

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### The 2013 Hamfest...

...Is over. For the first time, MARS/W4BFB held the Hamfest on Friday and Saturday, instead of Saturday and Sunday. The new format worked well, with good attendance on both days.

We had lots of people come by the CDXA booth, shown here being manned by Paul, AD4IE and Tim, W4YN during a brief lull in traffic.

We had some new members sign up, and we sold lots of raffle tickets for the Nexus 7 tablet computer, which Ted, W4VHF, won. Congratulations, Ted!



Gary, K4MQG, had the following to say about the W4 QSL Bureau and Card Checking booth (picture below): "Saturday morning was busy at the Hamfest Table devot-

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

ed to the QSL Bureau and DX Card checking. Paul, W3GQ, our new Bureau manager, was busy with W4/K4 QSL bureau chores while K4CIA, K4DXA and I were busy checking QSLs for various ARRL Awards. There were 14 different DXCC applications with a total of 526 DX QSLs and 3 WAS applications. This was the first Hamfest in many years that there were no VUCC applications. The card checking booth at the Hamfest is always a gathering place for the DXers. Being located next to the CDXA and ARRL Hamfest booths always helps draw the DXers. As always there was a lot of good DX chatter and chatting with old friends. Fortunately all the card checking was over by Noon and that gave us a chance to see the forum on Swains Island."



In addition to the Swains Island DXpedition forum, presented by Lou, N2TU and Joe, AA4NN. CDXAers also presented some other great forums.

Dennis, K7BV, talked about his VHF "rover" trip during which he activated lots of rare Grid Squares.

(Continued on page 2)

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dx.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)

Bill, W4ZV, led a forum on Summits on the Air (SOTA), which included showing off some QRP rigs suitable for backpacking up a hill or mountain. Read more about SOTA at <http://www.sota.org.uk/>.

Tim, W4YN, talked about the use of Software Defined Radio (SDR) USB dongles designed to be used for tv reception, as the basis for a general purpose SDR. The dongles cost only about \$20, and there's free software available to convert them to general purpose VHF receivers. They can even be converted to work on HF, with additional circuitry. Tim suggests the SDR dongles as a way to get computer savvy young people interested in ham radio, since crystal radios just don't do it anymore.

If you would like to provide feedback on your impressions about the hamfest, go to <http://goo.gl/rTGvY>, and fill in the survey form.

## 2013 Hamfest Banquet

We had a change in venue and day for the CDXA Hamfest Banquet as well. The Banquet was held at Afton Tavern near the Hamfest on Friday March 8. We had about 90 people in attendance. Everyone seemed to agree that dinner was good and the dessert was excellent, as was the conversation.

Some of the highlights of the evening included:

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
Copyright 2013

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](mailto:jcw53@cornell.edu).

Presentation by Dennis Bodson, W4WPF, ARRL Roanoke Division Director, and Bill Morine, N2COP, North Carolina Section Manager, of ARRL's prestigious Hiram Percy Maxim Award to Derek Brown, W4DTB : Quoting from the ARRL website, "The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award is given annually to a licensed radio amateur under the age of 21. The nominee must be a current ARRL member. The nominee's accomplishments and contributions to

both the community of Amateur Radio and the local community should be of the most exemplary nature." Be sure to have a look at Derek's Youth Amateur Radio Club of

America (YARCA) website at [www.yarca.org](http://www.yarca.org). As stated on the website, YARCA "is an organization dedicated to promoting youths in Ham Radio. " It's a very interesting and informative site. We hope to have an interview with Derek for the April *Pileup*. and here's Dennis, W4WPF, with Derek holding his new award.



Raffle for the Grand Prize, a Yaesu FT-950 generously provided by Yaesu: The winner was Eric Sossoman, K4CEB.

Here's Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, from Yaesu, who's also a CDXAer, talking to Eric about his new radio.



Finally no CDXA event would be complete without John (aka "Mr. Lucky"), K8YC, winning something major: In this case it was the Nexus 7 tablet given away at random (?) to one of the CDXA DX King competitors. See Dick's DX King Report on Page 5 for a picture of John getting up to claim his prize.

## 2013 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The 2013 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 up quite a bit from last year - 28.2 million points this year vs. 24.8 million last year. Our score in the CW portion went up from 13.5 million last year to 14.4 million this year. In the SSB portion we went from 11.2 million points last year to 13.8 million this year. In 2012 we placed fourth in the Medium Club competition. So I'm optimistic we will place high again when QST publishes the results of the 2013 Club competition.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to the ARRL to contribute to our Club score. ARRL will send you an email confirming receipt. If you didn'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 19th for CW and April 2nd 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: K5EK, Ed, 4,219,185 points.

