

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Barbeque 2011 Draws Nearly 70

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



Jack Guion (W4JG) leads the assemblage in prayer before beginning dinner

As this is written, it is Sunday, October 9 and CDXA Barbeque 2011 is now history. Nearly 70 souls—members and spouses of CDXA—found their way to Ken and Bev Boyd’s home in Mint Hill. Ric Porter put on his apron once again and provided his tasty barbequed pork and southern fried chicken along with sides of cole slaw and baked beans.

Other dishes were provided pot luck style by asking one-half of the attendees to bring a salad to pass and the other half to bring a dessert to pass. In this way a balance of foods we all “should” eat was offset by what we “desire” to eat!

Food was served after an hour of socializing. Nobody went home hungry.

More photos on the next page.

(Continued on page 2)

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

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Photos of the 2011 BBQ



Above, Ric Porter opens the “chuck wagon” for service Below, the crowd begins to enjoy its “vittles”.



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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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.

CDXA Operators Can Share Information During the CQWW SSB Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

Last March, during the ARRL SSB DX Contest, CDXA used a system that allowed members to share information on stations heard. Many of our members found this very helpful so we will be doing this again during CQWW SSB this month.

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 me.

There’s an added feature this year. One user suggested that the program could also act as a batch file and start N1MM. You will see an option to do this if you start the program and N1MM isn’t already running.

I’ll be distributing the program and setting up the node about a week before the contest. If you’d like to participate send me an email now (w3oa@roadrunner.com) and I’ll put you on the list to get a copy of the program and detailed instructions. You need to do this even if you have the program we used in the ARRL contest. The old program won’t work.

Election of 2012 Officers

Election of 2012 officers of CDXA will occur at the annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Dr. Sam Hawes (K4DGJ) will be serving as the nominating committee. Anyone wishing to nominate a person as an officer should confer with their nominee to ensure he or she is willing to serve, if elected. Nominees should be provided to Sam at (704) 845-8678 or hamk4dgi@aol.com. A proxy form and nominee list will appear in the November 2011 issue of the Pileup.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

Ten Years Ago

The people of the United States were still reeling from the terrorist attack that damaged the Pentagon and destroyed both towers of the World Trade Center, and emergency communicators from the amateur radio service did their part in handling communications in the aftermath. . . . The first appearance of the label “The Contest Within a Contest” appeared in the announcement for the CQWW Contest in the October, 2001 issue of the Pileup. . . . Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ) provided a block diagram and discussion of the setup required to produce a competitive VHF contest station based on the communications capabilities of the rigs of the day. . . . The Roving Reporter paid a visit to George Felber (W1WW). George lists his birth year as 1917 and his name is still on the roster in 2011.

Twenty Years Ago

Forty-four unique calls checked into the VHF spotting network over the past quarter according to Net Manager Henry Elwell (N4UH). . . . It seemed like CDXA was focused on dining with reports of the recently completed barbeque leading to an announcement in the same newsletter of the Christmas party! The “Southern Net” of the new PacketCluster reported 3460 spots made in September 2001. . . . Photos of the elevation of K4MQG’s 80m beam impress us with just how big an 80 meter beam really is!

Pileup Editor to Step Down

In late 1999 your editor made a commitment to then President Bob Burton that he would edit the Pileup. The nominal tour of duty was expected to be two years. That was twelve years and three Presidents ago.

With the approach of 2012 Elections, your editor believes it is time for someone with a fresh approach to pick up the reins. Therefore, the nominating committee (see article elsewhere in this issue) is seeking nominees for the office of editor.

Over the years, many members have provided the editor with a lot of material for the Pileup. Those contributions provide interesting reading for the membership and make the editor’s job easier and more enjoyable. Thank you. Please continue supporting the new editor with your contributions.

CQWW, SSB, Starts Friday October 28 CDXA Needs Everyone’s Help To Make the Top Ten

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA needs every member’s help to improve our standings in the CQWW Club Competition. From 2002 to 2007 we made fairly steady progress in going from 20th place in the U.S. all the way up to 8th place. But in the last three years we have been stuck in 12th or 13th place. Let’s do our best to get CDXA back in to the Top Ten in 2010.

