

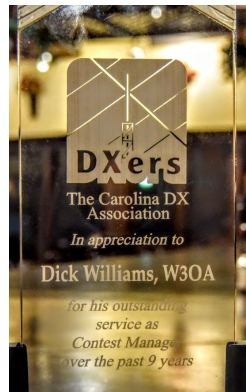
The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Happy New Year!

We closed 2015 out with a great Holiday Party. For a few random pictures from that event, held at The Famous Toastery of Dilworth, have a look at Page 11. The yearly elections were also held at the Holiday Party, and this time we said Goodbye to a long-time Board member, and Welcome to another. Dick Williams, W3OA, our Contest Manager for the last 9 years, passed the torch (...or the prize bag, according

to the picture below) to Paul Ponak, AD4IE. Dick was presented with a very well deserved plaque thanking him for his years of hard work. Thanks Dick! ...and Welcome Paul. Paul's bio is on Page 2.



N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
AD4IE	Paul Ponak	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor

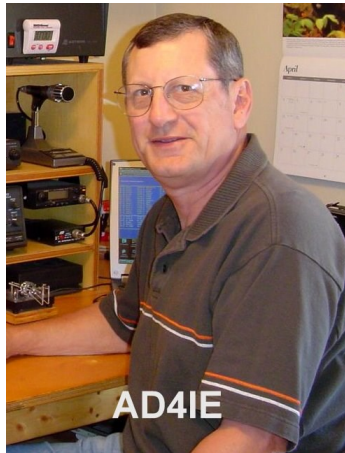
2016 is off to a good start. As I'm writing this, Lou, N2TU, and Dick, W3OA, are on their way to Hawaii, where they'll meet up with six other DXpeditioners, and head to Palmyra Atoll, #9 on the North American Most Wanted list, to activate **K5P**. ...and by the time you read this, they should already be on the air. But wait, there's more, lots more in fact. Over the next few weeks and months some really rare entities are going to be on the air. First up, there's South Sandwich, #3 most wanted, which will be activated as **VP8STI** for a planned 8 days starting o/a 17 January. The same team will then move to South Georgia, #8 most wanted, to activate **VP8SGI** approximately Feb 1 for another 8 days. If that isn't enough, you won't have to wait long for a couple more from the top ten list: **VK0EK** Heard Is, #5 most wanted, will be active from late March through the first week of April. Juan de Nova, #6 most wanted, will be on the air as **FT4JA** approximately March 29 through April 11.

There are also some contests coming up. There's a list of January and February contests on Page 2. And don't forget that the 2016 edition of the DX King Contest started the first of January, and will run all year. There's more information on that too, as well as the "un-verified by CQ" final numbers for the 2015 DX King effort on the following pages.

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dx.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

Paul Ponak, AD4IE, 2016 Contest Manager

As I assume the duties of Contest Manager for 2016, I want to thank Dick Williams, W3OA, who has done such a fine job for the last nine years. Under Dick we have developed a core group of contesters that has helped spread our club's name throughout the contesting community.



I started in amateur radio in 1962, when I was a member of RACES. During that summer I got my novice ticket and became KN3VKI. That was back in the days when going mobile meant putting a Gonset Communicator on the car seat next to me and a ground plane antenna with suction cups on top of my 1956 (later 1963) Chevy. My first experience in contesting occurred when our Races Group entered the June VHF contest in 1963, as part of a Civil Defense training exercise which I found to be quite exciting except for the WWII rations that we were given to eat. After high school graduation came a dose of real life with such things as school, four years of military service working in communications, and making a living. I returned to the hobby in 1993 when I found that one of my customers was an amateur operator. Some of

you may remember Charlie Hudson, WD4ABZ, who I noticed had a strange antenna on his truck that he called a 5/8 wave. I quickly found contesting to be my favorite part of amateur radio. Getting into the pileups with 100 watts and a dipole and working new countries (sorry entities) was quite a rush. Since then the home station has evolved a bit, and I still love the thrill of the competition. My current personal goal is to reach DXCC again, but this time using QRP.

So what place does contesting have in a DX club? A big part. As a club we enter the ARRL International DX contests and the CQWW contests. Both of these emphasize contacts with world-wide stations often in fairly rare places. I used these contests to achieve most of my DXCC awards as have many of you. I am looking forward to another active year of contesting for our club and hope that you will join in.

