

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The 2015 Hamfest

...is over. As always, it was a fun event, with plenty of goodies to look at, and possibly to take home. There were also some good forums, including one by Lou, N2TU, on the recent K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island.

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|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 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 member and ARRL North Carolina Section Manager Karl Bowman, W4CHX, was one of the presenters at the ARRL Forum.



This year also marked the debut of CDXA's new booth, seen above, being "modeled" here by two of our most handsome members. A big thanks to Ernesto Marquez, who created the graphics. (We'll be setting up the booth at more area hamfests than ever this year, including the Raleigh RARSFest, Shelby, and the Spartanburg, SC "Upstate Hamfest.") Our annual raffles this year are featuring Toshiba 7" Windows-based tablets.

The winner of the Charlotte raffle was CDXA member Bob Smith, WR2K. Congrats, Bob! Since Bob wasn't at the Hamfest when the prize was awarded, Cliff, W3ZL, presented Bob with his new tablet at the Wed. lunch.



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

2014 Hamfest Banquet

As always, the highlight of the Hamfest weekend for CDXA was our annual Hamfest Banquet, held on the Friday night of the big weekend. We returned again this year to the Afton Tavern, only a few miles from the Hamfest site. We had a full room, and everyone seemed to agree that dinner was good (..as illustrated by a typical plate from the buffet) and the dessert was excellent, as was the conversation. Speaking of dessert, check out the picture of Afton Tavern's signature dessert,



its Skillet Cake. What a way to top off dinner! For Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, the dinner was really topped off when his name was drawn as the winner of a certificate for a Yaesu FT-1200 (...or the value of a 1200 toward a higher-end Yaesu radio.) Here's Paul being presented the certificate by Lou, N2TU, with Bill, W4GRW, our MC for the evening, looking on.

There are more pictures, these actually showing some of the people who attended the Banquet, at the end of the *Pileup*.

The Pileup

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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.



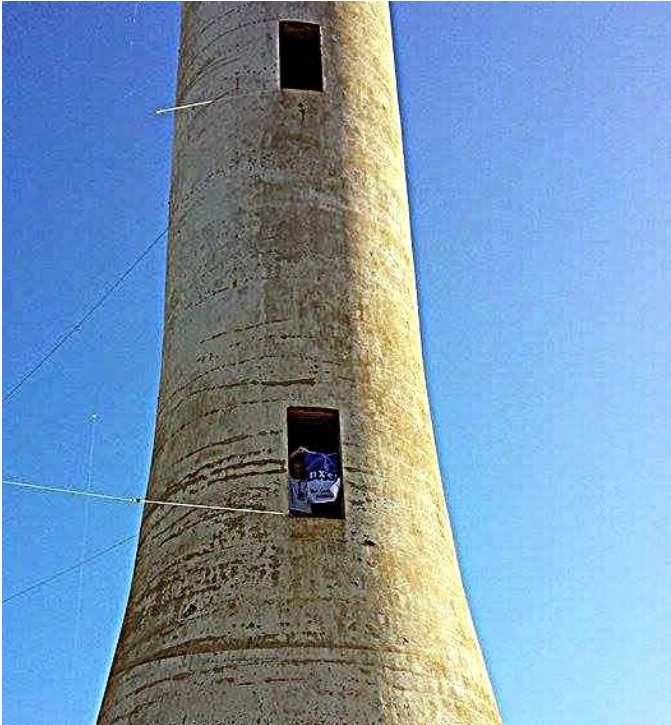
We also had a short business meeting to elect a President to finish off the 2014 term of Ken Boyd, K4DXA, who, sadly, passed away last month. Hal Bouton, N4QT, who had just stepped down as President, graciously agreed to run, and was elected. Here's Hal saying a few words after his election.



