from a red-chested frigate bird performing his mating dance, walk among several hundred sea lizards sunning themselves on the rocky coast and see a 90+ year old giant tortoise court his two younger lady friends. Unfortunately, it was not as much fun for

my wife during the contest as she stayed in a local hotel—using the term loosely—while I operated from the rather remote (my wife's description, not mine) HC8N QTH.

### And, then off to Africa

Last year, while I was pondering where to go for the 2010 CQWW CW Contest, a friend of mine and fellow AH6XX op, W2LK, mentioned that he was going to operate from—where else - CR3L. I contacted one of the organizers, Ulf, DL5AXX, and was invited to join the crew. I was told not to expect to come close to the nearly 1300 QSOs we had pulled in on 10 meters since HC8GR was on the equator and CR3L was much higher in latitude at 32 degrees.

The team consisted of Les, W2LK, and me plus six Germans. In addition to Ulf, the other key organizer was Walter, DJ6QT, who had found the Madeira QTH a number of years ago and had obtained permission to build a modest permanent station in a small house located on the property plus the ability to supplement it by putting up a bevy of other towers and antennas on a temporary basis. Of course, that meant a lot of work erecting the station and antennas before the contest and in taking it down after the event ended.



**A quaint home overlooking the Atlantic from the African side. Yes, that is a real thatched roof!. This was to be our base of operations.**

The other members of the team were Uli, DJ2YA, Falk, DK7YY, Arno, DL1CW, and Frank, DL8WAA, all of whom had been part of one or more prior CR3L operations. Fortunately, all of the Germans spoke reasonable English, which was a necessity since neither

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Les nor I spoke any German other than “nein” and a few other rudimentary words. Communications did not prove to be much of a problem since all eight of us were pretty fluent in Ham Radioese, which seems to be a universal language.

Les and I met at Newark Airport on the Monday before the contest. My wife decided to pass on this trip in what was probably a wise decision. She spent the week shopping in New York City! Madeira Island is an archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean about 300 miles off the coast of West Africa, but is considered part of that continent. The population of the island is about 250,000 people with 100,000 of them living in the capital city of Funchal, on the southern part of the island. Although there are no beaches on Madeira itself, vacation travel is an important part of the island’s economy with its major products being a variety of flowers and wine. After leaving at about 8 PM and enduring a six hour lay-over in Lisbon, we were met at Madeira airport at 4:30 PM Tuesday by Ulf and Walter and drove the fairly short distance to the station QTH in Santana, in the northeast corner of the island.

This drive taught me several things about Madeira: it is an island consisting mainly of steep mountain peaks and valleys, which means often driving on curvy, narrow roads where the right hand side of the road ends with a drop-off of hundreds of feet if one slides off the edge of the road. The country wisely built dozens of tunnels through the mountains saving countless time, and lives, in getting from one place to the other. The island is a Portuguese territory which means most of the people speak yet another language that I do not know. The saving grace was, again, that many of the natives also speak some English.



**Left, Frank (DL8WAA), Arno (DL1CW), Falk (DK7YY) and Ulf (DL5AXX) get started on assembling and installing the 10m beam. Our “shack” is in the background.**

For the next two days, the team erected a variety of towers, beams, verticals, etc. until the field around the shack looked like a command center. We ended up with ¼ wave verticals for 160m and 80m, a 3-element parasitic vertical array for 40m pointed at NA, a 2-element rotatable yagi for 40m, a Pro 57 and 4-element yagi for 20m, another Pro 57 and 4-element yagi for 15m and 4-element and 3-element yagis for 10m.

### **Some time for exploration**

The next day consisted mainly of setting up the software and stations which was handled by Ulf. Walter was kind enough to take Les and me for a tour of Funchal, the capital city of Madeira, located about 25 km away as the crow flies (but much longer as the car drives). I learned that on a mountainous island like Madeira the only way to get from one place to another is to climb up one side of a mountain and down the other side. Going down is much easier, mentally, because your car is on the inside of the road, next to the mountain, rather than on the edge of the cliff.

By now, a light rain had started, which surely would end soon. It did not and even grew heavier as the day continued. By mid-day, torrents of water were rushing down the mountainside, clogging the streets and even washing one house off the mountain into the ocean below. The latter necessitated a call home to my wife to assure her that we were not in danger of sliding off the mountain, or, at least, I hoped that would not be the case.