And this year should be more fun than we’ve had contesting for a long time. I say this because it looks like there will be major daytime openings on 10 meters. We’ve seen these working the 3D2R, T32C, and YJ0VK DXpeditions in the last few weeks. And, operators in the CQWW RTTY contest at the end of September reported big scores on both 10m and 15m. One caution—areas of the world you hear on Saturday may not be open for you on Sunday!

Last month’s Pileup, <http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1109.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest, CWAC, and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, and certificates.

CDXA’s information sharing system will again be operational during the SSB contest. See the accompanying article in this Pileup.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at <http://www.cqww.com/rules.php>. The rules include instructions on how to submit your scores to CQ. Remember to use “Carolina DX Association” as your club affiliation.

Be sure to send me a summary of your score (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Please include call sign used, entry category, number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total points. We will post them on the CDXA web site as we receive them.

CDXA member Steve, AA4V, and Gaylord, N4SF, will again be operating AA4V/VP9 as a multi/2 from Bermuda. Work them on every band you can.

Please let me know if I can be of any help.

Dick Williams
w3oa@roadrunner.com
(704) 658-0915

Roving Reporter Visits W4HG

It's been a while since the Roving Reporter climbed into his car and paid a visit to one of our members so we can get to know them better. This time, his destination was Salisbury, NC to visit with Wayne Ashworth, W4HG.

Roving Reporter (RR): The leadoff question, Wayne, is how did YOU get started in amateur radio?

W4HG: I guess I can say I sidled into the hobby. When I was a freshman in high school in 1954, I became interested in a little noticed feature of the family radio. It had a capability to access the short wave bands. I soon became interested in listening to broadcast radio stations far away from my Winston-Salem home—so much so in fact that I became a broadcast band short wave DXer! I also was fascinated at hearing foreign language stations from far away. I soon stumbled into the 20m and 40 meter amateur radio bands, and I really became captivated when I heard people talking to one another in two-way conversations. I soon found a high school friend, Gideon “Gid” Woodard (then WN4YQZ, now NY4R) who took me under his wing as my “Elmer”. Gid helped me prepare for the Novice exam, and I was soon licensed. Then Gid told me I needed to have a transmitter and we built a transmitter from the ARRL handbook that used a 6AG7 followed by a 6L6 final transmitter power tube and used a single crystal for frequency control. My receiver was still the family radio in the beginning, however.

RR: Tell us about your early moments on the air.

W4HG: You have to know that my receiver didn't have much selectivity. I think I called CQ for 2-1/2 weeks after the interminable wait for my license to arrive via the U.S. Mails. I did not have a single response in that time. I soon got an “Official Letter” postmarked from the FCC Listening station in Twin Falls, ID that I had a second harmonic that was out of band for my 549 signal heard there! That was my first lesson in the importance of finding the primary resonance point when tuning an amplifier. Things got better after that when my parents gave me a Hallicrafters S-38D receiver for Christmas in 1955. I made my way through my Novice year knowing that I had to upgrade before the year ended or else I had to start over. Gid worked with me in preparing, and when an FCC examination team came to Winston-Salem from Norfolk, VA, I managed to earn my General Class ticket. Near the end of my year as Novice, I finally got a real transmitter when I built a

Heathkit DX-35. As they say here in the South, I was in “tall cotton” then! It actually had a modulator of sorts.

RR: Did that cause you to become a phone aficionado thereafter?

W4HG: Not really. My roots were planted deep in CW from my early days in being a ham, and I probably do 95% of my on air work using CW. That doesn't mean I'll not pick a microphone if a “new one” comes on the air working phone, however!

RR: Along the way in your years of ham radio, what was your favorite rig?

