



The Carolina DX Association

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Field Day 2014

CDXA Operates From WW4CP/4
Dick Williams, W3OA

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

CDXA put on another fine Field Day effort this year. For the first time we operated from Chris Price's Lake Norman Cabin, WW4CP/4, in Sherrills Ford, NC, pictured here. This year we entered Class 2E (home station, two transmitters, emergency power) and achieved a score of 5,508 points.



Chris was a great host, taking care of the many details needed for a successful operation. And he provided great food. He did this between visits to a hospital emergency room because he was fighting the pain of passing a large kidney stone all weekend. What an outstanding effort Chris. Thank you!

Here's our QSO count:

	CW QSOs	Phone QSOs
80m	119	107
40m	436	339
20m	107	290
15m	65	89
TOTAL	727	825



CW QSOs count two points each, phone QSOs one point, so the total of our CW and phone QSO points is 2,279. Our power multiplier is 2 because all our transmitters were under 150 watts. This gives us 4,558 points. We can add 950 bonus points for using 100% emergency power, attempting to get media publicity, sending a message to our Section Manager, originating 10 National Traffic System messages, copying the W1AW Field Day Message, being visited by an elected official, being visited by a Red Cross representative, conducting an educational activity, and submitting our scores via the Web.

(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)

The two stations were each setup set up for both CW and SSB operation. One station used a Elecraft K3 transceiver with a Cushcraft A-3 tribander and an 80/40 fan dipole for antennas. The second station used a Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark-V with a Mosely TA-33 Junior tribander and an 80/40 fan dipole. Both stations used N1MM logging software networked together.

The 80/40 fan dipole on the K3 was donated to CDXA by Chris Fox of Ni4L Antennas and Electronics (<http://www.ni4l.com/>). After reading the May Pileup Article Chris sent an email offering us any antenna from his web site. We chose an 80/40 fan dipole and he sent us the deluxe version built with Flex-Weave wire and a W2AU balun (<http://www.ni4l.com/hf-2-band-fan-dipole-multiband-antenna-80-40-meters-with-1-1-balun-flex-weave/>). We were all very impressed with the materials and quality of construction. We put it up as an inverted V and it worked great.

Our CW operators were Joe (AA4NN) and Cliff (W3ZL). Joe arrived before operations started and didn't leave until after operations finished. He was on the radio logging QSOs for 15 of the 24 hours. What a machine!

Phone operators were Paul (AD4IE), Tom (K4DRV), Ken (K4DXA), John (K8YC), Alex (KJ4IEC), John (NV4A), Dick (W3OA), John (W3SA), Bill (W4GRW), and Chris (WW4CP).

Ed. Note: For lots of pictures taken during setup and operation, have a look at Pages 6 and 7.

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](http://www.cdxa.com), 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.



Thanks to Bill, W4GRW, for the artistic picture of most of the crew in Boone for the 2014 ARRL June VHF Contest. Bill notes that this was taken during operations, so Wayne, KU4V; John, K8YC; and Paul, W3GQ; who were on the air, are missing. Pictured, l-r, are Ken, K4DXA; Paul, AA4ZZ; Gary, K4IVF; Joe, KI4TZ; Chris, WW4CP; Dick, W3OA; and Bill, W4GRW. And continuing with the artistic theme, check out K4DXA appearing very lonely during his midnight shift.



CQ WW VHF Contest

Our intrepid team of VHFers will also be participating in the CQ WW VHF Contest on the 19th and 20th of this month. They'll be operating as/from W4MW. Let W4GRW know if you want to join in on the fun.



2013 DX King Final Results
Dick Williams, W3OA

CQ Magazine has published the results of the 2013 CQ DX Marathon so we can now finalize the results of our CDXA DX King competition for 2013. The top standings are listed below.

First Place, Unlimited Category: K5EK with 323 points
 Second Place, Unlimited Category: AA4SC with 314 points
 Third Place, Unlimited Category: W4HG with 310 points
 Fourth Place, Unlimited Category: WA4DT with 298 points
 Fifth Place, Unlimited Category: W3GQ with 295 points
 First Place, Formula Category: W3ZL with 242 points

K5EK was also 7th in the U.S. and 11th world-wide. W3ZL was 5th in the U.S. and 16th world-wide in the Formula Class – 100 watts option.

