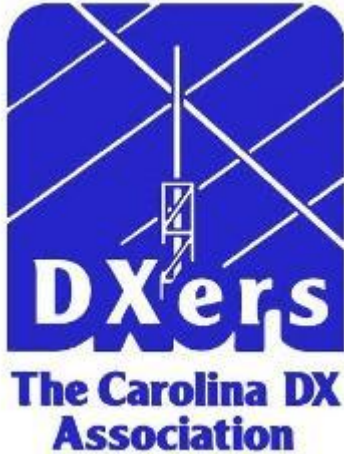


The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA



Another Successful Hamfest

It's hard to believe, but the 2012 Hamfest weekend is now history. Thanks to all those who helped plan and set up activities for the weekend. I hope everyone found whatever goodies they were looking for at the Hamfest. There was plenty of good stuff to look at, think about, and bargain for. You could also get your cards checked while you were thinking about whether or not to buy that new gadget. The Card Checking Booth did a booming business, with 22 applications with 1234 QSOs for DXCC, 3 applications with 150 QSOs for WAS, and 6 applications with 342 QSOs for VUCC. The CDXA Booth drew a good crowd, especially with the raffle prize, a 3,250 watt portable generator, sitting on the table. Check out pictures of both operations in action on Pg. 7. The winner of the generator was CDXA member Ric Porter, AA4SC. We signed up three new members at the booth, with others promising to join on-line. As always, it was great fun to have eyeball QSOs with folks you don't often get to see. There were also some great forums.

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
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

D-STAR:

Steve Koone, KA4YMY, moderated the forum on D-STAR, which was well attended. Steve opened the forum by distributing two handouts.

The first handout was titled "A Sample Method of D-STAR Radio Programming." The handout looks as if it would make perfect sense to someone who already owns a D-STAR radio, but is pretty "busy" looking if you don't have at least some experience with a D-STAR radio.

The second handout was double-sided, and included discussions titled "D-Star Resources" and "D-STAR Linking Tips." Steve pointed out the many resources available to D-Star users, including web sites and user groups to name just two. Some of the sites are specific to the Charlotte area, while others are appropriate nationally or even around the world.

Both of the handouts are available in PDF format on the Charlotte area D-Star web page at: <http://www.charlottedstar.org>. This web site is a good place to start if you have an interest in D-Star. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session.

HK0NA DXPedition:

Bob Allphin, K4UEE, one of the co-leaders of the HK0NA DXPedition, packed the room and gave a very interesting, informative, humorous, and fascinating account of the DXPedition to Malpelo Island. Bob's fellow co-leader, Gregg

(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

(Continued from page 1)

Marco, W6IZT, was there to help with Q&As.

Bob, who's been on 35 DXPeditions, began by saying that, before the start of the DXPedition, Malpelo Island was #12 on the "Most Wanted" list. After an all-time record for "tent and generator" DXPeditions with over 193,000 QSOs, he commented that it'll probably fall down the list a bit!

Malpelo is an 86 acre island with very rugged terrain, owned by Colombia, and manned by Colombian Marines. It's actually a 12,000 foot tall mountain with the top 900 feet out of the water. Even getting on and off the island is tricky. Bob showed a picture of a metal platform that protrudes out over the water. When the team first arrived, there was only one way onto the platform, via a rope ladder! Since safety, convenience and the capability to lift heavy loads were all important, with safety as the first priority, a lift system with a canvas seat was installed, which made it much easier, although still pretty exciting, to get onto the island.

Early planning for the trip was started in 2007 by Pedro, HK1X, and Franz, DJ9ZB; with negotiations with the Colombian government going on from 2008 into 2010. In 2011, with permissions in place, Bob and Gregg joined as co-leaders. After an initial recon trip, a four man advance team headed to Malpelo on Christmas Day 2011. They set up the first station, referred to as "Op A" adjacent to the Marine building, near the base of the island. Weather delayed the rest of the team and gear, but the advance team started operation from Op A on 11 Jan., and made 11,000 QSOs.

Once the rest of the team showed up, it was time to get the second station, Op B, set up. This station was to be at the top of the island. Getting people and things to the top was no small feat. Bob said the temperature was around 100 degrees F, and the average slope up to the top was 60 degrees. Fortunately, the Colombian Marines were there to help. The top section of the climb just before the top was especially steep, and was set up with a pair of ropes to assist the non-climbers in making it to the top. Bob's advice was the classic climbers' mantra: "Don't look down!!" After warning anyone with vertigo or a fear of heights to leave or close their eyes for the sake of anyone sitting in front of them, he showed a video which very graphically illustrated the point. It shows Bob making it to the top using the ropes. Then the camera pans around to show the view downward to Op A. Wow! It's a long, steep climb.