W4HG: Interestingly, it was a rig I didn't even own. After high school, I ended up in the U. S. Air Force. My skills in radio formed a path in the military service and I became involved in radio work and even cryptography. One assignment was on the DEW line (Distant Early Warning) in northeastern Canada during the “Cold War”. The post had a Collins S-Line and a nice TA-33 beam antenna. I was the only person at that post who had a ham ticket, so the radio was mine to use exclusively. We were situated on a small island, and I became the “go-to guy” for my fellow soldiers who wanted to have a phone patch back home. That cut into my CW operating time, but it made a lot of guys happy to be able to talk with their folks and their lady friends. I never had to go begging for favors while stationed there because of my “patching” abilities! And there was plenty of off-duty time to fill my own CW desires.

RR: What does your station of today look like?

W4HG: Today, I own Ten-Tec equipment consisting of an Orion transceiver and a Titan III linear amplifier. I really like that equipment.

RR: And your antenna farm is????

W4HG: My “farm” is more like a patch! I have some “deed restrictions” imposed by my XYL that there are no guy wires to avoid in the yard. So, I have a 3 element SteppIR beam on a 45 foot high crank up pole. That is snuggled in some 100 foot trees that are used to hang up a G5RV dipole for the lower bands. Overall, that setup has been good to me.

RR: I know you've done well in the DXCC hunt. How did you pick DXing as a pursuit? Do you enjoy chasing other DX awards?

W4HG: I'll have to say DXing got into my blood from those early days of finding DX broadcast stations

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using the family's tabletop radio. DXCC is my primary award pursuit. I need only Bouvet, North Korea, and Eritrea to reach the top of the Honor Roll. As you well know, there is little or no ham radio activity from those entities—either for political or geographical reasons—so I'm not holding my breath waiting to catch those three. I felt fortunate in finally catching Scarborough Reef only 15 minutes before they went QRT.

RR: Are you into contesting at all?

W4HG: I guess I was far enough along in my DXCC pursuit to not view contesting as a way of collecting DXCC entities, and I never really got into contesting. I never had a true contender around from which to learn the ropes about that aspect of our hobby. My primary contesting effort is to work as the CW operator with the Rowan Amateur Radio Society during Field Day since I am one of the few CW operators in that club. I am usually "in the chair" for the 24 hours of Field Day for that reason!

RR: Have you been active all the time since first becoming a licensee?

W4HG: I'd have to say yes to that. There may have been a six month period here or there where life's commitments reduced my activity on the air, but I was never far away from the radio.

RR: With all those years on the air, what would you say was your most memorable moment?

W4HG: In the late 1960s, I was on the air calling CQ on 15 meters. A station came back to me with the callsign of JY1. That was King Hussein of Jordan who, as many know, was an active ham. It was a little unusual addressing a fellow ham as "your majesty", but it had a comfortable ring to it after meeting the man on the air. He behaved just like any other ham on the air.

RR: Are any other members of your family amateur radio operators?

W4HG: There are seven children of my marriage and nine grandchildren so far, but none of that lot has taken an interest in ham radio, although many of them "text" on their cell phones! They've got their own interests and I've got mine. Our diversity of interests is a good thing.

RR: How did you come to CDXA?

W4HG: I'd always been interested in DXing, but I didn't have many ham friends who were interested in

DXing. I went looking for DXers and found CDXA. Only then did I learn that a lot of DXers that I had known about over the years—like K4MQG and W4MBD—were members of CDXA and there were a lot of other DXers there, too. Kent "Abe" Miller, K4MK, was a ham that I'd known since my high school days in Winston-Salem, and we found ourselves both in CDXA. I guess only after joining CDXA did I become aware of Uncle Henry (N4UH-SK) being a DXer in my locale soon thereafter, too.

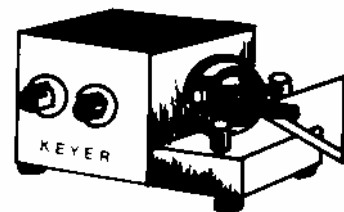
RR: I know you are active in the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Tell us about your involvement there.

