

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

DXpedition Fever

K1N is finally going full tilt as I write this. Check out the picture of the team in front of their transportation (with Lou third from the left ...hard to miss that grin) and another shot of him in the helicopter, along with Craig, K9CT.

Other than the usual “tuneruppers”, those who forget to move their transmitters off the **K1N** frequency, and the Frequency Cops, things seem to be going pretty well, especially since we're in an ideal location to hear them on pretty much any band. Of course, the



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|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| K4DXA | Ken Boyd | 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 |



pileups are MASSIVE and wide, but the team is handling everything very well. Just don't expect to listen to the station they're calling and think that they're going to stick around for you. They seem to be jumping after every contact, from what I've heard so far. There was that little mix-up with the log early on, but that seems to have been resolved ...translated “I have all my contacts in the log!” There also appears to be some deliberate jamming, but the loud **K1N** signal gets through anyway. We wish them well, and hope everything continues to go smoothly, in spite of the very high temps (which Lou should be used to after Swains!) and the “rats as big as cats.” So let's enjoy it while they're there.

Did everyone get at least one contact with **EP6T**? Even without the worst out-and-out jamming I've ever heard aimed at a DX station, they weren't easy to work, with the propagation to our part of the world not being great. They also reported high levels of local QRM associated with the battery chargers from a nearby motorbike rental facility. They couldn't ask the rental company to shut down, of course, and they couldn't move because of their agreement with the Iranian Government. Speaking of which, they apparently got lots of visits from Iranian Government representatives, which slowed down operations. ...and the local power was unreliable. Twice when I was trying to work

(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)

them, the signal just disappeared. Unfortunately, on top of that, a *lot* of stations decided that if EP6T wasn't going to talk to them, they weren't going to talk to anybody. There was often full-time S9+ jamming, not accidental calling on the DX frequency, not tune ups, not frequency cops, but true jamming. There were some steady carriers, and more with high speed dits. Others were sending "EU" over and over. Gosh, I wonder where these folks were? The last full day the EP6T team was on the air (Jan. 26th) I heard them on 15 CW, louder than they had been the entire DXpedition. Oh boy, now's my chance to add another band to the one, and only one, that I had managed to get. Nope, just as soon as I got started, the jamming started, and was worse than ever. In fact, the operator apparently finally gave up and went away. This was met with a cacophony of "HI"s on their frequency. The bad guys had won that one! One positive, and very nice note: EP6T uploaded their logs about once a day to LoTW during their operation. There was no question of being in the log. With all the problems, I'm sure the team of very good operators was happy to get home!

Mostly overlapping the EP6T effort, there was also a group in The Gambia, operating as **E5X**. Navassa is #2 on the 2014 Clublog Most Wanted list, Iran is #38, and The Gambia ...it doesn't show up until #192. I, of course, needed it anyway. Funny thing, there wasn't much jamming, not even much tuning up on their frequency, well-managed pileups, and they also uploaded to LoTW daily.

Back to the interference problem which seems to keep

getting worse and worse. There have been so many articles and comments about the problem that it doesn't do much good to say it all again. The K1N team is trying to pinpoint some of the sources of the deliberate QRM against them. Here's what they have to say: "Deliberate QRM is at expected levels; you are encouraged to fill out a DQRM report to help isolate the location of those transmitters. ...you can go directly to www.dqrmreport.com and file there." Finally,, I can't resist adding the thought that maybe the IARU should consider asking member countries to give psychological questionnaires to potential hams to detect anti-social behavior...just sayin'.

The 2015 CDXA Hamfest and Banquet

The Charlotte Hamfest will be back at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center again this year on Friday and Saturday Mar 13 and 14. See www.charlottehamfest.org for details. CDXA will have a booth, and we'll have our "traditional" raffle. Tickets are \$2 ea. and \$5 for three, and we're raffling off a 7" Toshiba Windows tablet. There will be an e-mail out shortly asking for booth volunteers.

The CDXA Hamfest Banquet will be held Friday March 13. We'll be back at the Afton Tavern in Concord, just off exit



54 and I-85 near the YMCA, about 12 miles from the Hamfest. Cocktails and socializing begin at 6:45, and a buffet dinner starts at 7:30, so you can spend time at the Hamfest, and still make it to dinner to brag about whatever jewel you nabbed for a terrific price. Speaking of price, the Banquet price is \$25 per person, *including* tax and tip, payable at the door. An email announcing that the RSVP form is on the website will be out shortly.

New Members

CDXA welcomes new members KK4HOK, Charles Comerford, 955 Wind Carved Ln., Monroe, NC 28110, 980-254-6153, neocharles@gmail.com, KK4LZR, his sister Stefanie, at the same address and phone #, and W3PAL, Andrei Ivanov of 1200 Parris Rd., Rock Hill, SC 29732, andre_biker@yahoo.com.

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.

ARRL DX Contest Starts Soon CW Starts February 20 SSB Starts March 6

By Dick Williams, W3OA

Last year CDXA placed 8th in ARRL's Medium Club Category with 50 entries and 30.1 million points. We were in the top 5 from 2010 to 2013 and want to do that well in 2015. That's why we are offering such great prizes. There are first place prizes in seven categories and participation prizes at the 1000 QSO, 500 QSO, and 250 QSO levels. The details are on page 10 of last month's [Pileup](#) Win a handsome trophy or a steak dinner!