The calls of AA4SC and W3ZL will be engraved on the perpetual trophies for their class and all those listed will receive certificates acknowledging their achievement. (AA4SC goes on the Unlimited trophy because K5EK is on it for 2012 and our rules say you can't win that trophy two years in a row.)

CDXA placed second world-wide in the club competition. This is a repeat of our performance last year. CQ has only been publishing Marathon club scores for two years and we have been second both times.

Congratulations to all our winners. There are still almost six months left in the 2014 competition so everyone has ample opportunity to increase their score for 2014. And here's where everybody stands through July:

July DX King News

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the DX King scores I have as of June 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	262	40	302
K7BV	Unlimited	249	40	289
W4HG	Unlimited	244	40	284
WA4DT	Unlimited	238	40	278
K8YC	Unlimited	223	39	262
W3GQ	Unlimited	206	38	244
N4PQX	Unlimited	202	40	242
W3ZL	Formula	203	36	239
KZ2I	Unlimited	193	40	233
W7DO	Unlimited	191	39	230

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
W4UFO	Unlimited	184	34	218
AA4SC	Unlimited	170	40	210
K2SX	Unlimited	166	39\	205
W3OA	Unlimited	159	38	197
NV4A	Unlimited	159	37	196
K4NC	Unlimited	153	37	190
N2TU	Unlimited	152	37	189
NK0S	Unlimited	131	36	167
K4DXA	Unlimited	114	31	145
W4WNT	Formula	114	29	143
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111

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.



An Old Ham

Thanks to Cliff, W3ZL, for the following account of a young guy's first encounter with the FCC, Cliff says:

My interest in radio goes back to the late 1940's. My brother & I made a spark transmitter from a design in a magazine employing a Quaker Oats container for the coil. Later I sought out ham operators in my area of northern New Jersey & found them in a radio club in Englewood. At my first meeting they welcomed me warmly, particularly since I was only 12 at the time. I was then able to see their stations which ranged from largely home brewed rigs with Zepp antennas up to complete Collins full power with Yagis. Thus I really caught the bug!

In 1953 I had a friend, Gary May, who also had the same interest. With him we determined to get our Novice licenses. We acquired the ARRL literature and built a code practice bread board. Since we didn't understand all of the theory, we memorized the answers in the study guide. In the spring of 1954 we felt ready. We were 14 years old at the time.

The FCC office was in southern Manhattan. We took the bus & subway there from Teaneck, a trip of about one & a half hours each way. No parental accompaniment was necessary in those years. The building was a drab Victorian office building dating from the early part of the century. It could have been used for a set on the Addams Family show. We made our way down the poorly lit halls & elevator to the examiners' office. The examiner was the image of the humorless bureaucrat, a man of about 50 in a well-worn cardigan sweater. We were intimidated! He had us sit at old school desks arranged in a row. They were attached to the floor & had WWII bakelite headphones & a straight key mounted on them.

The code test included sending & copying at 5 WPM. Sending went well, even though we were a bit shaky. Copying was much more difficult. You had to have solid copy for a set time, as I recall. The written test fortunately followed the study guide, including small circuits.

Time was up! The examiner had us place the papers on his desk, barely looking up. We returned to our desks &

Everybody enjoys the Shelby Hamfest. It's the place to be for (...at least a part of) the Labor Day weekend. It's back at the Cleveland County Fairgrounds on August 30th and 31st. Once again, the pre-registration prize will be a Hy-Gain TH3-MK4 tri-bander. You may remember that last year Ted, W4VHF, took home the TH3-MK4.

This year, CDXA will have a booth, and will be raffling off a Lenovo 7" Android tablet. Tickets for the raffle will be \$2.00 each or three for \$5.00.

We are in need of booth volunteers, so if you can help, please mark your calendar, so you're ready to sign up on-line once the sign up sheet is posted.

A New Ham

Eric Sossomon, K4CEB, reports that his son, Nathan, who's 10 years old, is now KM4CNT. Nathan passed his Technician exam in early June. At the same testing session, Eric also passed his Extra. Eric, who has his late father's call, says he knows his dad would have been proud of Nathan. Congratulations to Nathan, a third generation ham!



waited for him to correct our work. Surprisingly it did not take long. Was that because we blew the code? We didn't think we failed the written part.

