

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

BBQ Bust!

First, the good news from the BBQ weekend: You no longer have to worry about your well going dry, or about water restrictions. The lake levels are back up. The grass is two feet deep (...or is that part of the bad news?)

The bad news, of course, is that there *was* no BBQ, since the view most/all of us had from our windows was similar to what's shown here. Also, thanks to conflicts and the fact that the weather will be getting colder, it can't be rescheduled. Unfortunately, the really bad news is the massive flooding and damage caused by the storm, particularly in South Carolina. Our thoughts are with all those who are still dealing with the effects of what has been called a "thousand year" weather event.



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W4DXCC

...aka SEDCO. was a success again this year. Something new this year was a "Ham Radio Bootcamp" the purpose of which was to help new hams, and experienced hams looking for some new tips, with basic techniques including DXing, contesting, QSLing, and station layout. Gary, K4MQG, was one of the Elmers helping over 80 attendees.



The forums included a talk by Lou, N2TU, on the K1N DXpedition. Here's Lou at the podium. And speaking of K4MQG, here's a picture of him getting comfortable at the Saturday night Banquet ...maybe he worked really hard at the Boot Camp.



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

Sisyphus Never Gets a Rest

By John Scott, K8YC

In the August, 2015 issue of the *Pileup*, I reported on the Sisyphian Task that hams have in keeping our antennas in good working order. It turns out that this task isn't limited only to operational antennas. After all the rain we had in the Carolinas the last week of September, on October 1, the short break in steady rain dictated that I mow my lawn before the job required a scythe. When I got to the rear of the house, something in the area of my antenna farm looked amiss.

Pictured below is what I found: My homebrew 15m Moxon Rectangle that has served me very well, which many of you have seen at CDXA Field Days, and which was innocently leaning up against a tree, having been replaced in everyday use by my Spiderbeam, had been struck by yet another large limb trimmed by Mother Nature from the towering trees in which it was stored.

So, like Sisyphus, a task is upon me to repair yet another antenna—the fifth of five, and this one wasn't even being used. Needless to say, I'm not storing any antennas in the house any more—not even rubber duckies for my VHF handtalkies—for fear that the Greek Gods might try to find the antennas with yet another large limb!



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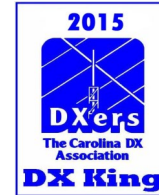
The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

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](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/



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 Sep 30:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	273	40	313
K7BV	Unlimited	267	40	307
AA4SC	Unlimited	263	40	303
W4HG	Unlimited	250	40	290
W3GQ	Unlimited	246	39	285
W7DO	Unlimited	206	40	246
K8YC	Unlimited	206	39	245
K4HC	Limited	192	37	229
W4UFO	Unlimited	184	39	223
W3ZL	Formula	185	37	222
K2SX	Unlimited	181	39	220
K4FS	Unlimited	170	39	209
N2TU	Unlimited	163	35	198
NK0S	Limited	156	38	194
W3OA	Unlimited	138	37	175
KI4TZ	Unlimited	135	35	170
K4UWH	Limited	130	36	166
K2SD	Unlimited	132	31	163
NV4A	Unlimited	133	27	160
N4GBK	Limited	127	31	158
W4WNT	Formula	115	28	143
KZ2I	Unlimited	108	34	142
K4MLD	Formula	101	28	129
K1MIJ	Unlimited	85	25	110

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.

AA4ZZ Team goes back to the mountain

The 2015 September ARRL VHF Contest was held September 12-14, and many of the “usual suspects” headed up the mountain to work it. Here’s a team picture, and another picture, taken by Bill, W4GRW, of the beautiful early morning view from the mountain that shows one good reason for making the trip!



New Member:

Welcome to N4SF, Gaylord Gasque, 974 Miramar Dr., Vista, CA 92083, gaylordgasque@cox.net, phone n/a. He’ll be doing a KH6 contest effort for us in the upcoming CQWW contest with Steve Reichlyn, AA4V. Listen for KH6/AA4V. They’ll be operating multi-single from the south end of the Big Island of Hawaii.

