

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

October is off to a good start...

It rained on our BBQ for the first time in many years, but our ace planning team (...thanks Cliff!) made sure we had a tent. Although it rained really hard, it didn't last too long, and by the time we started eating, it had stopped. As Hal, N4QT, said at the height of the rain when everyone was under the tent, it wasn't a bad way to bring the club closer together! Chef Ric, AA4SC, and all the members and spouses who contributed food did the usual excellent job. Check out Pages 5 and 6 for some pictures from the BBQ.

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

Everyone who went to SEDCO had positive things to say, none more positive than Dick, W3OA, who won the Yaesu FT-1200. There are a couple of pictures of CDXAers at SEDCO on Page 6. (Thanks to K5EK for the photography.)

The CQWW SSB Contest is almost here. Please plan to operate! Conditions should be good. There's been lots of good DX out there to be worked for the last couple of weeks, and a big DXpedition to Tromelin Island, using the call FT4TA, is scheduled to start at the end of the month, on Oct. 30, going on through Nov. 10. Clublog lists Tromelin as #9 on the most wanted list, so get ready for the pileups. ...And speaking of pileups:

CDXAers operating W1AW/4



Recently, we also had some CDXAers who got to have a taste of what it's like to be rare DX, when they operated their shifts as W1AW/4 as part of the ARRL Centennial QSO Party. I listened in on some of the sessions, and the pileups were HUGE. I'm not sure I've heard bigger pileups for major DXpeditions. CDXAers participating included Wayne Starnes, KU4V; Eric Sossoman, K4CEB, Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV; Tony Lewis, KG4TAH; Ed Kuebert, K5EK; Lou Dietrich, N2TU; Dick Williams, W3OA; Jim Miller, K4SQR, Chris Price, WW4CP; Nyles McKeithan, KS4S; and Paul Ponak, AD4IE. (Ed. Note: *If I left anyone off, I apologize. Just let me know and I'll add you to the list.*)

Check out some thoughts from a couple of the W1AW/4 operators on the following pages.

(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)

W1AW/4 Live from North Carolina

by Eric Sossoman, K4CEB

Special thanks to Tony Lewis, KG4TAH, for the August 1st email on the CDXA email reflector that Nate Moreschi, N4YDU, was looking for operators to help out with the W1AW/4 centennial event from North Carolina. I thought, what the heck, this sounds like fun.



One of the big things I was wondering was if they would let me help out with all the big guns in the club. I sent an email to Nate asking if I could help out. Nate welcomed me aboard and was a great help with a few questions I had leading up to the event.

When the operating schedule came out I not only signed up for the first night, but first two hours on 20m. Boy, what was I thinking? The first night came and I was nervous at first. I've worked several contests in the past, but this was an event for W1AW.

I called CQ and there was no one there. Ok let's try it again, I called again and within a few calls I made my first couple contacts as W1AW/4 from NC. I thought that, well, we're off to a slow start. Then, one of the guys spotted me and within a few seconds the pileup was on. Amazingly, all of these people calling from everywhere were wanting to work ME. I have always been

on the other end of the pileups and now I was the hunted. Everyone was calling me. So I thought, WOW this is going to be fun.

One of my friends, Dave Whiteley, W4DPW; had come over for awhile just to hang out. So he started logging for me, was a lot of help, and we had a lot of fun. We stayed busy the entire time, and boy was it a lot of fun. Over the next few days I worked several stations for W1AW/4 that I needed. Man, that sucks, but I'm working as W1AW/4 and not K4CEB. So you just say to yourself, I'll get them next time and move on. Several times the JA's started calling and after a while I started thinking there can't be anymore left, but there were. I worked BY, HS, HL, VR, ZS, VK, and of course EU countries just to name a few.

All throughout the event, the team members were sending emails whether it was trying to help someone with a computer problems (like me) or even trying to work out times, bands, and modes to help accommodate all the requests we had coming in. If we had a request, everyone tried to make something work. Some people took off work, left early or changed their plans just to help out. This was a great operating team that Nate put together.

When the event, started, I set a goal of working 1000 QSO's over the seven day event.

