



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

SEDCO 2013 in a Nutshell



SEDCO 2013 is “in the books.” I wasn’t able to make it this year, and I regret missing the fun and camaraderie at SEDCO, and the great hamfest at TenTec. Fortunately, I got some great help with reporting from John Scott, K8YC (...to cut the suspense, yep, he did win a prize) whose report is below. Carl, N4AA, graciously let us use a couple of pictures from the Oct. 2nd edition of “QRZ DX”. Finally, Karl, W4CHX, shares his impressions of his first SEDCO, and also his plans for the new FT-3000. Here’s what John has to say:

The 2013 version of SEDCO provided the same good fellowship and informative sessions as seen in earlier years. Perhaps it was the wet summer weather, but the trees of the Appalachian Mountains were not quite as far along in color transformation as in earlier years for this years visit. Yet, with a Ten-Tec hamfest that was probably its largest ever, plant tours of Ten-Tec manufacturing, and the forums of SEDCO on Saturday afternoon, this was a

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

wonderful fall event to kick off the radio contesting season.

An informal highlight that some are still not aware of is a group dinner at Calhoun’s Steak House on Friday night at which you can table hop to see old friends before the serious eating gets underway. After the dinner, everyone returned to the Mainstay Suites for an armchair discussion by some well known DXpeditioners on the humorous aspects of DXpeditions that never get reported. This year, a special treat following the fun stuff was a talk by Rob Sherwood of Sherwood Engineering comparing and contrasting the strengths and limitations of some well known contemporary radio transceivers.

A lineup of interesting speakers took us from noon to about 6 PM with something for everyone. There was an informative talk on the magic of QRP operation that opened a few eyes. Dan Henderson of the ARRL provided a sneak preview of the plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ARRL coming up in 2014. Mike, K3RFI, a speaker of the past two years who has given all an education on searching out sources of RFI, was back to provide even more tips and tricks on sniffing out these obscure troublemakers. Dave Anderson, K4SV, provided a travelogue on the 5X8C DXpedition to Uganda, which, while on the equator, was bearable temperature-wise because of its elevation.

(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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Dave, K5UZ, showed how he built his 140 foot tall rotatable tower safely using his knowledge as a Registered Professional Civil Engineer.

Separated by breaks for snacks provided by SEDCO along with handing out some great door prizes, other speakers were Dennis Motchenbacher, K7BV; explaining how Yaesu helped put the Thailand Amateur Radio Society's station back on the air following the devastating floods of 2012 in Bangkok; and Bob Allphin, who talked about the preparations for the Amsterdam Island DXpedition. Bob's focus was on the costs of DXpeditions in the Southern Oceans to places that are only accessible by chartered boats. It is an eye-opener to learn that a large majority of the funding comes from the participants who take time from their work, spend significant amounts of money to go on the DXpedition, then exhaust themselves keeping the operating schedules mandated by demands for QSOs. Did you know that the average cost per QSO for these DXpeditions is usually in excess of \$4.50? Think about that when the OQRS system encourages you to make a donation when requesting your QSL cards. During one of the breaks, five members of the CQ DX Hall of Fame, including three CDXAers, got together for this picture, showing (l to r), CDXAer Gary Dixon, K4MQG; CDXAer Lynn Lamb, W4NL; Tom Harrell, N4XP; Bob Allphin, K4UEE; and CDXAer Carl Smith, N4AA.

(Ed. Note: Thanks to Carl for providing the picture.)



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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 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.

As always, the event wound down with a very nice banquet and some outstanding door prizes. (Ed.: The CDXA-contributed prize went to Patrick Hayden, AI4W. Not only did K8YC win a prize, but so did Gary, K4MQG. There's a picture below of Dennis presenting an FT DX 3000 to Karl, W4CHX, with Karl's comments.) Yaesu and Icom both donated some great radios for the grand prize raffle with proceeds from the raffle being distributed to various worthy non-profit causes helpful to contesters and DXers alike. A show of hands at the event showed a number of first-time attendees this year. If you've not gone to SEDCO, maybe you should be a first-time attendee next year.

73, John Scott, K8YC

Karl Bowman, W4CHX has this to say about his new radio:

"The picture of Dennis, K7BV, and me (also courtesy of N4AA, Ed.) does not convey adequately the excitement and amazement of having won the Yaesu FT DX 3000D transceiver at 2013 SED-



CO. My wife, Gale, K4GGB, and I were considering purchasing a second radio for the purposes of having a rig that she could use to participate in some nets and having a backup radio for contesting and DX. The FTDX3000D will fit the bill perfectly! I would like to thank Yaesu USA and Dennis, K7BV, for donating the radio in support of the W4DXCC/SEDCO meeting and its missions. I look forward to putting the radio on the air and to attending future meetings. Again, thanks to everyone! "

With regard to SEDCO, Karl says:

"I have attended the TenTec hamfest and W4DXCC/SEDCO meeting twice -- 2011 and this year. I really like what both events offer: the factory tour, interaction with engineers, and the flea market at the TenTec hamfest; and, the outstanding presentations and fellowship at the W4DXCC/SEDCO meeting. The forums at SEDCO are on par with those offered at the Dayton Hamvention and its affiliated events, Contest University (CTU) and Four Days in May (FDIM). I am planning on attending future W4DXCC/SEDCO meetings on a regular basis and will encourage my colleagues to attend, as well.