While the island was mostly rock, it wasn't devoid of life. Based on the pictures Bob showed, there seemed to be a combination of lizards and small crabs everywhere, including all over the operating positions. There were also plenty of birds of various sorts.

Bob talked a bit about the planning and organization of operating positions and time slots. The basic idea was that whatever slot you got was yours, unless you could convince someone else to swap with you.

The operating stations were equipped with Elecraft K3s with KPA500 amps. Antennas included A3Ss, A3WSs and verticals/inverted Ls for 80 and 160.

One thing everyone wanted to know was when we can expect to see QSLs. Bob explained that they're still trying to raise enough money to make the DXPedition a break-even deal, so OQRS will be the best way to go if you want your confirmation within the next month or two. Once the break-even point is met, they'll be posting contacts on LOTW. Bob said that the best guess for that is about six months. For more information, check <http://hk0na.com/>.



Bob, K4UEE, and Gregg, W6IZT

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 or through the CDXA website, 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.

Roger Burt, N4ZC, Awarded Life Membership in CDXA

Roger was honored with a well-deserved Life Membership in CDXA during the March 10th Hamfest Banquet. The text of the Award Presentation is shown below:

“Roger was the principal founder of the club. He held a meeting at his home in 1981 with 17 attending for that purpose. Roger was our first president and has held the titles of packet cluster host and W4/K4 QSL bureau manager. He is a world class contester and DXer. In 1992, the president of Lithuania recognized him in a letter for his ‘help in crying SOS to the world through emergency communications channels.’ At Dayton a while ago, he noticed three European hams approaching. As their T-shirts became visible, he realized they said ‘N4ZC Fan Club.’ His signal casts a long shadow!”

Wouldn't you love to have a picture of the guys wearing the N4ZC Fan Club T-shirts?! In lieu of that, we have a picture of Roger receiving his Life Membership Plaque.



Roger joins the following short list of other Life Members:

Al Guin (W4ZQB)
Frank Dowd (K4BVQ)
Henry Elwell (sk) (N4UH)
Ted & Itice Goldthorpe (W4VHF & K4LVV)

Congratulations Roger!

Welcome New and Returning Members

New members who joined at the Hamfest were: K4CKD, Dennis Peterson, 326 East Jefferson St. Apt. 2, York, SC 29745, 803-389-9366, dennis@comporium.net; K4UWH, Charlie Vaughan, 1433 Avenel Dr., Wilmington, NC 28411, 910-686-5700, vcm4@bellsouth.net; and KA8YYZ, Jesse Wall, 2255 Beaver Dam Rd., Cassatt, SC 29032, 803-669-1572, ka8yyz@arrl.net. Also joining during the month were NX4O, Donald Bowers, and KG4LUF, Phyllis Day, both of 11671 Stockdale Ct., Pineville, NC 28134, 813-545-7651, dr12vnfla@aol.com; and KI4ZEO, James Porter, P.O. Box 392, Fort Mill, SC 29716, 803-448-0755, ric@comporium.net. We also had a returning member, W4CCW, Craig Willis, 214 Sleepy Hollow Dr., Newport, NC 28570, 252-247-3938, craig@w4ccw.com. Welcome to all!

Happy St. Paddy's Day!

St. Patrick's Day is Sat. March 17. Remember to wear green, but stay away from that green beer.

The “Charlotte Observer” is really getting in the Irish spirit (no pun intended of course), with a “Kiss Me, I'm Irish Week”™ which asks some important St. Paddy's Day questions, including:

Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day? *Because they're always wearing green.*

Why did St. Patrick drive all the snakes out of Ireland? *He couldn't afford plane fare for them.*

What kind of music does a leprechaun band play? *Shamrock and roll.*

OK, when you're done groaning over those, if you missed it, be sure to check out “CDXA Digest, Vol 98, Issue 8.” Steve, KZ2I, posted a list entitled “...You Might be a Redneck DXer if...” Of course, Your Editor is simply pointing it out. He in no way agrees with or endorses any of the items.