I hit the 1000 Q goal, so I thought: let's try for 1500 Q's, then: let's try for 2000. I ended up with 1984 Q's, just 16 short. I just worked 23 hrs and now wish I would have done more.

The Pileup

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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.

For me, this W1AW event was a once in a lifetime event. To my understanding the W1AW/4 North Carolina team worked around 35,000 QSO's. Operating in this event was such a big honor, and like I asked Nate, "What's Next?"

Several of the operators, including Wayne, KU4V; met in Greensboro, after the smoke had cleared, to share war stories.



W1AW/4 – AKA The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men

By Ed Kuebert K5EK

Never having been on the DX side of a pileup, I thought that I better prepare for this experience. My son, N4UEZ, created a user-defined contest including some nice CW and RTTY macro files for N1MM, which we both used. Also, I thought I'd learn how to use my K3 backwards – tune the main VFO and keep the B VFO on a fixed transmitting frequency.

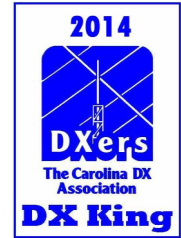
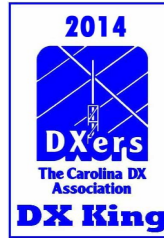


The first time I got on the air was a real learning experience. The practice did little good. After my second or third CQ I went back to old things and started tuning the B VFO. That shifted my transmit frequency, which I quickly remedied by locking the B VFO so it would not move no matter how rigorously I rotated the dial. As I tuned the main VFO for callers I noticed that N1MM Logger would drop out of the run mode and the S&P macros would rule - including the associated macros. So after I tuned in a station I had to make sure the run box was checked on N1MM. After my initial time expired I was able to search the Internet and learn that the key combination Alt F12 would lock-in the run mode. I believe this is now part of the DXpedition mode in N1MM Logger+.

In my next hour things went a lot smoother both on RTTY, and later on CW. Having a panadapter was interesting and facilitated tuning in RTTY stations most of the time. When the pileup was heavy all I could see on the panadapter was a solid yellow rectangle in the calling area. So, tuning in stations was difficult for me. I don't know how Lou, N2TU; seems to do it so rapidly and easily. Perhaps he will give me some lessons.

The other advantage of the panadapter, if you can call it that, is the ability to see your own frequency. Wow, the number of stations calling on my transmitting frequency was a bit overwhelming making it difficult for the calling stations to hear me.

I got through it all, making a bit over 500 QSOs in several hours of operation on different bands. All in all it was a wonderful learning experience and brought a whole new dimension of respect for those who go on DXpeditions. I will certainly do it again given the opportunity.



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 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

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

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	272	40	312
W4HG	Unlimited	257	40	297
K7BV	Unlimited	256	40	296
WA4DT	Unlimited	247	40	287
AA4SC	Unlimited	244	40	284
K8YC	Unlimited	235	39	274
W3GQ	Unlimited	229	39	268
W7DO	Unlimited	219	39	258
N4PQX	Unlimited	213	40	253
KZ2I	Unlimited	210	40	250
W4UFO	Unlimited	209	39	248
W3ZL	Formula	209	36	245
N2TU	Unlimited	188	38	226
K2SX	Unlimited	178	39	217
NV4A	Unlimited	167	38	205
W3OA	Unlimited	161	38	199
K4NC	Unlimited	153	37	190
NK0S	Unlimited	138	36	174
K4MLD	Formula	120	32	152
W4WNT	Formula	121	30	151
K4DXA	Unlimited	114	31	145
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111
K4UWH	Formula	81	27	108

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.

CQWW, SSB, Starts Friday October 24 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 six years we have been stuck outside the top 10 – we got back to 11th place in 2011. Let's do our best to get CDXA back in the Top Ten in 2014.

K5ZD, Randy, is the CQWW Contest Director and a top contester. He gives a presentation filled with tips on how to improve your single operator score. Here's the link:

[Tips on Being a Better Single Operator by Randy, K5ZD](#). The video covers a whole raft of subjects such as station layout, skills development, operating strategy, etc.