73, Karl W4CHX, Raleigh, NC"



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 3 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the scores for the 2013 DX King competition I have as of September 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	272	40	312
K7BV	Unlimited	266	40	306
W4HG	Unlimited	261	40	301
K4GHS	Unlimited	241	40	281
W3GQ	Unlimited	239	39	278
AA4SC	Unlimited	235	40	275
K4NC	Unlimited	193	38	231
W3ZL	Formula	188	35	223
K2SX	Unlimited	177	40	217
K4FS	Unlimited	155	36	191
NV4A	Unlimited	149	35	184
W3OA	Unlimited	138	38	176
NK0S	Unlimited	135	38	173
K1MIJ	Unlimited	132	33	165
N2TU	Unlimited	128	32	160
N4PQX	Unlimited	118	40	158
K4DXA	Unlimited	114	31	145
W4WNT	Formula	117	29	146
W4CWA	Unlimited	113	33	146
W1AJT	Unlimited	103	33	136
W4UFO	Unlimited	104	28	132
KZ2I	Unlimited	103	29	132
K8YC	Formula	87	27	114

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.

BBQ Last Minute Reminder

Don't forget that the fall BBQ is this coming Saturday, Oct. 12th. Come join the fun. Information and the Invitation form are at http://www.cdxa.org/bbq_2013.shtml. See your call on the CDXA BBQ Pig? If not, you can still sign up.



A Holiday Party Update



Plans for the CDXA Holiday Party, to be held Thursday, Dec. 5th are well underway. You probably saw the note from Bill, W4GRW, CDXA VP, about the difficulty in

finding a suitable venue meeting our requirements, including:

- the size of our group, (we had 90+ attend in 2012)
- \$20-\$25 price point (including food, room rental, taxes, fees and gratuities),
- quality and value of food
- speed of service (buffet seems to be the best fit)

As Bill says, only the Toast of Dilworth has (again) agreed to host us, and Bill is negotiating with them. In the meantime, if anyone else has any other suggestions, let Bill know at wvfisher@gmail.com. In any case, we look forward to seeing you all on the 5th of December.

Warning to Thieves: Stay Away from WW4CP's Stuff!

Last month, the night before the Fall VHF Contest, Chris, WW4CP, put his HF "Go-Box" into his truck, which was sitting in the driveway in front of his house. He locked the truck and set the alarm. His intention was to take the HF gear up on the mountain to give it a shake-out test when he wasn't operating VHF. When he went out to get into the truck early the next morning, he found that the Go-Box, all his tools, and miscellaneous bits and pieces including his laptop and Buddipole antenna, were all gone. The missing Go-Box, housed in a Pelican Case, was home to Chris' K3, his antenna analyzer, 12 volt power supply, headphones, lots of jumper cables and connectors, a VOM, and all the usual stuff you want to have with you because you just know something is going to go wrong when you get ready to fire up your rig in the middle of nowhere. Chris, being an admirably well-organized person, had all the serial numbers, receipts and descriptions of everything together and waiting for the police when they showed up. Also, while waiting for the police, Chris tried figuring out how the thieves might have gotten into the truck. He was sure it had been alarmed, but there was no hint of damage. The first clue was that the alarm wouldn't reset until he'd tried it lots of times. It seems the thieves may have gotten around the alarm electronically. In any case, the police got thorough descriptions of everything, including the fact that Chris' call, WW4CP, would come up on the K3 screen when it was turned on, and that Chris had put a bright yellow "safety cover" over the push button ON/OFF switch on the antenna analyzer. He'd had something bump up against the analyzer in the box at some point, turn it on, and drain the batteries, so that was his simple but elegant solution.

Enter Super Sleuth ... Chris let folks in the club know what had happened. Bill Fisher, W4GRW, has an app on his Nexus that alerts him when new ham radio-related ads show up on Craigslist, no surprise knowing Bill's penchant for cool gadgets, as illustrated in the picture. Bill was sure surprised though, when, a cou-



ple of days after Chris' theft, an ad showed up with everything that had been in the Pelican Case ... and the case, offered for sale. Bill called Chris. Chris called the police. The police called the number in the ad expressing interest, and set up a meeting. Then Chris briefed the policeman who was going to make the "buy" on exactly what to look for, especially the yellow switch cover on the analyzer, how to turn the K3 on and check for "WW4CP", and generally, how to act like he understood radios.