CQWW, SSB, Starts Friday October 23

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 seven 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 2015.

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. It’s now over a year old but still worth watching.

Last month’s Pileup, <http://cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa1509.pdf>, describes our Contest Within a Contest (CWAC) and the marvelous prizes we are offering for your participation. Outback gift cards, trophies, and certificates.

Of course, it helps to read the contest rules. They are at <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>. 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 30 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

The Wayback Machine

With nothing to report from this year's BBQ except that it was rained out, I looked back ten years to see if I could find a more positive BBQ report in the Pileup. From November 2005, here's an excerpt of a report of a continued stretch of great weather:

Weather Gods Smile on BBQ, Again

Those who gathered at the home of N4PQX on October 15, 2005 were happy that we were treated to a warm, dry early fall evening to enjoy each other's company yet one more time. We've been provided great weather for the fall BBQ for at least the past five years. (Knock on wood, please.) As usual, the food catered by Ric Porter was just what a BBQ should be. Both before and after dinner, we all got to ogle at and dream about Bob Burton's antenna system and operating position. We'll be looking for you next year, and hope the string of good weather continues.

And now for something completely different ...a Lone Ranger joke

The Lone Ranger and Tonto went camping in the desert. After they got their tent all set up, both men fell sound asleep.

Some hours later, Tonto wakes the Lone Ranger and says, 'Kemo Sabe, look towards sky, what you see?'

'The Lone Ranger replies, 'I see millions of stars.'

What that tell you?' asked Tonto.

The Lone Ranger ponders for a minute then says, 'Astronomically speaking, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Time wise, it appears to be approximately a quarter past three in the morning. Theologically, the Lord is all-powerful and we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, it seems we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What's it tell you, Tonto?'

"You dumber than [I thought](#). It means someone stole the tent."

CDXA Holiday Party



Please mark your calendars and Save the Date for the Annual CDXA Holiday Party. It's going to be Thursday, December 3rd, at the Toast in Dilworth. There'll be more details shortly and an on-line sign-up sheet.

K8YC makes DXCC Honor Roll

John Scott, K8YC, hasn't been spending all his time mending antennas. John made the Honor roll with a QSL from K1N, to join recent "Honoree" Sam Hawes, K4DGJ, (see last month's [Pileup](#)) on the list as yet another CDXAer to climb to the Honor Roll. Good going John. ...that new Spider-beam, and all the work that's followed, paid off!

And speaking of Dr. Sam, he was at lunch with his new Honor Roll Plaque:



...Just sayin'

The following conversation was supposedly overheard at SEDCO between an experienced DXer/ DXpeditioner (“the Old Guy”) and a less experienced DXer (“the Young Guy.”)

Young Guy: The last couple of DXpeditions I’ve tried to work seemed to be a bunch of LIDs! They kept calling “JA only”, they spent way too much time on CW and RTTY, and they didn’t work the bands I need! ...and I spent at least an hour a day over a couple of days trying to work them.

Old Guy: Well, I’m just sayin’, but seems to me you need to put things in perspective here. These guys spent months and a bunch of their own money planning their trips and getting everything together, and then probably spent a couple of weeks being seasick getting to wherever they were going . From this end of the pileup, we don’t have any way to know what their conditions were like, either physically or propagation-wise. But I know dern well that a couple of DXpeditions I’ve been on weren’t always a barrel of fun. I’ve almost frozen, and I’ve almost melted. I’m not sure my back will ever recover from the last trip, and sleeping in a sleeping bag on a concrete floor. BUT, I gotta tell you, everybody on a DXpedition wants the same thing, and that’s to get as many QSOs in the log as possible, given time, weather, propagation, antenna, political, and travel constraints.