Top CW Score: K2SX, Dennis, 2,643,288 points

Top Phone Score: N4ZC, Roger, 2,497,968 points

Top CW, Low Power, Score: AA4R, Bill, 636,174 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: K4FS, Gary, 363,312 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:

AA4V, Steve   K2SD, Scott   K4NC, Mark   K7BV, Dennis   W3GQ, Paul   W3OA, Dick   W3ZL, Cliff

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

AD4IE, Paul   K1MIJ, Wilson   K4DXA, Ken   KU4V, Wayne   N2TU, Lou   NV4A, John   W4WNT, Bill

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 five winners in this category:

K4KAY, Earl   W3SA, John   W4ZV, Bill   W7WZ, John   WW4DD, Bill

KU4V won the raffle for \$25 Outback Steak House Gift.

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

*(continued on page 4)*

AA4R: In a restricted antenna development In Pinehurst, NC. Icom IC-7000, Cushcraft R-5 Vertical, 40/80 mini dipole at 20 feet.

K5EK: It was a good contest - strange conditions - very loud and clear signals on Friday night on 40, 80 and 160 meters - quite surprising. 10 Meters was tough - nil on Saturday to speak of and there was lots of DX today, but all very weak signals. All in all a fun event.

W4ZV: I was undecided between 10 and 160 until early in the week but a combination of events steered me back to Topband. ARRL DX has become my favorite 160 contest because the band is not so cluttered with W/VE CQers who cannot hear the DX underneath them. Conditions were generally quiet Friday night with some periods of crackling ionospheric noise from due North on Friday night (Aurora?). Fortunately I could switch from my phased 45 degree EU Beverages to a single 70 degree Beverage which rejected that noise while still receiving Europe OK. Around 08z Saturday morning we had a cold front move in with some sleet which caused precipitation static. That cleared during the day Saturday but then we had another round of precipitation noise from a howling snowstorm right at my 23z sunset Saturday. Fortunately that one didn't last but about an hour and the remainder of the second night was quiet with the exception of occasional big crashes from lightning off the East Coast. Conditions seemed well down Saturday night (or else there were not many EUs remaining that needed NC).

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

K2SX: I dislike SSB contests to begin with. Then, I came down with pneumonia on Mon. which put a further damper on things. No chance to fix my 20M delta loop or add a 10M one. Such is life.

K4DXA: Was fun but had to quit early Sunday for cleanup for dinner with my Brother and friends also did not stay up real late and over slept Sun am till 7:30. At least I got my first and least goal!

K4FS: I just joined the club a week or two ago. I participated in the competition yesterday. This is my 3rd year so I don't have a big score but hope it helps the club's point average on a positive side.

K7BV: Phone-yuck-especially with low dipoles.

NV4A: Only made three contacts on 75 before the antenna went crazy. It has a ferrite choke rated for a kw. I think maybe now that should be it *had* a choke. It's a multi-band folded dipole. It actually does (did) pretty well on the higher frequency bands, just too low for good results on 80, and waaaay too low for 160. I tried to take it down a few weeks ago to figure out how to get it higher ...but the support lines are completely grown into the trees on both ends, and in the middle. Gonna be fun to get it down in one piece.

W4WNT: Strange propagation this weekend! Operating from Oak Island.

## W4GRW First in 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest Hilltopper Category

The 2012 CQ WW VHF Contest was held over 27 hours starting at 1800 UTC on July 21. There are multiple categories, but the "Hilltopper" Category restricts participants to QRP and only six consecutive hours of operation. Location and timing are obviously important. As CQ says in its results article "...W4GRW found a good location in EM86 and picked the right six-hour period (the first six) to win the Hilltopper category." Bill's score was the second highest ever posted in the Hilltopper category. Bill also holds the all-time North American record in the 2m single-op category, based on his score in 2003. Congrats to Bill. In the Club Competition, CDXA scored 9th in the US.

## Happy St. Patrick's Day

As this is written, St. Paddy's Day is just a couple of days away, so by the time you read it, it will probably be too late to issue my usual "Don't Drink the Green Beer" warning. But, in the Irish spirit, here's a dirty limerick:

There Once was a Dog from Pawtucket  
Who Liked to Dig Dirt By the Bucket  
But When it Would Rain  
He Wore a Brown Stain  
On His Coat From the Mud That Would Muck it.



## DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: We held the drawing for the 2012 DX King prize at our Hamfest Dinner. This was the raffle for the 10 inch tablet computer offered for scoring over 150 points in 2012. John, K8YC, won the raffle (again!) Notice that John, clutching his four leaf clover, looks happy, but not necessarily surprised.

Item 2: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 3 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 3: Here are the scores for the 2013 DX King competition I have as of February 28:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	233	40	273
K7BV	Unlimited	226	40	266
W4HG	Unlimited	204	40	244
W3GQ	Unlimited	172	39	211
K4GHS	Unlimited	171	37	208
W3ZL	Formula	150	31	181
K2SX	Unlimited	139	35	174
K4NC	Unlimited	124	33	157
W3OA	Unlimited	114	31	145
NV4A	Unlimited	112	29	141
K4DXA	Unlimited	102	30	132



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.