The meeting went smoothly. Everything that was in the ad was there, and according to Chris, the policeman says when he made the guy an offer, the guy said he'd take it, and would even be happy to accept a credit card, undoubtedly so he could steal the card number. Supposedly, the policeman reached in his back pocket, said something like "... Will you take this as payment?" and showed him his badge. Busted! Chris got back his radio, case, general "stuff", and even his laptop, which the thief just happened to have with him. The headset, antenna, and some other stuff haven't turned up, but nevertheless, Chris is a happy camper.

Lessons learned? Keep good records on your gear! Chris had receipts, serial numbers, descriptions, and almost everything had his call on it. Take pictures of everything, including your serial numbers. This also has me wondering about ARRL insurance, although Chris got no push-back from his homeowners insurance company. Chris decided to put a subtle label on the Pelican Case too, just to make it easier to identify next time. Check out the picture. Oh, and last but not least ... if you have any gear stolen, let Bill F. know immediately. Way to go guys.



Graphics, including CDXA logo, were created by Ernesto, N4LED

CQWW SSB Starts Friday October 25

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 five years we have been stuck outside the top 10 – we got back to 11th place in 2011, and slipped back to #13 last year. Let's do our best to get CDXA back into the Top Ten in 2013.

It seems hard to predict the propagation these days, but remember: Areas of the world you hear on Saturday may not be open for you on Sunday.

Last month's Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1309.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest (CWAC.) CWAC is meant to further encourage your participation by offering some great prizes for your participation, including Outback gift cards, trophies, and certificates.

So, please spend as much time working the contest as you can. Every contact helps!

Packet Enhancements During CQWW SSB Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The CDXA packet network will have extra capabilities during the CQWW SSB Contest. You can take advantage of these capabilities with a Telnet connection to w3oa.no-ip.org.

The setup for the SSB contest will be the same one we used for CQWW last fall and the ARRL DX Contest this past winter. The idea is for each CDXA member to send a spot for every station he hears to other CDXA members. This is done with a small program that runs on each member's computer. The program looks for callsigns 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.

I'll be distributing the program and setting up the node the week before the contest. If you'd like to participate send me an email now at w3oa@roadrunner.com and I'll put you on the list to get a copy of the program and detailed instructions. (We will be using the same program we used in CQWW and ARRL contests but I still need to send you an updated database to go with it.)

CDXA Funding for DXpeditions

There's been a lot of talk and a lot of press lately about the staggering cost of DXpeditions. One of the things that CDXA does on a regular basis is to provide funding to DXpeditions.

While we can't help out everybody, we

look at the rarity of the entity, the solidarity of the plan, and, of course, whether or not CDXAers are going along. Our funding comes from CDXA general funds (primarily from dues), from individual contributions, and especially from a fund made possible by CDXAer Frank Dowd, K4BVQ. Frank generously donated his large radio collection, which, since being sold for a total realized value of \$15,600, has provided funds to be used solely for worthy DXpeditions. During the last CDXA fiscal year (Sept. 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013), and the first month of the current FY, here's the breakdown of funds provided:



In the last FY:

\$250 from CDXA funds to PT0S and \$500 to K9W, plus \$1,500 to K9W from the BVQ Fund, for a total of \$2,000 to K9W.

Since this Sept. 1:

\$1,500 to FT5ZM, with \$500 coming from CDXA funds, and \$1,000 from the BVQ Fund.

\$585 in individual donations (thanks to N4APR, K4DRV, WW4DD, KF4NEF, W3GQ, & K5EK), and \$585 in matching funds from the BVQ Fund.

...For a Total over the last 13 months of **\$4,920.00.**

VHF/UHF From Atop the Blue Ridge

(The following is largely stolenerr ...borrowed from the CDXA website.)

The AA4ZZ Contest Team excited a few ions when they returned yet again to the mountains near Boone, NC on the weekend of September 14-15 operating as a Limited Multioperator Station in the ARRL September VHF/UHF contest. The team included, pictured l to r in the picture below, Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, Bill Fisher, W4GRW, Wayne Starnes, KU4V, Dick Williams, W3OA, Ken Boyd, K4DXA, Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, and Ernesto Marquez, N4LED. Team Members not pictured: Roger Webb, W4MW, Chris Price, WW4CP, and John Scott, K8YC.