73, -paul, AD4IE

Contest Dates Through Feb. 2016

- Jan 01 - Dec 31 DX King (see this issue)
- Jan 29 - Jan 31 CQWW 160 meter CW (<http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>)
- Jan 30 - Jan 31 ARRL VHF (<http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf>)
- Jan 30 - Jan 31 Winter Field Day (<http://www.winterfieldday.com/rules.html>)
- Feb 19 - Feb 21 ARRL DX CW (<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>)
- Feb 27 South Carolina QSO Party (<http://scqso.com/rules/>)
- Feb 28 North Carolina QSO Party (<http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules>)
- Feb 26 - Feb 28 CQWW 160 meter Phone (<http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>)

When was the last time you worked with a straight key? On the fourth Wednesday evening from 000Z to 0200Z (That's January 26 7PM to 9PM EST) the Straight Key Contest club has a two hour sprint. (http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint)

73, -paul AD4IE

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](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/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

2015 CQWW CWAC Wrap Up

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA's total score in the 2015 CQ Worldwide contest was just short of 32 million points, 17.4 million in the SSB portion and 14.5 million in the CW portion. CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) awards in six categories. Each winner got his choice of a trophy or a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

- Top Combined Score – W3GQ, 4 million 688 thousand points
- Top DXpedition – KH6/AA4V, 2 million 985 thousand points
- Top Phone Score – K5EK, 2 million 109 thousand points
- Top Phone Score, Low Power – W3ZL, 104 thousand points
- Top CW Score – K2SX, 2 million 880 thousand points
- Top CW Score, Low Power – AA4R, 1 million 68 thousand points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a trophy or a twenty-five-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. These winners were :K4FS, KU4V, KZ2I, N4PQX, N4ZC, W3OA.W7DO.

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a certificate and a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were four winners: AA\$V, K4KAY, N4UFP, NV4A

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined in the phone and CW contests each received a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. There were six winners here: AE4VJ, K2SD, K4CEB, K8YC, N2TU, W3SA.

K4CEB won the gift certificate.

Here are soapbox comments (edited) I received from CDXA members after the CW contest:

AE4VJ: Just in the contest to help finish up my 5BDXCC. Only need 30 more countries on 80 so I stuck to the 80m band only.

K2SD: Due to malfunctioning rotator indicator, spent more time walking outside to verify beam heading. Other than that, it was fun.

K2SX: 1589 QSOs, Score 2.88 million, about 32 operating hours, doublet at 30', deltaloops for 20, 15 at 30-35', H double bay at 35' for 10,. Inverted L for 160.

K5EK: Did not start until about 3:15 Saturday afternoon. Can you add an option in the future to have some \$\$ donated to the DX Fund - not sure of the exact name - rather than a trophy or gift certificate.

KZ2I: This will probably/hopefully be the last CQWW for us from NC. Retiring in April and heading back north to be close to kids and 10 grands. Hopefully, the antennas will be in better shape for the ARRL DX tests.

N4ZC: Found the 160 and 40 m antennas were unusable but still managed 1071 Q 126 Z 443 C 1,717,811.....all 40 zones, 136 C on 20.

NV4A: Didn't get much time to operate. I sure enjoyed the CW contest more than the phone! BTW, is it my imagination, or were there even more bad spots (incorrect calls) than usual?

2016 Dues are ...past due!

Here's the email sent to members late last month (...last year!) by our Secretary-Treasurer, Cliff, W3ZL:

“Hi - this is a reminder that dues are due by 12/31. They are \$25 (additional family members are \$5 each, with a maximum charge per family of \$35). All members must be licensed amateurs. Please pay via our website cdxa.org or by mail to Cliff Wagoner, P.O. Box 577, Davidson, NC 28036 (checks payable to "CDXA"). Thank you to all that have paid to date.

- 73, Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL”

It's now January, and there are some of you who may have let the dues slip your minds. So this is one last reminder.

There's also some exciting membership news

CDXA now has the largest number of members in our history, with 232 members. Two of those members have recently joined us. Let's welcome the following new members to the Club:

Martin Lafferty, W4PNY, 2240 West A St., Kannapolis, NC 28081, 704-932-5753, mlaff0842@yahoo.com.