SVHFS Conference is Coming to Charlotte

On the third weekend in April (the 20th & 21st), the sixteenth annual Southeastern VHF Society's (SVHFS) Conference will be coming to The Charlotte Doubletree Hotel/Airport. (See [http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CLTAPDT-VHF-20120419/index.jhtml?](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CLTAPDT-VHF-20120419/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

[WT.mc_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/C/CLTAPDT-VHF-20120419/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG) for details.) For the second time, the CDXA will be the conference host. There are many activities packed into the 2 day conference including antenna gain testing, noise figure testing, technical programs, flea-market / auction, DXCC / VUCC card checking and luncheon and dinner speakers.



The highlight of the conference is the Saturday evening dinner banquet with featured speaker, American astrophysicist and 1993 [Nobel Prize in Physics laureate](#), Dr Joseph H Taylor, K1JT.



Joe received the Noble prize for his discovery with [Russell Alan Hulse](#) of a "new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation."

Joe first obtained his amateur radio license as a teenager, which led him to the field of radio astronomy. He has held the callsigns K2ITP, WA1LXQ, W1HFV, and VK2BJX. In April 2010, Joe used the [Arecibo Radio Telescope](#) to make [moon-bounce](#) (EME) contacts using voice, CW, and digital communications. He is very well known in the

ham radio community for creating and developing [WSJT](#), a weak signal VHF digital protocol originally used for EME, and [meteor scatter](#) (MS).

On February 3rd, in Geneva, Joe addressed the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference where he shared his vision of the future of radio-communication. Joe was presented with the ITU Gold Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the research in the field of radiocommunication.

Another highlight will be Friday's luncheon speaker, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN.

For more information please visit the conference website <http://www.svhfs.org/conference.html> or see Bill, W4GRW; Guy, W4NUS; or Thomas, N4HM.

Hope to see you there....

2012 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up By Dick Williams, W3OA

The 2012 edition of the ARRL International DX Contest is over, the logs are in, and the CDXA prizes have been awarded. Here are the results, based on claimed scores. The final scores will appear in QST this fall.

CDXA's total score was down a bit from last year - 24.7 million points this year vs. 28.5 million last year. Our score in the CW portion was almost the same as in 2010 - 13.5 million this year, 13.9 in 2010. Most of the falloff was in the SSB portion - 11.2 million this year vs. 14.5 million last year. Our members commented that there didn't seem to be as many stations to work during the SSB weekend this year (see the soapbox comments below). In 2011 we placed fifth in the Medium Club competition. Hopefully other clubs saw the same falloff and we will show up high again when QST publishes the results of the 2012 Club competition.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit his or her log to the ARRL to contribute to our Club score. ARRL will send you an email confirming receipt. If you don't get the email, you need to resubmit. Full details on how to do this are in the contest rules at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. Remember to show "Carolina DX Association" as your Club.

The deadline for submitting logs to the ARRL is March 20th for CW and April 3rd for SSB.

CDXA members competed among themselves for first place prizes in five categories. Each received their choice of a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The winners were:

Top Combined Score: N4ZC, Roger, 4,422,237 points.

Top CW Score: K5EK, Ed, 2,449,980 points

Top Phone Score: W3OA, Dick, 1,290,327 points

Top CW, Low Power, Score: W4NXC, Ken, 186,276 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: W4WNT, Bill, 96,300 points.

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received their choice of a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift card plus a CDXA certificate or a trophy. The winners in this category:

K2SX, Dennis; KH6/AA4V, Steve; K3XC, Ryan; KZ2I, Steve; W3GQ, Paul; and W7DO, Gary

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA certificate and a chance in the raffle for a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift. There were seven winners in this category:

AD4IE, Paul; W3ZL, Cliff; AD4IE, Paul; K8YC, John; KU4V, Wayne; WW4CP, Chris; NV4A, John.

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a chance in the raffle for \$25 Outback Steak House Gift. There were four winners in this category:

AF1E, Joe; WW4DD, Bill; N4QVM, John; W4LM, Carl.

NV4A won the Gift Card.

Here are some soapbox comments (edited) from the CW contest:

K2SX: Had other things to do on both Friday and Saturday nights which hurt my low band scores. Had a

thunder/lightning storm on Sunday afternoon which also hurt a bit, although it gave me a chance to see the golf match for a bit, as well as the NY Knicks and their new sensation. As has been the case lately, conditions were fair and rather frustrating. I always wonder who hears some of these stations that are spotted that I never hear. Now, it's probably the computers

K8YC: I noticed a higher number of "tailgaters" than ever before who would not honor the proper completion of a QSO when both parties were trying to be sure of the exchange. I have not seen this much in earlier CW contests. Such behavior is not in the best interest of any contester, CW or SSB, since it surely slows down the QSO rate and dampens the enjoyment of the contest.