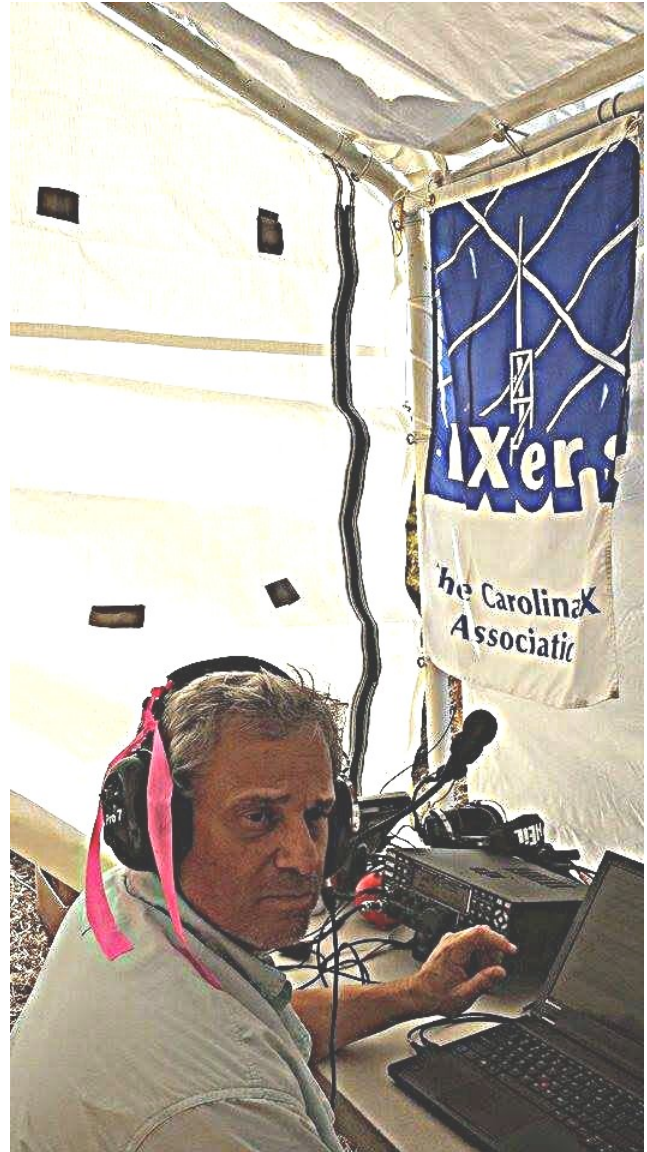
Our Contest Manager, Dick, W3OA, also had some prizes to give away. There's a picture of a the DX King drawing winner, and a shot of Dick "doing his thing" at the Banquet later in the *Pileup*

The CDXA Banner Flew on Navassa

While Lou, N2TU, was on Navassa Is., he made sure the CDXA banner showed up everywhere. Here are a few of his pictures, and there are more on the CDXA website.



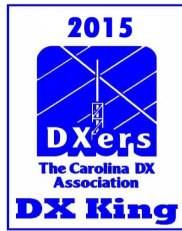
The lighthouse not only made a great place from which to wave the CDXA banner, (...look closely and you'll see Lou's holding the banner) but the 80 and 160m dipoles are strung from the windows. The picture below shows the banner next to the door of the SSB shack.



It may be best to just skip a caption for this picture.

New Member

CDXA is happy to welcome W4CCW, Craig Willis, 214 Sleepy Hollow Dr., Newport, NC 28570, 252-422-3938, w4ccw@outlook.com.



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: We held the drawing for the 2014 DX King prize at our Hamfest Dinner. This was the raffle for a tablet computer offered for scoring over 150 points in 2014. Wayne, W4HG, shown in the picture on the right side of the page, won the raffle.

Item 2: 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 3: Here are the first reports for the 2015 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of February 28:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	232	40	272
K7BV	Unlimited	225	40	265
AA4SC	Unlimited	190	39	229
W3GQ	Unlimited	175	37	212
W3ZL	Formula	152	35	187
K2SX	Unlimited	141	37	178
KI4TZ	Unlimited	135	35	170
K8YC	Unlimited	128	32	160
W3OA	Unlimited	113	30	143
K2SD	Unlimited	103	29	132
K1MIJ	Unlimited	85	25	110
W4WNT	Formula	82	24	106
K4MLD	Unlimited	49	23	72

Item 4: 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.



Here's Wayne, W4HG, with his new tablet computer.

All you have to do to get your name in the pot for next year's prize is to keep track of the countries and zones you work during 2015, and keep W3OA updated according to his instructions.