On Friday, with things under control, Walter and his friend Norbert took Les and me for a tour to the west side of the island. The rain had slowed down a bit but was still coming down, hard at times. The route we took consisted more of switchback turns up and down the sides of the mountains rather than over them as we had done the day before. I’m not sure if this was an improvement for my stomach or not. On the far side of the island, we had a quick meeting with Jose, CT1BOH, who was getting ready to join the fray as CR3E. We returned to our home QTH about 3 PM, with only nine hours to go until the start of the contest. It was rather strange to have CQWW actually start at midnight on Friday night but it did make for a more relaxing Friday.

### **The MO2R Box—our secret weapon?**

One of the unique features of this operation was a piece of equipment that DL5AXX designed and built which would allow two ops to both listen on the same band on separate radios and antennas. The box had a lock-out

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system so that only one transmitter could send at a time and a muting system to protect the listening station. This was important because the antennas were located in close proximity to each other. This novel device became known as the MO2R (Multiple Op, 2 Radio) box.

Using this device, both operators would listen to the CQ frequency using different radios and antennas. The first one to type in a call and push "Send" would seize the frequency while the other station would be locked out. By setting the two stations a bit apart in frequency, each op was listening to a slightly different pitch than the other. The real benefit came when one antenna was pointed towards Europe while the other was pointed to North America. This was particularly helpful during the parts of the day when signals were coming in from both parts of the world at the same time, which, fortunately, was quite often. The MO2R box could also be used to facilitate the more traditional one radio running, one radio hunting technique.



**Uli, DJ2YA, operates at the main position of the MO2R station. Our "magic box" sits on top of the K3.**

The final configuration was one station with two radios and amps and an MO2R box which would be used on 40m and 15m; another station with two radios and MO2R box for 80m and 20m; and a third station, with just one radio and amp, for running 160m and 10m when activity was high enough and, otherwise, as a multiplier chaser. The output from both radios was fed to both antennas so that the signal from each radio was consistent. Under the rules, we were allowed to make eight band changes per hour which allowed us to poten-

tially pick up another four multipliers per hour. This set-up proved to work out well. Throughout the contest, we had various equipment problems, mainly with amps giving up for one reason or another. We eventually ended up using five K3s, which performed quite well,

### **How to use MO2R**

The MO2R set-up required some getting used to, particularly in two ops adapting their operating methods to each other. Once we got in sync, everything worked quite well. Many times, both ops would copy the same call so there was little advantage. However, when the band was open to two different areas of the world at once, the system shined. One op would try and pick up mainly callers from EU while the second op would focus on NA. Instead of sending "QRZ" at the end of an exchange, the op would type in the call from the second op's screen and send the exchange. The second op would type in the received exchange and log the QSO. If the first op had another call, the second op would repeat the whole process. In practice, this meant essentially alternating QSOs between EU and NA. The most common problem with this was that sometimes the second call would not be realized that he had just been worked and would stand-by waiting for "QRZ". The key to this whole technique is, of course, the existence of a substantial and ongoing pile-up, which we were fortunate to have quite often.

Every so often, we would see a spot for a needed mult on one of the run bands. In that case, the second op would go to the spotted frequency and listen for the needed mult. If he heard it, the hard part would begin. He would have to wait for the mult to send "QRZ" at about the same time the run op finished his QSO. When that happened, the mult op would signal the run op and take control, locking out the run transmitter while the mult op made his call. If he was successful in snagging the mult, he would complete the exchange and then turn control back to the run op. This was often a very frustrating process but it did work well enough for us to pull in some extra mults.

### **Slogging in the trenches**

With eight ops, it was possible to schedule operating times so that everyone got about six hours of rest per day. That meant being "on" for 12-16 hour stretches but when things slowed down, it was possible for an op to take a break and let the MO2R revert to SO.

One slight problem for me was trying to get used to

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the German keyboard. On it, the “Z” and “Y” keys are swapped so for all those guys with calls that had a “Z”, I apologize for sending it as a “Y”, or vice versa. The other major difference was that the forward slash “/” on the German keyboard is the uppercase on “7”. Fortunately, there were not too many calls with “7” in them. Being a devotee of N1MM Logger program, it also took a while to get used to Win-Test but that was pretty effortless after a bit of fumbling around.

