

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Has a New President

Welcome to Hal Bouton, N4QT, who is, as of the first of January, our new CDXA President. Hal's been a CDXA member, and has had his Extra Class License, since 2001. Hal was elected President at the Holiday Banquet on Dec. 13. We're looking forward to having him at the helm. Here's a short bio from Hal, and a picture of the torch ...or the microphone, being passed from Ted to Hal. There will be much more to come from him in the future! Hal says:

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

I have a long history in both commercial broadcasting and Ham Radio. I got my Novice license in April 1958 in the Chicago area as KN9MEP. A year later the N was dropped when I upgraded to Technician Class. I've had many different call signs as my career in broadcasting moved me all over the country. In all, I spent 38 years in the broadcasting business. Four of those years were with the American Forces Network Europe and in the Mid-



dle East. I spent time in Turkey and Nuremburg, Germany while in the US Air Force. After completing my Air Force tour of duty, I returned to my (then) home in St Petersburg, FL to complete a Degree in Mass Communications from the University of South Florida ...Go Bulls!! I began my civilian broadcasting career in early 1971 when I began working in the public broadcasting industry. I moved every two or three years to gain the needed experience to manage stations in the PBS system. My first General Manager job was in Redding, CA at KIXE Channel 9 serving most of far northern California. I moved to Charlotte in 1983 to become President and CEO of WTVI-TV Channel 42 serving the greater Charlotte area. I spent my last 20 working years with the station and retired in July 2003 to become a full time Ham! My major ham interest is DX, and I achieved DXCC in 1979. I now have 265 entities confirmed, but I know I still have some catching up to do to match many of you!

Your input during my time as your President will be most appreciated. We have a great club I intend to help keep it that way!

73,
Hal Bouton, N4QT

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

ARRL Ten Meter Contest Scores Down in 2012

Dick Williams, W3OA

In 2011 CDXA's total claimed score in the Ten Meter Contest was nearly 4.8 million points. In 2012 this dropped to 1.8 million. The primary cause of this drop was poor propagation. The list of our top three scores below also shows the entrants' claimed score in 2011. You can see each score dropped significantly.

We again offered four prizes to encourage participation. Each was a fifty dollar Outback Steak House gift card. Three prizes were for the three top scoring entries and one prize was to be raffled off among remaining entries that made 100 or more contest QSOs. The high scoring winners were announced and the raffle was held at the CDXA dinner on December 13. Here are the results:

- First Place – N2TU, 540,804 points (1,050,994 points in 2011)
- Second Place – W3GQ, 406,002 points (701,096 points in 2011)
- Third Place – W3OA, 314,560 points (513,110 points in 2011)

Eleven operators were eligible for the raffle prize:

AA4R	AD4IE	K2SX	K2SX
K5EK	NU4V	NV4A	W1AJT
W3SA	W3ZL	W4GRW	WW4CP

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.

K5EK won the raffle.

Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the Ten Meter contest:

AA4R: Boy, contesting on 10 m with a dipole is tough. Sounded like everyone was off the back of the beam!!

K2SX: The erratic propagation is one of the fascinating things about this contest. Who would have thought that on Sunday morning with very few signals on the band that XV1X, who was listening up 2, would be getting QRMed by BA7IO while BD7LDM was booming in at 599 a few KHz away? Of course, I couldn't work any of these three stations. I knew I was in trouble for this contest when my wife told me we had a party we had to go to on Friday night, two more on Sat night (5pm to 11 pm) and a golf tournament on Sunday from 10:30am thru 7 pm. That didn't leave much operating time and, even when I could get on the air, e.g. Sat daytime, condx were lousy. And, this is the peak of the Cycle?

K4UWH: Unfortunately I had very limited time, a lot of conflicts and quite frankly my GAP Titian did not play well for many stations. I doubt my score will move us up anywhere, however, it is the spirit that counts I hope.

K6RM: I forgot about the 100--Q threshold for the drawing until I saw your mail this morning. Otherwise, I would have worked a little longer!

KU4V: Tough Contest. My skip most times was never below 1200 miles, so 3/4 of the US states I never heard. The SA stations could hear all the US and were racking up big contact numbers - [sigh].

