

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Upcoming Events

The propagation may not be so great, and the weather may not be conducive to doing antenna work ...or playing golf, or much of anything outdoors except maybe swimming. Have no fear though, because there are fun things to do on the horizon.

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

First in line, and closest to home for many of us, **the Shelby Hamfest** is coming up on September 5th and 6th. It's at the Shelby Fairgrounds again, at 1751 E. Marion Street, Shelby, NC 28152. Pre-registration price is \$8.00,



and it's \$10.00 at the gate. In addition to the 2 bucks you'll save by preregistering, your name goes in the hat for the pre-registration prize, which, once again, is a Hygain TH-33MK4 3 element tribander. The last two years it went to CDXAers, Ted, W4VHF/sk in 2013, and Gary, K4MQG last year. Maybe we can keep the CDXA winning streak going.

CDXA will have a booth again this year, and will be raffling off a 7" Toshiba Windows tablet. Tickets are \$2 ea. and \$5 for three. Buy lots of tickets. It's for a very good cause ...our club!

Next, **W4DXCC (SEDCO)** takes place in beautiful Pigeon Forge, TN on September 25-26. There will be plenty to do, with lots of forums, and chances to hook up with old friends. Check out www.W4DXCC.com for details and get signed up soon to assure you can get a room at the Mainstay Suites where the convention will be held. There's a picture on the next page of CQ DX Hall of Famers gathered at (I think) the 2013 convention featured on this year's W4DXCC website. Recognize anybody ...or everybody?

(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)



In case you don't get your fill of activities with Shelby and W4DXCC, and are hankering for a trip to the Atlanta area, **the Stone Mountain Hamfest** is being held at the Gwinnett County Fairgrounds in Lawrenceville, GA. on Nov 7th and 8th. Their website is <http://www.stonemountainhamfest.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.

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 reports for the 2015 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of July 31:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	268	40	308
K7BV	Unlimited	264	40	304
AA4SC	Unlimited	260	40	300
W3GQ	Unlimited	242	39	281
K8YC	Unlimited	200	39	239
K4HC	Limited	188	37	225
W3ZL	Formula	181	36	217
W4UFO	Unlimited	169	39	208
K4FS	Unlimited	167	38	205
K4HC	Limited	158	36	194
K2SX	Unlimited	154	37	191
NK0S	Unlimited	144	37	181
N2TU	Unlimited	144	32	176
W3OA	Unlimited	138	37	175
KI4TZ	Unlimited	135	35	170
NV4A	Unlimited	133	27	160
N4GBK	Limited	125	31	156
K4UWH	Limited	121	34	155
K4SD	Unlimited	115	31	146
W4WNT	Formula	115	28	143
K2SD	Unlimited	103	29	132
K4MLD	Formula	86	27	113
K1MIJ	Unlimited	85	25	110
KZ2I	Unlimited	77	27	104

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.

CDXA Scores in 2015 ARRL International DX CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA members who contributed to CDXA's club score and scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area. (We don't know why the ARRL thinks Joe, KI4TZ, moved back to North Carolina for this contest. He actually operated from his home QTH in South Carolina.)

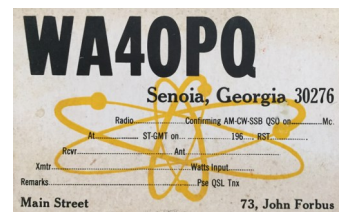
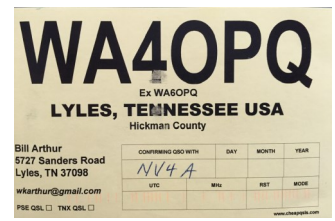
We hope to have the results of the ARRL phone contest in next month's Pileup. At that time we should also know how we did in the Affiliated Club Competition.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
KI4TZ	785,910	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	2/10, 2/23 in Roanoke Division
W3GQ	1,200,816	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	4/18
W3OA	987,795	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	5/18
W4LM	380,880	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power	4/6
W4ZV	33,453	North Carolina	Single Op, Single Band – 160	1/18 in US/VE, 4/43 in world
W7DO	1,446,696	South Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	2/5

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No in Class
AA4R	727,503	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, Low Power	3/10, 3/23 in Roanoke Division
AA4SC	35,577	South Carolina	Single Op, Single Band – 15	1/1 in SC
AA4V	251,328	South Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	3/5
K2SX	2,969,280	South Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	1/5, 2/41 in Roanoke Division
K4KAY	205,326	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power	4/13
K5EK	2,732,880	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	1/18, 3/41 in Roanoke Division
K7BV	2,627,808	North Carolina	Single Op, Assisted, High Power	2/18, 4/41 in Roanoke Division