Last month's Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1409.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest (CWAC) and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, and certificates.

CDXA's information sharing system will again be operational during the SSB contest. See the accompanying article in this Pileup.

N1MM users are probably aware that a new version, called N1MM Logger Plus, is now out. The older version is now referred to as N1MM Logger Classic. Currently both versions are supported but eventually support for the Classic version will stop. So for CQWW you have a choice of which version to use. If you haven't used N1MM before now you may as well start with the Plus version (<http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>). Lot's of former Classic users have upgraded to Plus and are quite happy they did. However, a number of people have reported difficulties with the Plus version and new updates are coming out almost daily. So if you aren't comfortable being a software "early adopter" I suggest you stay with the Classic version (<http://n1mmclassic.hamdocs.com/tiki-index.php>) for now.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at <http://www.cqww.com/rules.php>. The rules include instructions on how to submit your scores to CQ. Remember to use "Carolina DX Association" as your club affiliation. Again this year **all logs must be submitted within five days after the end of the contest**. That's 2359 UTC October 31 for the SSB contest.

Be sure to send me a summary of your score (w3oa@roadrunner.com). Please include callsign used, entry category, number of QSOs, number of countries, number of zones, and total points. We will post them on the CDXA web site as we receive them.

Please let me know if I can be of any help.

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

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 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 (w3oa@roadrunner.com) and I'll put you on the list to get an email with links where you can find the program and detailed instructions. This year we need two versions, one for N1MM Logger Classic and one for N1MM Logger Plus, so you will need to make sure you get the correct version.

CDXA Holiday Party

Now that we've had the fall BBQ, it's time to think about our next event: The Annual CDXA Holiday Party. Please mark your calendars and Save the Date for Thursday, December 4th for the party!

Based on members' comments and feedback about the previous Holiday parties,

your Officers (with help from the expert, Chris, WW4CP) have done our research, and we're trying something different for 2014. We are excited to announce that we have booked at the City Tavern in the Southpark Mall. The fun starts at 6:30. There'll be more details shortly and an on-line sign-up sheet.



The Wayback Machine

NOBODY identified the handsome fella in the picture in last month's Wayback column. I have to believe either nobody read last month's issue of the *Pileup*, or every-



one figured someone else would have already identified him. Soooo, here he is again. Now, who is it?

New Member

CDXA is happy to welcome new member KE4VVF, Tony Lewis, of 5006 Jane Ave., Charlotte, NC 28269, ke4vvf@gmail.com. Tony, welcome to CDXA.

Some scenes seen at the BBQ



W3OA congratulates Chef Ric on another successful BBQ

K4DXA to WW4CP: So Chris, do you think it'll rain?



Was that lake there before it started raining??



Wayne wants to know if we're giving away any prizes at the BBQ!



The rain stopped just in time for dinner to start!



The Boyd's back yard after the deluge. Pretty place ya'll have there!



Cliff's counting the money ...but who's the guy in the peach colored shirt with the beard standing behind him? He looks kind of familiar.

CDXAers spotted at SEDCO



K4MQG, K8YC, and W3OA, in their roles as INDEXA Officers, presenting a check to Krish, W4VKU for \$1,500 to help with his upcoming DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Ken, K4DXA toasting the end of the rain.

Thanks to you and Bev for being excellent hosts once again!



Here's Lou, N2TU, giving the Wake Island Presentation

The Back Page

- The rain couldn't keep us from having a good time at the fall BBQ. See the pictures on pages 5 and 6.
- The time, date and location of the Holiday Party have been announced, and final details are being worked out. See Page 5.
- PLEASE be sure to read W3OA's information on the SSB portion of the CQWW Contest, starting Friday night the 24th. We need everyone's help. If you can operate, even for a short stint, please help us increase our score. ...and don't forget that the logs are due in to CQ by the evening of October 31st.
- Speaking of October 31st ...Happy Halloween.
- ...and I'll close as I always do with a request for (almost) anything you have that you'd like to see in the *Pileup*.

73, and see you next month.

John, NV4A

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First Class Mail

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