NV4A: I only got about 4 or 5 hours to spend on the contest ...but at least the propagation was awful :-). Fri. night it was MN and TX. Sat. wasn't much better. When I first turned the rig on, the ONLY station I heard was N2TU! I worked a couple of ZLs and a VK, but could hardly hear anything in central or south America. Operated a little while Sun., and things were a bit better, but not much.

W2ZV: I decided to get serious about the 10 Meter contest. For me, serious means putting up a wire loop for 10 meters in the attic (6' tall by 12 feet wide, stapled to support beams, with vertically polarization) on Friday

(Continued from page 2)

morning. Got on the air a little after 7 pm, and spent a total of 20 hours in the shack. Worked the east coast Friday, the west coast Saturday and Sunday, and worked the E-Skip Sunday night, finishing up all the new England states in "1" land. My computer hard drive froze up Saturday night, but I was using paper logs with computer just as a backup/dupe check, so I quickly make a dupe sheet and kept on with no problems. My closest state worked was Florida. I heard neighbors in NC (WW4CP) and SC (W4YCC) but they were in "hunt and pounce" mode (like me) and did not stick around when I called, and no one at all responded to my 30 minutes of "CQ Contest" Sunday evening when the band went quiet.

2013 Calendar

Looking ahead, here are some dates of important activities for CDXA members in 2013. I suggest you put these on your personal calendar now to minimize the chance of scheduling conflicts arising as we go through the year. If you, like me, don't keep your own calendar, please give the dates to your "calendar keeper".

CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 25-27
ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 15-17
CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 22-24
ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Mar 1-3
Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 8-9
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	Mar 8
Dayton Hamvention	May 17-19
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 8-9
Field Day	June 22-23
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 20-21
Shelby Hamfest	Aug 31-Sept 1
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sept 14-15
CQ World Wide, RTTY	Sept 27-29
SEDCO/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 28-29
CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 22-24
CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 22-24
ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Dec 6-8
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 13-15

2012 Holiday Banquet Recap

The Holiday Banquet/Election was held on Dec. 13th at the Toast in Dilworth. This was our first time at the Toast, and the general feedback has been very positive about the food, the service, the room to mingle, and the atmosphere in general.

In addition to the good food and great company, CDXA elected a new president, Hal Bouton, N4QT, who replaces our long-time leader, Ted, W4VHF. The Club By-Laws were also amended to reflect the transfer of the W4 QSL Bureau to CDXA. Along with the change, Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, was elected as the Bureau Manager.

CDXA Past Presidents were also honored with the presentation of special nametags, and Ted Gouldthope was presented with the crystal microphone shown below as a small token of our appreciation for his many years of leadership.



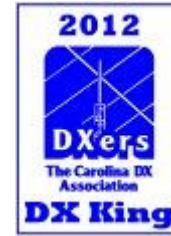
Past Presidents, left to right: Bill, W4WNT (2001-02); Ted, W4VHF (1983-86, 2003-12); Ken, K4DXA (1988-92); Gary, K4MQG (1987); Ken, WA4OBO (1996); Bill, AA4R (1997); Roger, N4ZC (1981-82); Bob, N4PQX (1999-2000)



Joe, K4MD, who was President from 1993-95, and in 1998, missed the Banquet because of illness. Here's Ted presenting him his nametag at a Wed. lunch.



Ted may not be able to plug this mic into a rig, but it'll look fantastic displayed in a prominent spot in his shack.



DX King News
Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: The 2012 competition is over. Don't forget to submit your entry to CQ no later than 2359z, January 31. (There is a contradiction concerning the due date. The rules say January 15 but the web site says January 31. CQ's DX Marathon Program Manager assured me that it's January 31 for this year only.) Instructions on submitting your score are at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Submission/2012/Submission2012.htm>. Check this site to make sure you use a current version of the submission spread sheet. Some of the versions released early in 2012 are obsolete. Email your entry to scores@dxmarathon.com. You must submit your entry to CQ to be eligible for DX King prizes.