Déjà vu all over again

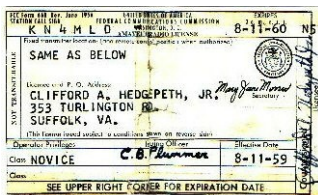
I got the QSL in the top picture in the mail the other day. The QSL below it is one of mine from the 60s. Bill Arthur, then WA6OPQ, had sent me an e-mail a few months ago asking me if I minded if he took my old call when he moved from California to Tennessee, explaining that his call had always been WAXOPQ, with the "x" changing as he moved around the country, and he wanted to keep it that way. I answered that of course he could, and told him I thought his message was a very polite thing to do, since he could have had the call without asking me. I was still surprised to get a QSL with "my" call in the mail from Bill letting me know he's moved and is still in the process of getting his new station set up. When he's on the air, we'll have a sked, and I'll have a QSO with myself (?) in the log.



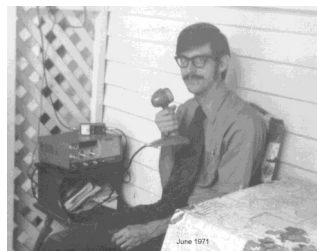
The Wayback Machine

Last month's Wayback Machine, which discussed the rigs some of us had "wayback", didn't bring as much response as I'd hoped to the call to send pictures of your first stations. Come on ya'll. Send me some pictures.

Cliff Hedgepeth, K4MLD, who started the "old rig" discussion, did send a series of pictures from wayback to today. They're reproduced below. Love the mustache Cliff! Cliff also says the book which started the discussion, Radios by Hallicrafters is available from Amazon.



Does anybody else still have their original Novice license???

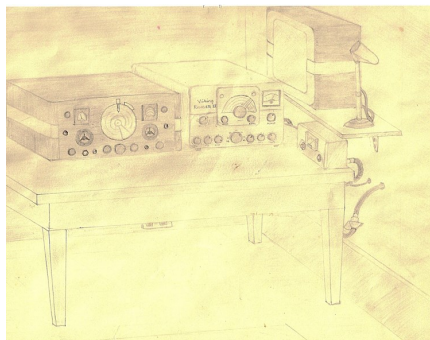


Cliff in 1971 with his HA410



1989 to the present ...Time flies!

When I first got my license, I didn't have a camera, but here's a sketch I made of my first rig circa 1963 or 64. The quality has suffered more than a little from many years of hanging up in my shacks, or being stuffed in drawers. Also, when I look at it now, I realize I didn't quite finish it. Notice the mic is on the shelf, where it usually stayed, but my brass key, rescued from the local train station, is missing. Also the Hallicrafters "h" is missing from the "genuine" Hallicrafters speaker. The receiver is an SX-16, and the transmitter is a Viking Ranger II. I still have the Heathkit SWR meter, the mic, and the "invisible" key.



The Ted W4VHF and Itice K4LVV Goldthorpe Scholarship

Here's a copy of the letter from the ARRL expressing appreciation for donations to the scholarship fund set up by Itice, K4LVV, in memory of Ted. Everyone who donated to the Scholarship Fund received a copy of the letter (this one is to Cliff, W3ZL.)



July 7, 2015

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
PO Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Dear Mr. Wagoner:

On behalf of the ARRL Foundation, thank you so much for your 2015 memorial contribution of \$30.00 to support the Ted W4VHF and Itice K4LVV Goldthorpe Scholarship.

Please accept our condolences on the loss of your friend, Theodore F ("Ted") Goldthorpe, W4VHF (SK). We hope you are comforted by warm and wonderful memories.

We will provide his information to our VEC department for his name to be listed as a "Silent Key" in the QST Magazine. We will notify Mrs. Itice R. Goldthorpe, K4LVV of your memorial donation.

Your generosity will strengthen the ARRL Foundation's ability to provide scholarships to young radio amateurs who are pursuing higher education and grants to organizations that promote Amateur Radio.

Thank you again for your generosity.

73,

Tom Frenaye

Tom Frenaye, K1K1
President
The ARRL Foundation

ARRL Foundation • 225 Main Street • Newington, CT 06111-1494 • 860-594-0200 • foundation@arrl.org • www.arrl.org/arrlf

We have a new member

CDXA is happy to welcome NC4DK, Dennis Keith, 3316 Starmount Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604, 919-552-5306, nc4dk@yahoo.com. Very nice call Dennis! I don't think too many people have their state *and* their initials in their call.