Young Guy: Well, these recent DXpeditions didn’t get ME in their logs, and I tried really hard.

Old Guy: Don’t mean to upset you, but spendin’ a couple of hours over a couple of days isn’t really trying very hard. I don’t know what kinda rig and antennas you have, but maybe you should think about updating a few things. Or maybe you just need to get better at RTTY and CW so you have that many more chances to work ‘em. But the biggest thing you gotta understand is that working a

DXpedition isn’t supposed to be easy. Believe it or not, you aren’t the only one that wants to work ‘em.

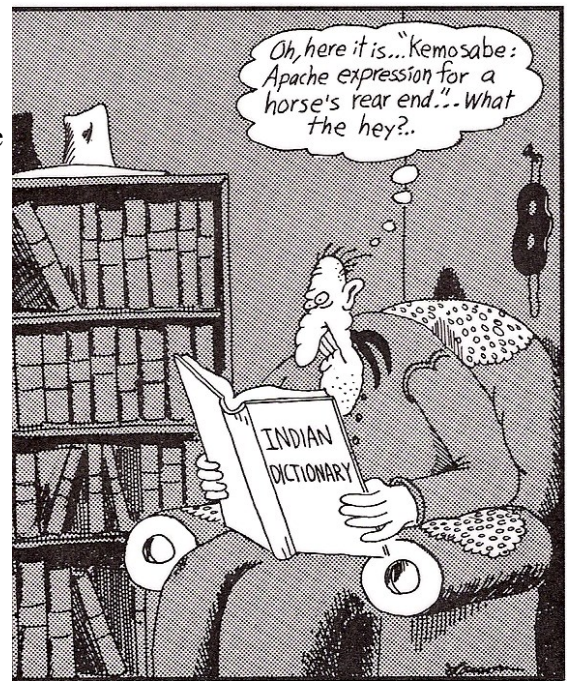
If you really want to get in the log, you have to listen, listen, listen, figure out what the propagation should be, and spend however much time it takes to work ‘em on whatever band and mode you can hear ‘em on. Remember: They wanta get as many QSOs in the log as they can, but they really don’t care whether or not your call is in there. They don’t owe you a dern thing, except to call you back if they hear ya’! So, ya’ might want to think twice before you call a bunch of dedicated, hard-working and extremely experienced DXpeditioners LIDs!

Young Guy: Uhhhh, I guess you’re right. Maybe I’ll go check into that DX Boot Camp thing now. See you later.

...Want more Lone Ranger?

No, huh? Well, sorry, but I’m a big Lone Ranger fan, and have resisted the urge to include Lone Ranger and Tonto jokes for a long time. You do know where the Lone Ranger takes his trash right? Yep, “to the dump, to the dump, to the dump DUMP DUMP.” ...sung to the tune

of the William Tell Overture of course. And if that’s not bad enough, check this out:



The Lone Ranger, long since retired, makes an unpleasant discovery.

The Back Page

- **DON'T FORGET:** The CQWW Phone Contest starts Friday night, Oct. 23. See the article from our Contest Manager, Dick, W3OA, for all the details, and how to get ready. We need everyone to pitch in. Even if contesting isn't your thing, make some contacts (and send your log in!) to help out our overall score. Who knows, you might even add to your DXCC list with all those entities on the air at once.
- The weather spoiled our fun, and led to cancellation of the BBQ. With conflicts (including CQWW) and colder weather coming, it won't be rescheduled this year. Missing the BBQ seems minor compared to the damage done in much of South Carolina, which really caught the brunt of the rain and wind.
- Put Dec. 3rd on your calendar for the Holiday Party. There'll be more details and a sign-up form available soon.
- The reported conversation between an experienced DXer and DXpeditioner, and a new DXer, on Page 5, gives us all some things to think about.
- John Scott reports again this month on continued antenna woes, but he also recently made it onto the DXCC Honor Roll, so it would seem the work on his antennas has been worth it.

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.