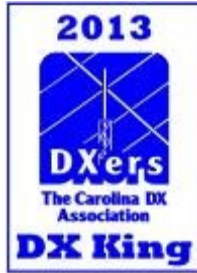
Item 2: The 2013 competition has started. See the announcement in this issue of the Pileup.

Item 3: These are the scores I have for the 2013 DX King competition as of December 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	286	40	326
N4ZC	Unlimited	285	40	325
W2HTI	Unlimited	281	40	321
AA4SC	Unlimited	278	40	318
W4HG	Unlimited	273	40	313
K4GHS	Unlimited	271	40	311
KO4DI	Unlimited	269	40	309
W3GQ	Unlimited	267	40	307
N4PQX	Unlimited	250	40	290
W7DO	Unlimited	240	40	280
WA4DT	Unlimited	240	39	279
N2TU	Unlimited	212	38	250
W3OA	Unlimited	210	40	250
W3ZL	Formula	211	37	248
KZ2I	Unlimited	202	40	242
K2SX	Unlimited	202	40	242
W4UFO	Unlimited	198	38	236
W1AJT	Unlimited	197	39	236
K8YC	Unlimited	191	38	229
NV4A	Unlimited	173	37	210
NK0S	Unlimited	173	36	209
W4WNT	Formula	146	34	180
N4QVM	Unlimited	137	30	167
K1MIJ	Unlimited	140	31	171
K4DXA	Unlimited	108	33	141
K4ESE*	Unlimited	109	25	134



* All 80 meters



Announcing CDXA's 2013 "DX King" Competition

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA will run its "DX King" Competition again this year. For 2013 we will again raffle off a tablet computer.

Our DX King competition is based on CQ magazine's DX Marathon. The goal of DX Marathon is to "work as many countries and zones as possible at least once during the calendar year." This can be inside or outside other contests. Here are some of the main features of the DX Marathon rules:

- Your score is number of CQ countries worked plus number of zones worked during the year, e.g. 348 countries (see <http://www.dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/countrieslist.htm>); 40 zones.
- There are two entry classes (the full rules are much more specific in defining these classes):
 - Unlimited – anything legal.
 - Formula - 10 watts and single tower or 100 watts with verticals and/or wires.
- QSLs are not needed.
- The use of Packet Cluster spots is permitted. No other assistance is allowed in the Formula category.
- CQ provides an Excel spreadsheet for score submission.
- Submit your scores to CQ by January 15, 2014.
- The full rules are at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/>. You should study these before you start making contacts as there are many important points not mentioned here. CQ does say that there are no significant changes from last year but some clarifications have been added for Formula Class antennas.

Here are the rules specific to our DX King Competition:

- There are two travelling first place plaques, one for the Unlimited Class and one for the Formula Class. A member cannot win the same plaque two years in a row.
- Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in the Unlimited and Formula classes.
- For 2013, there will be a tablet computer awarded by a raffle among entrants scoring 150 or more points.
- Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ.
- Any tie score will be resolved in favor of the member who first submitted that score to the Contest Manager.
- Members must score 150 points or greater to win a plaque.
- After reaching a score of 100, members are expected to report their current score monthly to the Contest Manager.
- Scores will be published throughout the year in the Pileup.

There are many tools available to help you keep track of your Marathon Progress. Several were discussed in previous issues of the Pileup. See <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0810.pdf>, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0901.pdf>, and <http://cdxa.org/pileup/Archives/cdxa0902.pdf>.

A lot of our members have enjoyed this competition over the last four years and we are hoping more will participate in 2013. Score keeping is relatively simple and can be almost automatic. And it's another reason to get a large number of QSOs in this year's DX contests in addition to working a lot of DX throughout the year.

...So start working on that country and zone count for 2013!



Win Outback Gift Cards and Trophies in ARRL DX Contest

By Dick Williams, W3OA



The ARRL International DX Contest is just around the corner. The CW contest starts February 15; the phone contest starts March 1. We are again offering great prizes to encourage you to participate and contribute to CDXA's Club Score.

Our scores for the last several years are shown below. The last column shows where we ranked among all club entries in the medium category, 50 or fewer entries.