Amateur Antenna Farm Maintenance—A Sisyphean Task

By John Scott, K8YC

Don't bother to look up "Sisyphean"—I'll let you know what it means in what follows. The root of the term comes from the ancient Greek King, Sisyphus, (pronounced *sis a fus*) who apparently was so sly and deceitful that Greek gods developed a punishment that would frustrate Sisyphus forever in the same manner that he had done to the gods. His task was to roll a large boulder up a mountain, but Zeus arranged that just as Sisyphus reached the peak the rock would slip away and roll back down the mountain. Then Sisyphus began his task anew, never to realize success. Thereby, a Sisyphean task was the name given to a non-ending, frustrating task.

Now, hams as a group are not known to mess around with deities, nor are they sly and deceitful, but we are often faced with Sisyphean tasks in keeping our antenna farms in tip top shape. Here's a recent series of events giving credibility to the claim.

In November, 2013 with the help of a few club members, I was at long last able to erect a Spiderbeam atop a 40 foot tall pushup mast in my backyard. What a dream it was to have a gain antenna and the ability to rotate it from a chair in my shack. Over the next 2 years, I would be able to add six all time new entities to my count and finally arrive at the first rung of the DXCC Honor Roll, but all this was not without learning about Sisyphus several times over.

Since my Spiderbeam was installed under some majestic 90 foot tall trees, I soon learned that nature is continually "pruning" those same trees. The wire elements and monofilament extensions of a Spiderbeam are perfectly suited to snagging all but the tiniest of branches. Some fell off the antenna, yet some remained. Finally, a large branch, about three inches in diameter distorted the geometry sufficiently to require dropping the antenna for repairs. With the help of a few club friends we sorted things out and even developed an improved method of tying off the wire elements. Finished with that, back up the antenna went.

In my second fall season, I made my usual collection of branches, and all but one fell off. Since it did not affect SWR, I figured removal could wait until spring. Then along came a big WET snowfall that turned all the trees in my yard into a fairyland. The next morning the XYL

called me to observe that my Spiderbeam was contributing to the fairyland. (See photo below.)



Because of the asymmetrical loading of the antenna by the single remaining branch, one of the fiberglass tubes supporting the structure of the antenna fractured. This time the XYL and I dropped the antenna, I repaired it, and the two of us managed to poke it back up to about 25 feet. We only needed help, again, from a few club members to get it all the way up to its preferred 40 foot height. Back in business.

In the late spring of 2015, there was a heavy downpour one weekday morning. After the rain stopped, there was a large cracking sound in the backyard followed by a large thud. The XYL looked out into the backyard to see my Butternut vertical "stinger" in the shape of a large "C", the base loading coils smashed, and one of the large structural tubing elements cracked in half. Pictured on the next page is what I found on close inspection.

So, off to the aluminum tubing dealer for a piece of tubing followed by some careful straightening of each of the six or eight segments of the stinger, and some tender loving care to reform the loading coils to near their original shape. The "stone" was once again approaching the

(Continued on page 6)

apex.



The summer storm season of always brings some big winds. Was there anything left way up in the big trees to be pruned? Sure can't see it—until it falls, and fall it did. This time a six foot long branch about 3-1/2" in diameter smacked one of the fiberglass tubes of the Spiderbeam leaving a mess of wires for an antenna. Aha—but I had three extra tubes already in my "inventory" from my first repair and the XYL and I dropped the antenna one afternoon and returned it to form. It was only then that we realized that maybe Sisyphus had two stones in play, because the XYL noticed that the capacitance hat and several counterpoises on my R-7000 vertical were askew. Yep, in the same "blow" a four inch diameter branch had whacked my R-7000. Fortunately this time the branch had fallen straight down and only grazed the vertical. It only covers about ten square feet of real estate, but the branch did its job. Repair of the vertical was set back a few minutes when I had to run away from the scene of the repair because of the wasps that had built their comb in the support pipe. Sisyphian frustration is abuilding, but at least the vertical is back to vertical and I only need to gather a few friends to poke the Spiderbeam back to its glorious 40 feet of ele-

vation.