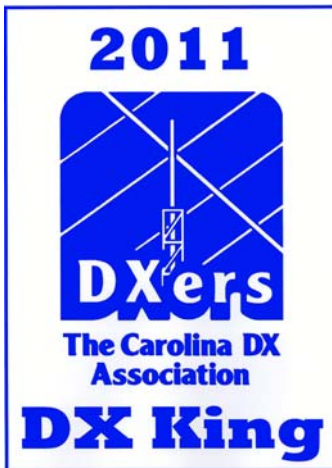
W4HG: After one gets 25 years under their belt in this hobby, it is fun to get together with others who share that longevity of experience. I joined the Piedmont Chapter of QCWA at the invitation of Kent "Abe" Miller. I am now Vice President of the chapter. We move our quarterly meetings around to each of four locations roughly in an area south of Greensboro to South of Durham. A number of our members are also members of CDXA.

RR: One final question: In what ways would you say amateur radio has affected your life during your 50+ year association with the service?

W4HG: From simple beginnings as a short wave listener and then a Novice ham, my first awareness of its role came when the military recognized that I had a special skill in my radio experience. After military service, I became involved in radio and TV broadcasting. That led to being a newscaster on radio and then on TV at stations in Winston-Salem. Later in my career I became a paramedic and eventually an emergency coordinator, and as you know, emergency communications is one of the five "purposes" of the Amateur Radio Service. Overseeing all these things is the world wide perspective one achieves from communicating with people of different cultures all around the world via ham radio.

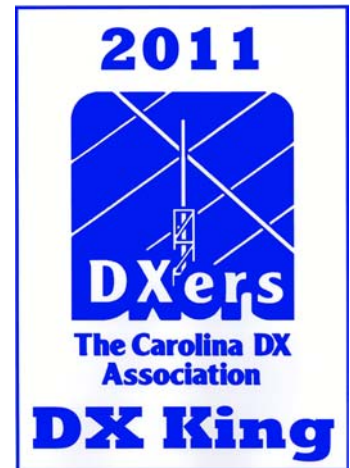
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DX King News

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 September 30:

<u>Call</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Zones</u>	<u>Total</u>
K5EK	Unlimited	264	40	304
W3OA	Unlimited	248	39	287
WA4DT	Unlimited	245	40	285
W4HG	Unlimited	245	40	285
W3GQ	Unlimited	240	40	280
K3XC	Unlimited	237	39	276
N4ZC	Unlimited	228	40	268
KZ2I	Unlimited	220	40	260
N4PQX	Unlimited	210	40	250
K1MIJ	Unlimited	202	38	240
W1AJT	Unlimited	198	39	237
W3ZL	Formula	193	36	229
K8YC	Unlimited	178	39	217
N2TU	Unlimited	152	33	185
K2SX	Unlimited	147	37	184
W4NZC	Formula	149	33	182
W4WNT	Formula	145	31	176
W4UFO	Unlimited	140	34	174
K4ESE*	Unlimited	133	34	167
K3IRV	Formula	126	31	157
NK0S	Unlimited	104	31	135
AF1E	Unlimited	82	24	106

*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.

The Back Page

Recap of the **2011 Barbeque**, including photos begins on Page 1.

A **hybrid spotting system** will be available for the Phone version of CQWW. It is akin to a “voice skimmer” with the “hearing” being done by your fellow CDXA contesters. See Page 2.

Elections of officers for 2012 will be held at the Annual Christmas Party on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Nominations for office are now open. See Page 2.

CQWW—Phone is coming! The contest is the last full weekend in October. See Page 3. For those that may be entering their first contest, Roger Burt (N4ZC) provided some excellent strategy tips in the October 2000 Pileup available from the archives on the CDXA website.

The **Pileup needs a new editor**. Nominations are needed. See Page 3.

The **Roving Reporter** was on the move in early October. See Page 4.

Solar Cycle 24 is starting to heat things up, and **DX King** is one benefactor. Take a look at the race on Page 6.

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.