Year	CDXA Score	Number of CDXA Entries	Rank in Medium Club Category
2007	7,910,718	30	9
2008	11,293,344	43	3
2009	10,157,613	36	7
2010	22,155,432	46	3
2011	26,587,443	47	5
2012	23,932,758	47	4

You can see we have been in the top 10 for the last six years. We want to stay there with a chance to move up in 2012! To this end, we are offering the following prizes:

- First place prizes – Each winner in the following categories can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card. The DXpedition and Multi-op prizes will only be awarded to an entrant whose score is high enough to have won one of the other first place prizes.
 - Top combined CW plus phone score
 - Top CW score
 - Top CW score, low power
 - Top phone score, low power
 - Top DXpedition Score
 - Top phone score, low power
 - Top Multi-op score
 - Top DXpedition Score
 - Top phone score
 - Top Multi-op score
- 1000 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests – Each participant can choose a trophy or a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift Card.
- 500 or more QSOs total in the CW and phone contests – Each participant gets a photo-printed CDXA certificate and a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.
- 250 or more QSOs – Each participant gets a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

An individual can only win one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (meet the 175 mile criteria) as defined in the contest rules can win a Gift Card or a trophy. These rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificates. Prizes will be awarded based on your claimed score.

Let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or need help in preparing for the ARRL DX Contest, and please let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for the Contest.

Dick Williams, W3OA, w3oa@roadrunner.com, (704) 658-0915

Guess Who!

On the Back Page of the last *Pileup*, I asked members to send me some old pictures of themselves and their shacks. Here's a young Novice in his (...and his dad's) shack in 1964. Any ideas? I'll publish his QSL card and current call next month. And do the depressed looking guy and the fellow who looks kind of like Evil Knievel seem familiar????



2012 CQWW CWAC Wrap UP

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA's total score in the 2012 CQ Worldwide contest was just under 50 million points. This compares to our 60 million points in 2011. Our CW score in the two years was about the same, 23.2 million in 2011 and 23.9 million in 2012. The main difference was in our SSB score as explained in the November Pileup.

CDXA again fielded entries in both the CW and phone five-man team competitions.

- Our SSB team, K4LY, N4ZC, W3GQ, W3OA, and W7DO, scored 12,895,132 points.
- Our CW team, N2TU, N4ZC, W3GQ, W3OA, and W7DO, scored 14,673,588 points.

CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) awards in five categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

- Top Combined Score – N4ZC, 7 million 596 thousand points
- Top Phone Score – W3OA, 4 million 781 thousand points
- Top Phone Score, Low Power – K4LY, 2 million 97 thousand points
- Top CW Score – N2TU, 5 million 590 thousand points
- Top CW Score, Low Power – AA4R, 1 million 818 thousand points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. These winners were:

K2SX K5EK KZ2I N4PQX W3GQ W4ZV
W7DO W7WZ

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a certificate and a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were seven winners:

AD4IE K2SD KU4V W1AJT W3NC W3SA
W4TUN

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were eight winners here:
AA4V NV4A K4CEB K4DXA K4UWH K8YC W3ZL W4WNT. K4DXA won the drawing for the gift certificate.

Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the CW contest:

AA4R: Since I live in an antenna restricted neighborhood, I had "small hidden antennas". Struggle with the pile-ups!!

AA4V: The usual Thanksgiving week guests limited my available air time to 6 hours over two days. I operated from 0800 to 1200 local on Saturday morning (10 and 15) and 1530 to 1730 local on Sunday afternoon on 20 and 40. Bands sounded great. Mostly CQing with some S&P. Used K3/ACOM 2000/3 el SteppIR/40M vertical/N1MM....all flawless.

K2SD: Had a great time using my new Elecraft K-line.

K4KAY: I joined the CDXA this month. I put forth a serious effort working CQWW; considering my poor CW skills. I worked the contest more for new countries. I would never be any competition to the high speed operators.

K4LY: Darn cold, headache, weakness prevented my attempt to work 100 countries low power on 40 unassisted with a new 3 el wire beam I put up recently favoring Europe. I was barely able to stay up to midnight both nights and only made a few contacts to Pacific because I stayed in bed except for a few minutes Sunday after 8 AM local. The 3 el certainly works well in its favored direction- at least 6 db over my dipole which favors east/west. Both are at 60' level. Unfortunately, the 3 el isn't good enough for running with low power. I had 4 EU stations call me in some 30 minutes of CQing.