2015 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up

By Dick Williams, W3OA

The 2015 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 down a bit from last year – 31.1 million points this year vs. 33.8 million last year. Our score in the CW portion was up from 14.5 million to 16.0 million points. In the SSB portion we went from 19.3 million last year to 15.1 million this year. In 2014 we placed fourth in the Medium Club competition. So I'm hopeful we will place high again when QST publishes the results of the 2015 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 25th for CW and April 8th for SSB.

(cont. on next page)

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, 4,578,093 points

Top CW Score: K2SX, Dennis, 3,161,592 points

Top Phone Score: W3GQ, Paul, 1,811,880 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: AA4R, Bill, 1,222,362 points

Top CW, Low Power, Score: KI4TZ, Joe, 832,320 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	W3OA, Dick
K4FS, Gary	W3ZL, Cliff
K7BV, Dennis	W7DO, Gary
K8YC, John	

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 six winners in this category:

AA4SC, Ric	W4LM, Carl
AD4IE, Paul	W4LVH, Loyd
K4KAY, Earl	W4WNT, Bill

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a chance in the raffle for a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift. There were three winners in this category:

N4QM, Dennis	WA2EMF, Bob
NV4A, John	

N4QM won the raffle for a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift.

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

K2SX: Nice condx for my antenna deprived station. Run rates were pretty good although not up to DX standards. Good to hear all bands open on the same weekend for a change. This should help some DX King scores.

K5EK: My 160 antenna broke Wednesday night or Thursday morning and it was very good antenna work weather (very cold and windy). I did try to fix it Thursday, but it was too windy and Friday was both windy and cold. I had 2 QSOs (and Multipliers) from V73NS. He gave no power so I left it blank. Score could get reduced by those items. (And later) ...The contest robot did not like the 2 QSOs with no power reported, so I removed them.

K7BV: Sorry score not so big this year...had HI3TEJ visiting so only 23 hours in the game. *(And he still scored 2,777,064 points – Ed.)*

K8YC: Rig : Ten-Tec Omni VI+, Ten-Tec Centurion Linear Amplifier; Antennas : Spiderbeam (20m, 15m, 10m), Butternut HF2V (40m, 80m)

W4WNT: ARRL DX CW was fun, even though I lost my G5RV to the ice. Operation with an R-7000 vertical for the weekend.

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

K8YC: Spiderbeam was inoperable due to a broken spreader from last week's snow storm. When the 15m section of the R-7000 did not seem to be radiating well late Saturday afternoon, I mounted the Moxon Rectangle atop a 10 foot step ladder, and then 15m came to life for me. The R-7000 worked as well as expected on 20m and 10m for a vertical antenna.

KZ2I: Still recovering from hospital stay or whatever else is making me tired. So, not much in the contest. Actually, I almost forgot about it. Only put in about an hour and a half tonight. Just enough to get my 100 qsos and get a contest pin. Next year...

N4GBK: Part-time participant. Using Carolina Windom ocf dipole and 100 watts. Old ham but new to DX contests. Weather was too nice to spend much time indoors.

NV4A: I had S9 +40 QRM on 20 all weekend, and S9 +20 on 10. ...15, 40 and 80 were fine. I've got to go looking for what's causing this, but of course it's intermittent. Translation: it only shows up when I really need it not to. My amp died Saturday afternoon, and I switched to Chris/WW4CP's "little" 600w amp. (Thanks for the loan Chris!) My amp was working when I turned it back on Sunday am, and when it died again late Sunday morning, I QUIT! I guess the amp will be headed back to the factory soon.

W4LVH: This is my first contest as a CDXA member

W4WNT: Wild weekend here in Oak Island. I used a Buddipole at 30 feet on 20, 15 and 10m which worked out very well. Much better than my bent up G5RV and other wire antennas here. Bouncing off the ocean may have helped also!

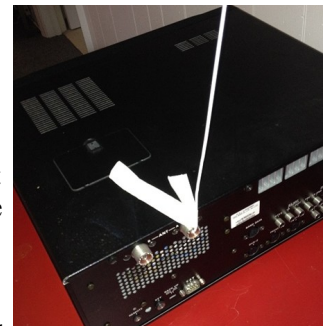
I *DID* work him on a Coat Hanger

Gary Dixon, K4MQG

We have all heard the expression that "*I could have worked him on a Coat Hanger*". Ken Winston, WA4OBO, can now say that he really *did* work him on a coat hanger, after working K1N on Navassa for an all time new one on 10 Meter SSB using a coat hanger for his antenna.