All preparation work was done by noon on Saturday with antennas raised and transceivers ready to work 6m, 2m (FM, SSB and CW), 222 MHz (FM,



SSB, and CW), and 70cm (FM, SSB, and CW). Could it be that Mr. Murphy would be absent this session? Answer: No, but his presence was soon banished from the premises by some astute hams! Propagation was sporadically good separated by longer periods of calling with infrequent come-backs. Yet, the team kept their souls in the shack and their fannies in their chairs until the final bell at 11:00PM local time Sunday night.

A little of the excitement can be seen in the video at

<http://youtu.be/RNkcNYk23Ws> showing Roger Webb, W4MW, working K5SW in EM25 from EM96 on 2m SSB: In contesting, one often wonders how the operator on the other end perceives a contact—especially if it's a long-haul VHF contact. Here's what K5SW wrote on his posting following the contest about the contact shown/heard in the video: "The surprise was at abt 11PM Saturday when AA4ZZ in EM96 showed up on 144.205 mhz , worked him easily at abt 850 miles—tried with him on 222 and 432, signals were there, but vy weak (I shud have persisted longer for a peak) told them I'd be back on in AM, hopeful the band wud be better, but no NC sigs in the AM."

The picture shows Roger hard at work making more 2m contacts.

On Monday morning the towers were cranked down and the antennas put away to avoid damage from the winter mountaintop winds. Can't wait until June 2014!



WW4CP and AA4ZZ hard at work. (All pictures complements of Bill, W4GRW)

K9W On Hold



From the Team's latest Press Release:

"Due to the U.S. Government shutdown, The Wake Island K9W Forgotten 98's Commemorative DXpedition is now on hold pending a revised schedule.

We will announce new dates for the DXpedition as soon as possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding."

The K9W Wake Management team

The Wayback Machine

This month, we visit the October 2003 *Pileup*, which begins with an article that's very relevant ten years later, as the CQWW Contests, along with our own CWAC, roll back around. CWAC, "Contest within a Contest" had just been announced the month before. We learn that the proper pronunciation of CWAC is "See Whack." Now that that's out of the way, what follows is a discussion by Paul, W3GQ, about how to maximize your score, not just your number of contacts. (*Jumping back to 2013 for a second, note that this may be especially important if your operating time is limited. There have been changes in the CQWW rules, but the basic scoring multipliers are the same.*) Here's a summary of what Paul had to say:

Understanding the scoring will help you use your air time wisely. Remember, the end result we want is NOT the most QSOs, NOT the most Zones, NOT the most Countries, but the MAXIMUM NUMBER OF POINTS!

Here's the way it works. (see <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm> for the full 2013 rules.)

MULTIPLIERS: Two types of multipliers are used.

1. A multiplier of one (1) for each different zone contacted on each band.
2. A multiplier of one (1) for each different country contacted on each band.

Stations are permitted to contact their own country and zone for multiplier credit.

POINTS:

1. Contacts between stations on different continents are worth three (3) points.
2. For North American stations, Contacts between stations on the same continent but different countries count two (2) points.
3. Contacts between stations in the same country are permitted for zone or country multiplier credit but have zero (0) point value.

SCORING: The final score is the result of the total QSO points multiplied by the sum of your zone and country multipliers.

Some important points Paul makes have to do with getting as many multipliers on as many bands as possible. One thing this means is DO NOT forget that you get easy multiplier points for working US stations, even if you don't get contact points. There are three CQ zones (3,4, and 5) in the continental US, so you can get three zones and a country per band without even working any DX! The point is, make as many contacts as you can in the time you have, but be smart about it. Try to work as many multipliers: new countries and zones, as you can on each band you work.

The other big news item in the October 2003 *Pileup* was that ARRL's LogBook of the World had just gone live. It's certainly "caught on". Here are the stats as of October 8, 2013:

523,417,838	QSO records have been entered into the system.
76,093,176	QSL records have resulted.
60,154	Users are registered in the system
90,467	Certificates are active
4,759,216	User files have been processed

The Back Page

- Leading off this month's issue, we have coverage and pictures from SEDCO.
- Don't forget that the fall BBQ is coming up this Saturday October the 12th, and the Holiday party is December 5th.
- We need more participants in the Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) for the upcoming CQ Phone and CW WW contests. See W3OA's articles on Page 5, and get on the air to help us out. Also, have a look at a summary of an article from the October 2003 *Pileup* on Page 7 about maximizing your CQWW scores.
- The latest DX King numbers are on Page 3.
- If you're a fan of detective novels, read about the real thing on Page 4, and find out how WW4CP's equipment was "lost and found."
- The VHF/UHF crew had a good weekend on the mountain for the ARRL September VHF/UHF Contest. See a summary and pictures on Page 6.
- Finally, and as usual, I'm soliciting articles, ideas for articles, pictures of your boyhood shack ...or even your boyhood self.

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First Class Mail

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