W4LM: I consider my effort a minimum one considering I was only using an eighty meter loop and a 20 meter EDZ. I was on about 22 hours total mostly looking for stations calling. It sure is not like my contest days from Liberia where I could go 22 hours non-stop and log several thousand calls worked. Anyway it is still fun to work the weak one with a limited antenna setup.

W4ZV (single band, 10 meters): Aurora Saturday caused some interesting openings over the North Pole and also caused Asia to skew over the South Pacific. Was hoping for 1k QSOs but would have needed to QSY to Key West Florida to do that with the Aurora! SWR on top Yagi in the 3-stack went crazy on Sunday morning. Oh well, I needed to fix it anyway since it lost the 3rd director a few years ago and it needs a good overhaul.

Here are some soapbox comments (edited) from the SSB contest:

K3XC: Conditions fell off dramatically on Sunday. I was hoping for 1500 QSO's but I scraped out almost 1100, about 900 of which I made on Saturday.

KZ2I: Picked the wrong weekend to come down with a lousy cold. Won't be able to talk tomorrow. But good weekend just the same. 10 wasn't the work horse that it was in CQWW - very little out of Europe. Next Year!

N4APR: No prizes here but had fun the few hours I got to participate.

N4ZC: Very boring at times with nothing I had not

(Continued on page 6)

worked. I had a million by 4 O'clock Sat afternoon. By 8 Sat. night I had to fight the impulse to just walk away. By noon Sun. it didn't look like I could make it to 2 million. Any new station that showed up Sunday, no matter how common, would generate big pileups. 10 was crazy. The only JA was worked beamed west. I didn't even try for more after how hard it was to work the first. Europe would slide back and forth from side-scatter to direct. I saw on 3830 KG6DX on Guam only worked one W1 and a few W2, single band 10. He has a BIG 7 el monobander. The low bands were never very good. BAD QRN the first night. There was a good opening to Europe on 160 around midnight Sat night. Very unusual to beat 1's 2's and 3's into Eu on 160. A normal contest would find 40 full of Eu stations starting 2-3 hours before sunset. Not so this time. For the stat people, I worked 128 DXCC countries. 21 on 6 bands (6Y 8P CO CT DL E7 EA8 FG I KH6 KP2 KP4 LX P4 PJ2 PJ4 TI V2 VP9) and 26 on 5 bands (5B 9Y C6 CT3 EA EI F G HI J3 J7 J8 JA KH2 KL7 OA OM PA PY V3 V4 VK VP2E VP5 YV). Again, very boring at times. I really had to push myself to not give up.

W4ZV (single band, 10 meters): Last summer I picked up a mis-assembled KSB2 on the cheap to add to my 2004 vintage K2. After fixing a few assembly problems and installing the updated crystal set, I checked it out with a few QSOs but had not used it much on SSB since then. Yesterday I decided to pull it out and try a few QSOs on 10m in the ARRL contest. Wow, what a pleasant experience! The SSB received audio sounds absolutely great and my TX audio (Heil HC4 headset) worked well enough to get through to most stations in just a few calls. I was amazed to actually break a modest pileup on FO5QB! After ~1 hour of purely S&P operating, I had 81 QSOs in 24 countries, including all continents except Asia (not heard due to poor conditions). Of course stacked 6el Yagis deserve a little credit! Thank you Elecraft for a great QRP rig...even on SSB!

W7DO: This is my first effort on SSB. We had a storm front come through on Friday night. During storm we lost power to around 10 o'clock Saturday morning.



**DX King News
Dick Williams
W3OA**



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a 10 inch tablet computer are on page 3 of the January Pileup <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1201.pdf>

Item 2: Here are the scores I have for the 2012 DX King competition as of February 29:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
N4ZC	Unlimited	231	40	271
K5EK	Unlimited	230	40	270
W2HTI	Unlimited	205	40	245
W4HG	Unlimited	191	39	230
W3GQ	Unlimited	173	38	211
K4GHS	Unlimited	156	35	191
W3ZL	Formula	149	32	181
K2SX	Unlimited	140	36	176
W1AJT	Unlimited	127	34	161
W3OA	Unlimited	128	33	161
KZ2I	Unlimited	111	36	147
AA4SC	Unlimited	105	37	142
K8YC	Unlimited	112	30	142
NK0S	Unlimited	96	29	125
W4WNT	Formula	85	25	110
K4ESE*	Unlimited	40	18	58

* 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.

Item 4: As a little encouragement to participate, note that John Scott, K8YC, won the raffle for the 2011 DX King Contest, and took home a 26" HDTV from the Hamfest Banquet.