K4UWH: Sorry I couldn't do more but I have an irritated nerve in my back that makes it hard to concentrate or sit in one place. Omni 7 and a Gap Titan vertical.

K5EK: My son, N4UEZ, operated Saturday night (until the wee hours of Sunday morning) and really hit the low bands good.

K8YC: My Ten-Tec rig has been back to the shop three times now and will go back again. Fortunately, I only paid for the first repair, but I've paid for two shipments and drove the rig over at SEDCO. I got the latest repair returned on Monday or Tuesday before Thanksgiving. I used the 15, and 12m sections once when I installed the rig and the repairs seemed good (just like both of the other times). By Friday night, 15m and 12m were on the blink, AGAIN. I don't think the techs are going after the root cause of this, and I'll talk to Paul Clinton (Service Manager at Ten-Tec) tomorrow about some ideas I have after pouring over the schematics. The Omni-VI+ has great QSK and mates with my Centurion Amplifier in the best way to avail myself of great QSK, but I am beginning to lose patience. It is unsettling to me to have a technology product that is flaky since it creates anxiety as to when it will work or not.

N2TU: I NEED something (ed – antennas) for 80/160!

NV4A: I guess I need at least a couple of things to help my score: a much better (higher) 80m antenna (a 160 antenna would be great, as would a higher tower and bigger yagi or LP, but ...fat chance), and *lots* more energy!

W3SA: Was a fun weekend running barefoot on the 273 ft horizontal delta loop.

W4HG: I'm not much of a contester, but I did get in for the CQWW CW for some fun.

W4TUN: This didn't go the way I wanted. Our daughter gave birth to my first grandchild on Friday night. I told her to keep her legs crossed until after the contest, no way. I told her that I could wait and see the baby on Monday after the contest, no way. So that ate up a big hunk of my contest time. Then I had a computer logging crash. My N1MM logger went down, seemed like it had something to do with the VE7CC site, as the logger started showing that the cpu was full of "spots" and started dropping them, 75 at a time, then it went south. I got it going, but again it ate up a couple of hours. So it's warning the kids not to have a baby during a major contest and hand written logs for the next contest. Hi hi...

W4ZV: Conditions were much better than expected given the CME predictions but still a far cry from Cycle 23. Most interesting QSOs were KG6DX at 1203z on Saturday and 9M6NA at 1507z on Sunday. I don't understand those paths but this is what makes 10 meters so much fun!

W7DO: Something in shack smells like burnt wire insulation and antenna rotor has some intermittent direction indication issues. Always something to do at W7DO!

W7WZ: All search and pounce looking for new countries. Good propagation from this location. Very enjoyable! Murphy often impacts my best laid contest plans and this one was no exception. The rotor stuck on South. My computer keying interface failed to work due to incompatibilities with Writelog, XP and my new TenTec soundcard cable. That aside, it was great fun.

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to the following new members who have joined CDXA since the last *Pileup* was published:

Joetta Parris, N4NPT, 1409 South Shore East, Frankfort, MI 49635, 231-352-7093, aa4r@chartermi.net Joetta is the spouse of CDXA member and past CDXA president, Bill, AA4R.

Tony Lewis, KG4TAH, 4761 Nola St. Ext., Trinity, NC 27370, 336-870-7671, kg4tah@gmail.com.

Bev Ward, WB4MKC, 10577 Robinson Church Rd., Harrisburg, NC 28075, 704-537-8927. Bev is the spouse of Bill, K4IZE.

Hamfest(s) News

The 2013 Charlotte Hamfest™ is coming up on 8 and 9 March. NOTE that that's Friday and Saturday. Lou, N2TU, will be giving a forum on the NH8S DXPedition. Be sure not to miss it! Our Hamfest Banquet will be held on Friday the 8th of March. The details, including the location and time, are being worked out now, but it's time to mark your calendars. The one thing we can report is that Yaesu has once again generously provided us with an FT-950 as our major Banquet prize.