### And Back to St. Paddy's Day, Some Important Questions (And Answers)

- ◆ Why do people wear shamrocks on St. Patrick's Day? (Real rocks are too heavy!)
- ◆ What happens when a leprechaun falls into a river? (He gets wet!)
- ◆ What's Irish and left out on the lawn all summer? (Paddy O'Furniture!)
- ◆ And finally, this one's for John Scott: Why can't you iron a four-leaf clover? (Because you shouldn't press your luck!)

## DXpedition to Wake Atoll Announced



Lou, N2TU, will be leading an intrepid team of DXpeditioners to Wake Atoll this coming October. The team will include three CDXAers. In addition to Lou, Joe, AA4NN, and Dick, W3OA, will be going along. The Press Release, which you can read in its entirety on the CDXA website, says in part:

“This operation is a Commemorative DXpedition in that it combines a DXpedition and a commemoration of an event. 98 civilian contractors working for Morrison-Knutsen lost their lives on the atoll in October 1943. The group has been named the “Forgotten 98”. Our operation, observing the 70th anniversary of their deaths, will be dedicated to keeping their memory alive and honoring their sacrifice.

Wake ranks number 15 in Club Log's Most Wanted Entities. A highly experienced team of 12 operators is being formed. They plan to operate five stations over a 14 day period, 160 to 6 meters on all modes ....

...access is extremely limited and the time frame is dictated by transportation issues. As such, official dates have not been set but will be announced as soon as possible. “ Since the initial press release, the team has been granted the callsign K9W.

The team has received donations from CDXA and INDEXA (see the photo of Gary, K4MQG, INDEXA President, presenting a check to Lou and Dick with Bill, W4UNP looking on), as well as others. Check out their website at [www.wake2013.org](http://www.wake2013.org) for all the latest details.



## Welcome New Members

It's been a good month for new members, both before and during the hamfest. We're happy to welcome:

**W4DTB, Derek Brown**, 104 Beechridge Ct., Chapel Hill, NC 27517, 919-338-2560. Derek is this year's ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Award winner. See Page 2 of this issue for details.

**N2COP, Bill Morine**, 101 Windlass Dr., Wilmington, NC 28409, 910-452-1770, [n2cop@arrl.org](mailto:n2cop@arrl.org). Bill is our ARRL North Carolina Section Manager. He keeps us up to date on what's happening in the North Carolina section at [www.ncarrl.org](http://www.ncarrl.org) and on Facebook at NC ARRL.

**K4NC, Mark Arrington**, 14821 Beckenahm Rd., Charlotte, NC 28227, 704-614 9453, [markparrington@bellsouth.net](mailto:markparrington@bellsouth.net). ...Nice call Mark!

**K4FS, Gary Ackerman**, 640 Laurel Heights Ln., Tryon, NC 28782.

**N9OH, Steve Woodruff**, 2520 Rivertowne Pkwy., Mt. Pleasant, SC 29466, 224-513-9663, [steve@n9oh.com](mailto:steve@n9oh.com).

**W4ACW, John Surace**, 9511 Rollins Rd., Waxhaw, NC 28173, 704-292-0534, [trooper1961@hotmail.com](mailto:trooper1961@hotmail.com).

**N2ZZ, Jim Boehner**, 525 Barnwell Ave. NW, Aiken, SC 29801, 803-641-9140, [jboehner@DueSouth.net](mailto:jboehner@DueSouth.net).

**NC4ON, Stefan Colle**, 7177 Seagrass Circle, Denver, NC 28037, 704-489-6513, [scolle@msn.com](mailto:scolle@msn.com). Stefan is originally from Belgium, where his call was ON1CLE, before moving to North Carolina, and taking the very appropriate call NC4ON.

## The Wayback Machine

Either no one recognized that both of the “olden day” pictures in the February *Pileup* (<http://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1302.pdf>) were of Ken, K4DXA, or ...no one looked at them??? Remember, we're still looking for pictures of members and their shacks from their younger days.

And now on to what was happening in the *Pileup*...

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

## Ten Years Ago in the Pileup:

The 2003 Officers, elected at the Holiday Party, were John Scott, Editor; Bob Burton, VP; Jim Miller, Sec.-Treasurer; Ted Goldthorpe, President; Joe Simpkins, Cluster Manager.; and Paul Sturpe, Assoc. Cluster Manager. Thanks to some persuasion on the part of Ted, W4VHF, CDXA also got a new Webmaster: Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW. *Wayne: Thanks for continuing to do a great job as Webmaster!*

In the January 2003 *Pileup*, John Scott completed his very informative series on packet switching. The series still makes interesting reading if you're interested in the "magic" behind the internet.