Ken is a member of INDEXA and CDXA, and lives in Charlotte, NC. Ken has been an active DXer for years but had missed all previous Navassa DXpeditions, and needed K1N for an all time new one. Ken had anticipated relocating to a new QTH recently and had stored all his radio equipment. His tower and antennas were also taken down.

On the day before the DXpedition ended, Ken set out on his plan to work K1N. Ken was so anxious to get this one in the log that he went to his rented storage facility, unboxed his FT-1000 and took it home. He had no outside antennas but at the last minute he grabbed



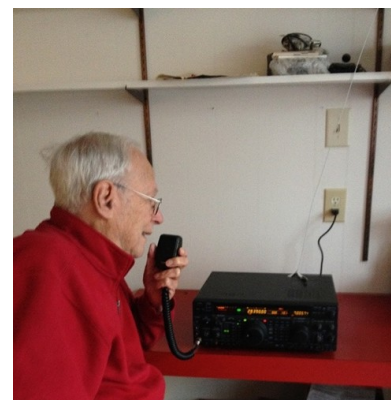
a coat hanger, straightened it out and scratched the paint off one end. After placing it in the SO-239 connector on the rear of the transceiver he went to the 10 Meter frequency showing on the DX cluster, and proceeded to follow the operator's instructions for split operation. In a short time Ken heard K1N saying "*WA4OBO you are 5-9*". Ken replied "*you are 5-9 in Charlotte*" and it was all over. No one but Ken realized the *All Time New One* was really worked on a Coat Hanger.

I just had to tell this story of my good friend and DXer, Ken Winston, WA4OBO, and show pictures of the simple station.

Congratulations to you Ken.

73, Gary, K4MQG

PS. Look closely and you can see the coat hanger going up the wall by the electrical receptacle, and in front of the shelf.



Al Guin, W4ZQB, SK

As reported by Gary, K4MQG, in the CDXA Digest on March 17: “Unfortunately we have lost another friend and long time club member. Al Guin, W4ZQB, 87, a Lifetime Member of the CDXA passed away Wednesday night. Al had a bad fall in his home and just did not recover from complications.

RIP ole Friend.

73, Gary, K4MQG

Gary adds that Al was made a Lifetime Member of CDXA in the late 1990s when he was very active in helping the club set up a Packet relay connecting Charlotte with Atlanta. He donated antennas and equipment. Al owned a company which dealt in packet radio equipment. Gary says that Al “...was a very giving person” who donated lots of packet-related hardware, and was a good friend to many CDXA members.

Ken tells a great story about Al bringing in a 100 foot self supporting tower to his QTH, hauling it mostly intact on a flatbed tractor trailer, and installing it under the cover of darkness to avoid upsetting neighbors or the local government folks.

Happy Birthday Lou

Here’s a “post-Navassa” picture of N2TU. Since Lou celebrated his birthday while on Navassa, we had a birthday party for him at Wednesday lunch on his return.



A few pictures from the Hamfest Banquet



A few more pictures from the Hamfest Banquet



Our youngest member, Nathan, KM4CMT



Paul seems happy about winning the radio

And some scenes from the Hamfest

Complements of Ed, K5EK



The Back Page

- The Hamfest and the CDXA Hamfest Banquet were a lot of fun. Paul, AA4ZZ, was especially happy, since he went home with the Banquet grand prize, a certificate for a Yaesu FT-1200. Thank you Yaesu! The newly re-modeled CDXA booth had its debut at the Hamfest. See Page 1 for a picture.
- CDXA had another good year in the ARRL DX Contest, with a combined CW and Phone score of 31.1 million points. Top Combined Score went to Ed, K5EK, with 4,578,093 points. To see the full list of scores have a look at Pages 4 and 5.
- Gary, K4MQG, tells a great story about Ken Winston, WA4OBO, working K1N on a Coat Hangerreally. See Page 6.
- Lifetime CDXA member Al Guin, W4ZQB, became a Silent Key earlier this month. He will be missed by his many long-time friends.

And Last But Not Least:

Have a look at the request for help with the [NASA Cubequest Challenge](#) on the CDXA Website.

Next month we'll have an article from N2TU on working DX on RTTY, and excerpts from the story of FT4TA, Tromelin Island.

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