The ARRL's rules are at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. In a nutshell:

- Each contest starts at 7 p.m. EST Friday night and goes for 48 hours.
- U.S. stations work as many DXCC entities as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10.
- We send a signal report and state. DX stations send a signal report and power.
- We get three points per DX QSO. (Canada isn't considered DX for this contest.)
- Your multiplier is the sum of DXCC entities (except US and Canada) worked per band.
- Your final score is your number of QSO points times your number of multipliers.

Don't forget to show your Club name as "Carolina DX Association" (spelled out, without the quotes) in the logs you send to the ARRL.

Please send your score summary (number of QSOs, multiplier, final score) and entry category (single or multioperator, single band or all band, power level, with or without packet) to w3oa@roadrunner.com as soon as possible after each contest. And tell me if you want a trophy or Outback card if you made over 1000 QSOs in the two contests combined. We will publish your scores on the CDXA web site as we receive them. Our intent is to award the prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 13 so I need all scores by March 10.

SPAR Winter Field Day, Jan. 24-25

If you never heard of Winter Field Day, you aren't alone. I heard Bill, W4WNT, and Bill, W4GRW, discussing it at lunch



last month. They were planning an effort by MARS/W4BFB to set up the W4BFB station at the Red Cross building as a contest station and give it a try. The event is sponsored by the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR.) The exchange is straight forward: Callsign, Category, ARRL Section (or DX outside of US and Canada), and local outside temperature (with F or C.) There are "inside" and "outside" categories, and just like the summer version of Field Day, the object is to simulate emergency operations ...but without the bugs, humidity and heat. CDXAers participating in the event included, Bill and Bill, Paul Jones, K4VCF; and Eric Sossoman, K4CEB. Here are a few comments on the weekend from Bill Turner: (and check out the picture on the next page...)

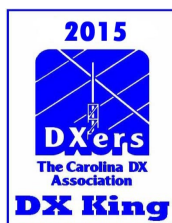
The first effort was getting the club room converted into a contest station which would support digital and phone on all bands. In this event modes are the multipliers, so on a band a phone, CW and PSK31 contact give you 3 multipliers for your score. We had a laptop equipped with FLDigi software for PSK31 and N1MM Logger Plus for keyboard driven CW. At the beginning of the event on Saturday, Bill, W4WNT; and Ray, N4APR; systematically exchanged digital and CW contacts band by band from 6m down to 80m to get the first 13 multipliers in the log. Once the Digi and CW contacts were finished, the focus changed to Phone. The goals for the effort were to have fun, to get 400 QSOs and a score of 8000, and get some of the MARS folks involved in HF. The QSO and score goals were reached by 10PM Saturday night.

In our over 450 contacts, we found folks who took the Winter part of the event seriously. A few were mobile in some cold states up north and others were in the Outdoor category working in tents or fishing shacks on frozen lakes. We were in the Multi-Indoor category and were glad to be indoors in the weather Charlotte afforded on Saturday.

Thanks to all those who participated in our weekend effort: W4GRW, W4WNT, K4CEB, W4JBP, K4VCF, N4APR, KX4MB, K8IP, WB4NCQ, and K4BKM. Special thanks to the unknown angel who turned up the thermostat so our "Winter" event was not as cold as it usually is in the club room!!



Bill, W4GRW, aka "Mr. Organized" briefing the team on Winter Field Day



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win an MFJ-891 Giant SWR/Wattmeter are on page 9 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2015 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of January 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	207	40	246
K7BV	Unlimited	194	39	233
W3ZL	Formula	122	30	152
AA4SC	Unlimited	106	38	144
W3GQ	Unlimited	105	29	134
K2SX	Unlimited	75	25	100
N2TU	Unlimited	45	18	63

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.



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

The list of 2014 DX King Scores in the January Pileup contains a number of errors, all my fault. Here's my corrected list of the 2014 DX King scores I have as of December 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	281	40	321
K7BV	Unlimited	274	40	314
W4HG	Unlimited	268	40	308
AA4SC	Unlimited	264	40	304
WA4DT	Unlimited	260	40	300
W3GQ	Unlimited	256	40	296
K8YC	Unlimited	253	40	293
N4PQX	Unlimited	245	40	285
W7DO	Unlimited	243	40	283
N2TU	Unlimited	238	40	278
KZ2I	Unlimited	230	40	270
W4UFO	Unlimited	228	40	268
W3ZL	Formula	221	38	259
K4FS	Unlimited	199	39	238
NV4A	Unlimited	192	39	231
W3OA	Unlimited	191	40	231
K2SX	Unlimited	186	40	226
K4NC	Unlimited	187	37	224
NK0S	Unlimited	176	38	214
N4GBK	Limited	137	37	174
K4DXA	Unlimited	138	34	172
K4MLD	Formula	136	33	169
W4WNT	Formula	135	32	167
K1MIJ	Unlimited	123	34	157
K4FAN	Unlimited	122	32	154
K4UWH	Formula	98	24	122
W4FRA	Limited	98	24	122
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111

...and now we wait for the official CQ Magazine announcement for the official scores.