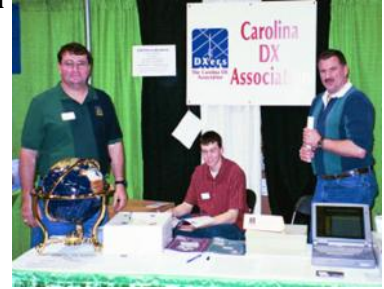
Also in the January issue, with a follow-up in the February edition, there were articles on using "H Double Bay antennas for Contest Diversity" by Ron Bailey, AA4S. Ron shows favorable comparison with his "big" yagis and LPs, and it's another set of articles that are still worth a read.

Propagation was great in 2002, and the *Pileup* announced that four CDXAers made the DXCC Honor Roll during 2002: Bob Burton, N4PQX; Ken Boyd, K4DXA; Arlin Wilson, K4QVK; and Kent Miller, K4MK.

John Scott, K8YC, also has an article in the Feb. *Pileup* that still makes good reading. It's entitled "Greyline – Black Magic or What?" and discusses one theory of what's happening with propagation at dawn and dusk, based on a book by Les Moxon, G6XN, entitled HF Antennas For All Locations, which was published by the Radio Society of Great Britain.

The January *Pileup* reported that Logbook of the World (LOTW) was in Alpha testing. Early reviews were very positive. As reported in the March "Hamfest Edition" of the *Pileup*, Wayne Mills, N7NG of the ARRL held a forum and updated us on the status of LOTW. In addition to explaining how LOTW would work, and its security features, he announced that it was about to go into Beta testing. *Ed. Note: As of Mar. 16, 2013, a total of 486,262,633 QSOs are in LOTW, resulting in 68,589,335 QSLs (over a 14% "hit rate.") There are over 56,000 users.*

Also in the March *Pileup* was this picture of Bill, W4GRW, with his son Josh, and an unidentified friend of Bill's manning the CDXA booth at the 2003 Hamfest.

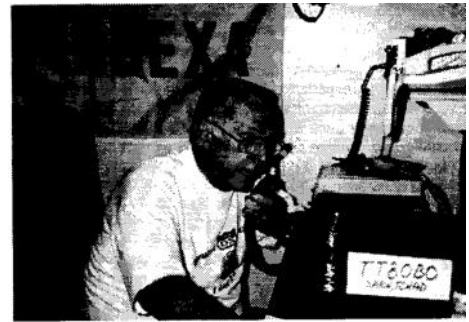


The CDXA Hamfest Banquet had 65 attendees, and was held at the Red Rocks Bar, Bakery and Grill.

## Twenty Years Ago in the Pileup

Newly elected CDXA President Joe Simpkins reported the successful start of a weekly informal lunch meeting, with no agenda ...just having lunch together. There were eight CDXAers at the first meeting at Shoney's on Independence Ave. Other officers for 1993 were: Vice President: AA4SC, Ric Porter; Secretary-Treasurer: W4UNP, Bill Jennings; Newsletter Editor: Bill Taylor, KD4IL; Net Manager: Bruce Gragg, AG4L.

Ken Winston, WA4OBO, reported on his trip to Chad on business, during which he tried to operate as much as possible, having lugged a full load of ham radio gear with him. He managed 1100 contacts in a short period, even though his amplifier was confiscated on his arrival in Chad (but returned to him when he left), and during the trip his operations were brought to a complete halt when all his antennas, and anything that was wire, were also confiscated at a police stop. He closes his article by saying that he's going back, and also heading to some other countries, ...so stay tuned for more Wayback news from Ken.



The *Pileup* also included an explanation of the results of the dissolution of Yugoslavia, and the creation of three new entities: Bosnia, Croatia and Slovenia.

## The Back Page

- Another Charlotte Hamfest<sup>tm</sup> has come and gone. The new Friday and Saturday format seemed to work well.
- We had about 90 attendees at our Hamfest Banquet. The lucky winner of the FT-950, provided by Yaesu, was Eric Sossoman, K4CEB.
- A highlight of the Banquet was the presentation of the ARRL's Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award to Derek Brown, W4DTB. See the picture and details on Page 2.
- We have lots of new members to welcome into CDXA. See the list on Page 6.
- CDXAers scored 28.2 million points in the 2013 ARRL DX CW and Phone Contests, a nice increase from last year.
- Bill, W4GRW, was #1 in North America in the Hilltopper category during the CQ WW VHF Contest. See Page 4 for the details.
- In DX King News, Dick reports that ...guess who won the Nexus 7 in the drawing for last year's DX King contestants. See Page 5.
- Be sure to read about the upcoming DXpedition to Wake Atoll, which will include three CDXAers, on Page 6.
- As usual, I'm looking for articles, pictures, anecdotes, etc.

---

**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.*