The other late breaking hamfest news is that the Shelby Hamfest will be moving back to the Cleveland County Fairgrounds on Aug 31 & Sep 1st, after 5 years in Dallas, NC.



A Contest Operating Tip from *The ARRL Contest Update*

The following is from the Jan. 2nd edition of *The ARRL Contest Update*, and is printed with their permission. Ward Silver, N0AX is the editor, and he says:

“A reader asks, ‘I thought leaving duplicate QSOs (“dupes”) in a log was a problem - no?’

In paper logs, dupes used to be a problem because they were hard for the log checkers to detect and remove. Thus, there was a penalty to the station submitting the log for leaving them in. (The station worked was not penalized...)

In electronic logs, it's easy for the log checking software to identify and discard dupes. Not only that, leaving the dupes in an electronic log makes it possible to insure everybody gets credit for a QSO since an initial contact may not have been completed or mis-logged in some way. The duplicate QSO may, in fact, be the valid QSO, especially if the duping station called you!

If you think about it the way Trey N5KO recommended in the latest [National Contest Journal](#), it will make more sense. ‘In the days of paper logs there was a claimed score, and then there would be deductions made for miscopied call signs and so forth. With 100 percent log checking by machine, the old approach gave way to a new methodology, where your log starts at zero points, and your score builds with each contact and multiplier as your log is evaluated.’

So there is no reason to penalize dupes - the worst thing that can happen is that your score isn't increased. So definitely leave the dupes in your electronic log - you won't be penalized."

Note: If you're an ARRL member (...and you are, aren't you?) you can login to the ARRL site, and edit your profile to receive the *Contest Update* every other Wednesday via e-mail.

CDXA Ops Help with Special Event Station

Betcha didn't know that hams have a patron saint! According to the October 26th edition of the *Catholic News Herald*, 2012 was the 30th anniversary of St. Maximillian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest and missionary who gave his life in Auschwitz by volunteering to die for another prisoner. Kolbe, considered “the Martyr of Aushwitz”, was a ham who “communicated about the authorities of the time over the airwaves”, according to the *Herald*. A Special Event Station, W4K, was activated in October, 2012 on the grounds of St. Matthews Church, in Charlotte. Local school children were brought in to learn about ham radio, as well as the life of St. Maximillian. Both CDXA and MARS were represented by members who operated the station. The operators at W4K made over 200 contacts, both DX, and inside the US.

Here's Cliff, W3ZL, operating to the rapt attention of some young potential hams, while George, W4GEH, looks on.



Good work guys, and thanks to all who participated. Let's hope some interest in ham radio was sparked by the students seeing Cliff and crew in action.