But wait, today I was back in the bathroom shaving and the XYL said, "There is a horse running through the front yard!" Yep, we've got some neighbors with horses, and someone left the gate open—maybe it was ZEUS! The XYL had already scoped out what was happening, and she told me the horse was grazing in the middle of the antenna farm. All I could think about was some rope guys holding up my Spiderbeam and more guys holding up a 30 foot pushup mast sporting my VHF/UHF antennas. As I peered out, the neighbor kids were collecting their two horses from my "farm in the woods". I was lucky this large animal had not snagged any of the guys on the Spiderbeam, but true to Sisyphian tasking, I had to replace one of the Dacron guys on the VHF/UHF mast that had been shredded by a horse that didn't even know it was there or feel its presence. Someday soon, when I get the nerve, I'll think about the consequences of pushing up the Spiderbeam again—maybe only to the 39 foot level just to be safe.

Ed. Note: While it's nice to know that I'm not the only one with seemingly jinxed antennas, maybe the real lesson here is to live on several acres with no trees, except maybe for two really tall ones spaced a couple of hundred feet apart as supports for a low band dipole. Then we can put up towers and big antennas without fear of tree limbs. Now, if we could just do something about those thunder storms with the high winds....

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Field Day Pictures

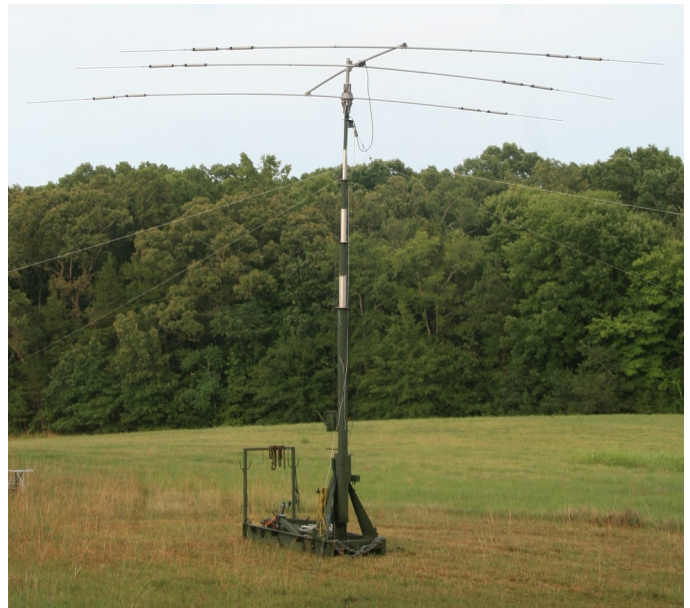
The pictures which should have appeared with last month's Field Day article were inadvertently left out. ...so here they are, a month late, with your editor's apologies:



Joe's directions to his house said "Look for the only 12 element log periodic on this road." Here's that landmark.



Ric (AA4SC) showed us how to make a bunch of SSB QSOs.



A3 and 80/40 crossed dipoles used on the FTdx1200 station



This is Toni (W4OI) piling up CW Q's on 20 meters.



Joe (AA4NN), Bob (WR2K), Joe (KI4TZ) and Bob (W3SA) discuss operating strategy on Saturday afternoon. (No, Darryl and Darryl weren't there.) *Ed. Note: These captions were provided by W3OA.*



Steve (KZ2I) wasted no time getting into the proper uniform when he arrived Sunday Morning.



Here's Tom (K4DRV) working 80 meters at 4:30 am. He also earned 100 elected official bonus points for us.



These are the "bitter enders" who were still on site when it was time to pack up and go home. Bob (WR2K), Joe (KI4TZ), John (K8YC) and Joe (AA4NN).

The Back Page

- There are plenty of events coming up to keep us busy including Shelby, W4DXCC/SEDCO, and the Stone Mountain Hamfest way down in Georgia. See Pages 1 and 2.
- In spite of the propagation, the DX King numbers continue to grow (at least a little bit), as you can see on Page 2.
- The scores for the ARRL International DX CW Contest are in, and W3OA has listed CDXAers' scores on Page 3. The scores for the Phone portion of the contest are yet to appear. When they do, we'll know how we fared in the combined contest as a club.
- You have to check out the pictures of Cliff, K4MLD, in *The Wayback Machine*.
- The award for continuing antenna problems (and for the use of Greek legend in a ham radio publication) goes to John Scott, K8YC. Check out his saga on Pages 5 and 6.
- Pages 7 and 8 have all the photos from Field Day that your editor (...that'd be me) left out of last month's *Pileup*.

And that's about it for now. We'll be back next month.

73,
John, NV4A

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

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