Overall, most everything worked well. We seemed to have a good signal to most parts of the world and the pileups were large and deep for much of the time. It was great fun to see the 10-QSO rate meter on the logging program often move over the 300 QSOs per hour level.

By midnight Sunday, everyone was happy to hear the closing gong. About all we knew was that we had beaten the prior year’s score, which had been big enough to capture the top M/2 category. But, would it be enough to beat PJ4A and 9L5VT who had been very loud all weekend? The radios were silenced, a quick snack was had, and it was off to bed.

**What goes up must come down—even if it is raining**  
Monday was dismantling day. Surely, what had required three days to erect could be taken down in one day. It would have to happen because we were all scheduled to depart Madeira on Tuesday for either the U.S. or various points in Germany. Monday morning came sooner than we would have liked bringing with it a sight we would have preferred not to see—drizzle. Surely, the rain would stop soon. After all, this was Madeira, an island paradise. By 9 am, it not only had not stopped, it had intensified. Yet, take-down had to be done and off to the outdoors we all went. It soon became apparent that wearing coats would only make things worse as they became soaked in the now heavy rain. Back to tee shirts and shorts. Soon, we were thoroughly drenched, but the antennas were coming down—often with a splash. A few guys had brought waterproof boots but soon found that they only kept out water from the outside but did nothing to stop water falling from above from getting inside the boots. By mid-afternoon, all was finally dismantled and we assembled by the open hearth of the fireplace that had been heavily stoked to give us some warmth. We may have had a top score but we still looked and felt like drenched rats.

**Home, Sweet Home**

Since we were leaving very early Tuesday morning, Les and I said our good-byes to our new friends Monday night at our closing banquet. Our thanks go to all who stopped



**A very happy, tired team celebrates a successful outing. Seated: DJ6QT. Standing, left to right: DL8WAA, DK7YY, DL1CW, W2LK, K2SX, DL5AXX, and DJ2YA.**

by during the contest and gave us a QSO, helping to make this a special event. By Tuesday night, we were all back in our own homes, with the CR3L operation already little more than fond memories. Table 1 shows our claimed score. At this point, the score is high enough to put us into top spot in the Multi-Op/2 Radio category.

**What’s next?**

With two winning expeditions behind me, the question is what to do for an encore? It will be hard to top the successes of HC8GR and CR3L so it may be time for a break, or at least a lower key effort. With conditions finally picking up, it may be possible to have good results from my home QTH, even with the modest antennas. On the other hand, it might be fun to try some other place. Maybe I’ll return to the Pacific with a trip to E51 or A35 or even FO. Now, my wife might even like to go on that one. Soon it will be time to deal with that question. For now, I will just bask in the last few operations.

**Table 1  
CR3L Claimed Score  
2010 CQWW CW M/2**

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	423	16	68
80	1531	26	95
40	3397	37	124
20	2802	37	132
15	2795	30	107
10	686	28	05
<b>Total</b>	<b>11634</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>631</b>

**Total Score: 27,836,135**

## The Back Page

**Ed Kuebert, Bill Turner** and others activated “Old Baldy” lighthouse in the recent Spring Lites event. Page 1.

Some previously **unreported scores from CDXA member in 2010** contests show up. See Page 2.

Look for a **new report format on the CDXA website** showing your band contacts. Page 2.

**ARRL’s Field Day 2011** is nearly upon us. Help CDXA continue in its winning ways. Earn a Field Day Contest Team t-shirt in the process. See Page 3.

**CDXA’s growth trend** is still upward. See Page 4.

**Tired of spending lotsa dollars to collect those QSL cards?** There is another way. Page 4.

The **demons** took out the CDXA AR-Cluster recently. Read the account by our sysop. Page 5.

**DX King** results show that a real race is on for the top spot. See Page 6.

**On the way to winning CQWW CW.** Let Dennis McAlpine, K2SX, tell us how. Starts on Page 6.

The Pileup will not be published in June so the editor can catch his breath. See you in July.

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