The examiner called each of us up one by one. The tension was palpable! He finally called me & matter-of-factly said "you passed, get a Notary to certify." Well, you can imagine the relief! Gary passed as well. We had to go across the street to the Notary, a lady with a bandana who looked like a gypsy. We took the document back to the examiner & went home in victory.

You had to wait for the license to come in the mail, which took about six weeks. My call was KN2CZY. We had our crude equipment ready when they arrived & we were off & running! I got my General later that year.

Thanks Cliff! And the rest of you: Don't forget that the Pileup is looking for more stories from those chilling first encounters with the FCC. Send your story to NV4A.

The Wayback Machine

...goes back in time to show you a picture. Let me know if you recognize the location. There will (not) be prizes for all who get it right. ...but I'll at least tell everyone else that you recognized it.



New Member

Welcome to a new CDXA member:

W4ANT, Alan Fitzsimmons, 3238 Wire Rd., Saint George, SC 29477, 330-317-1600, fitzsimmons.alan@gmail.com.

Field Day Pictures



We had a work day the Saturday a week before Field Day. Here Chris (WW4CP), John (W3SA), Cliff (W3ZL) and Dick (W3OA) watch John (K8YC) actually doing something.



Here's John (NV4A), in the red shirt, celebrating the arrival of Ken (K4DXA), with his trailer mounted tilt over tower.



Here's Alex, KJ4IEC, putting the TA33 on Chris' crank-up military surplus mast, under close supervision. A special thanks to Alex, who, even though he isn't a CDXA member, gave us a lot of help during setup, and operation.



Cliff (W3ZL) seems happier than usual running CW stations on 40 meters.



Caution: Engineers at Work. W3ZL and K8YC inspect the A3 prior to getting it on the crank-up tower.



Tom, K4DRV, and Alex, KJ4IEC, team up to make a bunch of SSB contacts.



Former CDXA member Josh (W4WJF) stopped by on Field Day to lend some encouragement. He's on the left. Also in the picture are Bill, W4GRW, Chris, WW4CP, and John (W3SA)



AA4NN seems happy that at least one of his shifts is almost over



NV4A struggling to find "fresh meat" on 20 SSB Sunday morning.



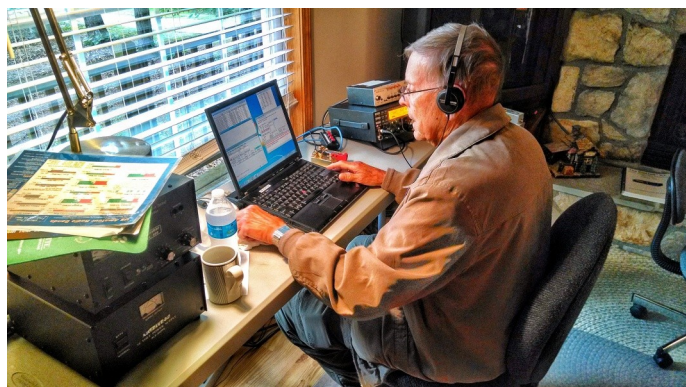
K8YC running hard on 40m SSB



Ken (K4DXA) looks very serious. Maybe he doesn't like being interrupted by a photographer.



Paul, AD4IE, and Alex, KJ4IEC working SSB



Here's another one of Joe, AA4NN, right where he spent most of the weekend, pounding away on the key.



It's over. Dick is taking down his dipole and going home, after once again orchestrating a great Field Day event. Thanks Dick!

The Back Page

- The big news is that we had another successful, and fun, Field Day. Read all about it on Page One, and check out all the pictures on Pages 6 and 7.
- There's plenty of VHF activity going on, between the June ARRL VHF Contest, and the upcoming CQ WW VHF Contest.
- CDXA is going to have a booth at this year's Shelby Hamfest (Aug. 30th and 31st) and your help with booth duty will be appreciated.
- Who says there are no young hams? Read about Nathan Sossoman, who is 10 years old, and is now KM4CNT.
- W3ZL tells us about his first trip to visit the FCC.
- Who knows where the picture on Page 5 was taken??
- ...and did I mention that there are lots of pictures from Field Day?

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First Class Mail

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