K4BVQ Inducted into the A-1 Operator Club

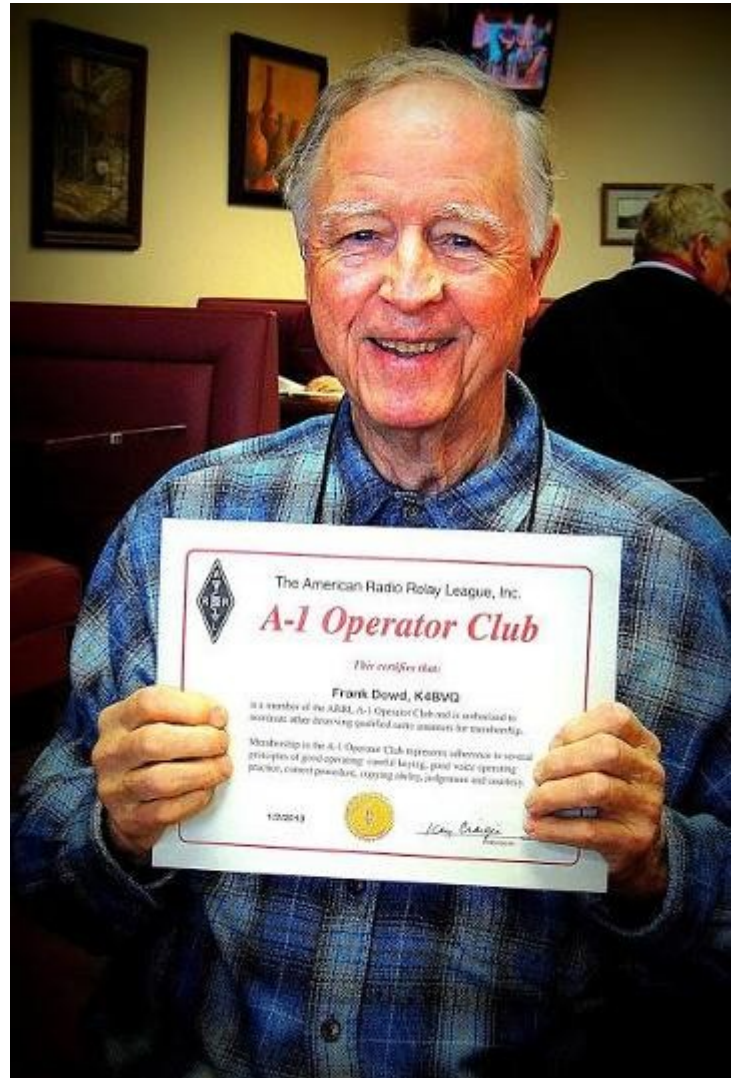
Frank Dowd, K4BVQ, was recently invited to join the ARRL's A-1 Operator Club. Getting into the A-1 Operator Club is a little more complicated than just having passed your Extra Class 20wpm exam, and spending a few years pounding brass.

The ARRL Web Site has this to say:

“First organized in May 1933, the ARRL A-1 Operator Club has a proud history and occupies an important place in Amateur Radio tradition. Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, announced its formation with these words in July 1933 *QST*: Are you an A-1 Operator? Excellence in stations has often been emphasized. Yet, station performance, equipment, adjustment, etc., are but part of the story. The *operation* of the equipment, knowledge of procedure, and general communications technique are of very great importance in determining the results of any station. To bring attention to *good operating* as a paramount issue, and to give it something of the importance it deserves we are this month announcing in these columns the launching of a *club for A-1 operators*. “

Getting into the A-1 Operator Club requires being nominated by two club members who find the nominee qualified to be a member of this elite group. Note that the A-1 Ops Club membership is based on ON-AIR operating proficiency.

Congratulations to Frank on his achievement.



Frank showing off his new membership certificate



Frank; Gary, K4MQG; Frank Dowd Jr., Frank's son; and Ann Dowd, Frank's wife

The Back Page

- Happy New Year. There's no shortage of things going on, as you can see as you page through this issue of the *Pileup*.
- First, and foremost, we have a new president, Hal Bouton, N4QT, who gives us a brief introduction on Page 1.
- We also are now officially the W4 QSL Bureau, and Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, is taking the reins of the Bureau.
- There's a review of the tentative final results of the DX King Contest showing K5EK at 326 points, and K4ZK at 325! If you're entered in the Contest, don't forget to forward your score sheet to CQ by 31 Jan. The rules for the 2013 DX King Contest are also explained, so start piling up those countries and zones now!
- The 10 meter contest didn't generate nearly as many points as last year. Maybe there really is something to this propagation thing.
- In case you somehow didn't get one of the little Contest and Event Schedule cards that Dick, W3OA passes out before the beginning of every year, there's a recap of 2013 upcoming events on Page 3.
- There's even more contesting news, with an article about the upcoming ARRL International DX Contest, and a summary of the results of the annual CWAC competition.
- You can read about ham radio's patron saint (!) on Page 10, and check out the A-1 Operator Club membership earned by Frank Dowd, W4BVQ on Page 11.
- ...and the Holiday Banquet was a big hit. The new venue, The Toast in Dilworth, worked out really well, the food and service were great, and, as always, it was great fun to see and talk to everyone.
- *And a request:* As I've asked before, PLEASE send me some pictures, tintypes, or whatever of your young selves, and/or your old stations. Also, if you have ANY article ideas, or better yet, actual articles, please, please, send them to me.

73, John, NV4A

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First Class Mail

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