News from the ARRL

CONTEST OPERATING TIP

From the January 28 ARRL "Contest Update" Email Newsletter
(thanks to W3OA)

What happens if you enter "[Cut Numbers](#)" in QSO lines of a Cabrillo-formatted log? You'll be hearing lots of them in the upcoming ARRL DX CW Contest, so here's the straight scoop. First, the character string is read from the submitted log. Then...

1. Any instance of W or WATTS are removed from the string.
2. If the string is one character long containing K, it is transformed to 1000
3. Similarly, 1K and KILO become 1000
4. All characters are removed which are not a numeral (0-9), A, E, N, T, or O
5. Replacements are then made: 'A' with '1', 'E' with '5', 'N' with '9', 'T' with '0', and 'O' with '0'
6. If the result is 000, it is replaced with 1000
7. Finally, the resulting set of characters are converted to an integer value for checking against other logs.

FCC "Paperless" Amateur Radio License Policy Goes into Effect on February 17

The following is excerpted from a recent ARRL Press Release. See [New FCC "Paperless" License Announcement](#) to read the entire Release.

01/28/2015

[UPDATED 2015-01-29 1939

UTC] Starting February 17, the FCC no longer will routinely issue paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission has maintained for some time now that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)), although the FCC has continued to print and mail hard copy licenses. In mid-December the FCC adopted **final procedures** to provide access to official electronic authorizations.... The FCC will continue to provide

paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees also will be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager.... the FCC said. According to the [FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB)], the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including the cost of staff resources.

...The ULS License Manager now includes settings that allow licensees to notify the WTB that they prefer to receive official authorizations on paper. Once the final procedures go into effect designating electronic access as the default, licensees can change the ULS License Manager setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document. Licensees also may contact FCC Support via the web, telephone or mail to request paper licenses.

The FCC rejected as "outside the scope of this proceeding" an ARRL argument that Section 97.23 of the Amateur Service rules be amended to replace "licensee mailing address" with other alternatives, including e-mail, for use in Commission correspondence. The rule ...has precluded FCC issuance of location-specific call signs in such areas as Navassa Island (KP1)

Ken, K4DXA

Last, but certainly not least:

As most of you already know, our good friend and CDXA President Ken Boyd, K4DXA, is in the hospital with pneumonia. If you'd like to send a Get Well Card, please send it to Ken and Bev's home address:

Ken and Beverly Boyd

6319 Farmlake Drive

Charlotte

NC 28227

The Back Page

- Ken, K4DXA, CDXA President, is in the hospital with pneumonia. If you'd like to send him a Get Well card, the home address is on Page 5. Please keep him, and Bev, in your thoughts.
- The year is off to a good start for DXpeditions. I just checked the K1N total QSOs, and as of about 1830 Z on Feb 10, they're over 100,000 Qs! EP6T, even with all the many problems they had with local heavy QRM, power losses, 30 visits from Iranian officials, and some outrageous jamming, made more than 68,000 Qs.
- What are we going to do next? ...Well, how about the ARRL DX Contest that's coming up very soon? The CW portion of the contest starts Feb 20, local time, and the Phone portion starts Mar 6. Page 3 has the details. Also check out, on Page 5, some operating tips from the ARRL via Dick, W3OA, for dealing with Cut Numbers in your Cabrillo-formatted contest log.
- It's also almost Hamfest time again. It's Mar 13 and 14. So make your lists, get to the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, spend some time wandering around looking for whatever gadgets and gizmos you need/want, help us out by volunteering in the CDXA booth, buy some raffle tickets for a Toshiba tablet computer, and don't forget that the CDXA Hamfest Banquet is set for Mar 13 starting at 6:45 at Afton Tavern (...the same place we went the last two years.) More details on booth volunteers and an RSVP form for the Banquet will be out soon.
- Have a look at the article on *Winter* Field Day on Page 3. MARS/W4BFB put a team together that included some CDXAers, and had a fun weekend ...mostly, I think, explaining to people what Winter Field Day is.and now we all know!
- Read about the FCC's new "paperless" license rules on Page 5.
- In "late-breaking" news, from our expert on the latest hot technology, Bill, W4GRW, here are a couple of deals:
 - Deal #1
Chromecast owners receive [a \\$6 credit](#) from the Google Play store, so you can enjoy a Valentine Day movie rental, or for Android users, purchase an app or song. [Here's more information](#)
 - Deal #2
Did you miss Safer Internet day? Google users can perform a [simple 2 minute security check](#) on your Google account and receive an extra 2GB of Google Drive storage. Please review this [blog posting](#) for more details.
- We managed to miss the deadline for the January *Pileup* with a "Thank You" to CDXAers who contributed directly to K1N. Included were KZ2I, W3OA, N4APR, WA7RQP, N1GC, N4PQX and K8YC. If we left anyone off, let me know, and I'll give you proper credit next monthand again, Thanks to all who contributed.