Hamfest Banquet Packs 'em In

The Saturday night Hamfest Banquet, held at the Carolina Prime Steakhouse, was the highlight of the weekend for many of us. Good food, great companionship, and prizes galore: What more could anyone ask for? After some socializing and dinner, things got down to “business” starting with Dick Williams, W3OA, presenting the various prizes, certificates and plaques for the recent ARRL DX Contest weekends. Dick also announced that John Scott, K8YC, was the winner of the 26” TV given away as the prize for last year’s DX King Contest. The fun really got going when Ted, W4VHF, started announcing the winners of all the raffle prizes. With over 30 prizes being given out, I’m not going to give a complete list of contributors or winners, but congratulations to all the winners and THANK YOU to all the contributors. The big winner of the night was Ed Kuebert, K5EK, who won the YAESU FT-950. Thanks to Yaesu, and

to Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. The happy winner is pictured with Dennis. More pictures from the Banquet and the Hamfest follow.



But first, here’s a summary of the “Thank You” note that Ed sent to Ted:

Ed says that he “...wanted to thank [Ted], the CDXA, and Dennis/YAESU for the wonderful door prize. It never made it home to Southport, NC.” It turns out Ed’s son was sitting next to him at the Banquet, and talked his Dad out of the radio before the evening was out. ...That’s being a really great Dad! Ed says his son already has it on the air, and loves it. He adds that his “...next challenge is to get [his son] to join CDXA.”

Hamfest 2012 Pictures

Courtesy of John Scott, K8YC



Gary, K4MQG, Bill, K4CIA, and Ken, K4DXA hard at work checking cards. QSL Card checking at the Hamfest was a big success, with more cards checked than ever before in previous years. We were fortunate to have 3 checkers, Ken checked VUCC and also handled the W4/K4/N4 QSL Bureau; Bill checked DXCC, WAS and VUCC; and Gary, also checked DXCC, WAS and VUCC.



Cliff, W3ZL and Roger, N4ZC working the CDXA booth. We had a successful weekend, selling about 300 raffle tickets for the generator, and recruiting three new members



Pete, WA2ODO and XYL check out the crowd. Pete donated some beautiful jewelry for the raffle.



Barb and John Scott seem happy about winning the TV.



Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, Barb Scott, and Margaret Blackwell await early arrivers at Carolina Prime



Wayne Starnes, KU4V, seems *really* happy that he won a raffle prize!



Cameron Hasson, KJ4EDF, asks Mike Keziah, WA2TGE, a question



Bev Boyd, Bob Burton, Wanda Burton, Steve Sullivan, Cecil Sullivan, and Ken Boyd at "The Lucky Raffle Table."



Geena Simpkins, Bob Allphin, K4UEE, and his XYL Mary sip wine before dinner



Mike Mathis (N4MIK), George Dominick (W4UWC) and Pat Richmond (W4PV)



CDXA Officers (L to R) Dick Williams, Ted Goldthorpe, John Forbus, Cliff Wagoner (peeking through), Paul Sturpe, Bill



Chris, WW4CP, Bill, WW4DD, along with Gail, NV4A's XYL, and Ellen, WW4CP's XYL seem eager to start dinner



Wayne Starnes, KU4V and Carl Bowman, W4CHX Have a little chat before things get busy



ARRL Roanoke Division "Brass": James Boehner (N2ZZ) Vice Dir, Bill Morine (N2COP) NC SM, Dennis Bodson (W4PWF) Director

The Back Page

The Hamfest and Banquet activities are covered throughout this issue. Be sure to check out the summaries of the Hamfest forums starting on Pg. 1. There's a picture of Ed Kuebert, K5EK, the happy winner of the YAESU FT-950, on Pg. 7, along with other news from the Banquet. Pictures from the Hamfest and Banquet also start on Pg. 7.

ARRL DX CW and Phone contests and results are covered starting on Pg. 4, and DX King results to date are on Pg. 6.

Roger Burt, N4ZC, was presented with a well-deserved Life Membership at the Banquet. Check out Pg. 4 for details and a picture.

The SVHFS Conference is something to get excited about, especially with Dr. Joe Taylor, K1JT, Nobel Prize Laureate and creator of WSJT giving a talk at the Sat. evening Banquet. Read about it on Pg. 4.

We were a little too busy focusing on the present this month to take a look back, but "The Way-Back Machine" will be in operation again next month.

...And Happy St. Paddy's Day to all.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
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First Class Mail

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