Jack Cureton, K4LRH, 3403 Coldstream Ln., Charlotte, NC 28205, 704-564-0366, jackcureton@yahoo.com.



2015 DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA

Item 1: The 2015 competition is over and the entry submission deadline has past. The 2016 competition has started. See the announcement in this issue of the Pileup.

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

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	280	40	320
K7BV	Unlimited	276	40	316
AA4SC	Unlimited	266	40	306
W4HG	Unlimited	262	40	302
W3GQ	Unlimited	261	40	301
WR2K	Unlimited	239	33	272
W7DO	Unlimited	228	40	268
K8YC	Unlimited	218	40	258
K4HC	Limited	216	38	254
N4PQX	Unlimited	210	40	250
K2SX	Unlimited	206	40	246
W4UFO	Unlimited	205	39	244
K4FS	Unlimited	195	40	235
N2TU	Unlimited	197	36	233
W3ZL	Formula	193	38	231
W3OA	Unlimited	180	39	219
KI4TZ	Unlimited	180	38	218
KZ2I	Unlimited	171	39	210
NK0S	Limited	167	38	205
NV4A	Unlimited	167	34	201
W4CC	Formula	163	36	199
K2SD	Unlimited	162	34	196
N4GBK	Limited	141	33	174
K4UWH	Limited	134	36	170
W4WNT	Formula	128	32	160
K4MLD	Formula	118	29	147
K1MIJ	Unlimited	103	27	130

CDXA Silent Keys, In Memoriam

The following list was provided by Don Daso, K4ZA. Thank you Don for helping us remember our SKs.

While the club has lost two vital, active members recently, both serving as club Presidents, I thought it perhaps not only helpful, but also honorary to recall **all** of the CDXA folks we have lost previously here at the year's end. I'd like to see these calls included within the roster, simply marked as an SK. And please, if you think or know of anyone I've missed, let me know, so we can honor them as well.

Ken Boyd WA4UNZ, K4DXA
 Don Brannan K4SLC
 Dr. Addison Brenizer WA4BEC
 Jim Brown N4ZY
 Robert Denton KF4NO
 Pete Eldridge WA4PLR
 Henry Elwell N4UH
 Van Fair W4GIW
 George Felbur W1WW
 Joe Fesperman K4LVV
 Pat Fitzpatrick N4KMY
 Jimmy Floyd WA4ZXA
 Ted Goldthorpe WA4VCC, W4VHF
 Al Guin W4ZQB
 Jerry Hagan N6AV, W4IX
 Al Hix W8AH
 Charlie Hudson WD4ABZ
 Ervin Jackson N4BIG
 Jack Jackson N4JJ
 Mike Jackson N4AYO
 Dave Kennedy N4SU
 Russ Kinney W4FKT
 Dan Morehouse AK1E, N7NH
 Jack Mitchell KA4FSH
 Murph Ratterree W4WMQ
 Rudy Redl N9CC
 Skip Richardson WA4UUP, AA4U
 Ken Sand N4FYO
 Dave Smith K4NLH
 Larry Sossoman K4CEB
 Laine Tarleton KC4CD
 Bill Taylor KD4IL
 Bob Thomas N4BX
 Mauro Tomazzoni IN3QBR
 Paul Wade K4BF

New CDXA Apparel Vendor

We (specifically Bill, W4GRW) have found a new vendor for CDXA logo'd merchandise in the Charlotte area, with one big advantage: You can bring your own shirt, jacket or sweater to be embroidered, and the work can usually be done in about an hour or two.

MCK Initial Impressions is located in Southpark Mall, and will add the CDXA Logo to ANY shirt, jacket, or sweater for \$12. If you would also like to get your name and callsign added to your shirt it is an additional \$12.

When you go to the Southpark Mall, please enter from the Maggianos / Cheesecake Factory entrance on Sharon Road, go straight and then turn left at the fountain, head towards Belk, and MCK initial Impressions will be the second kiosk you will come to.

At lunch this past week, Lou and Dick were presented with the

first new shirts from MCK for their trip to Palmyra. Comments were favorable. Most liked the way the logo is done as well or better than the way Lands End does them. (See Hal's "old" Lands End shirt.)



Changes are Coming for CDXA Participation in Field Day 2016

Hal Bouton, N4QT

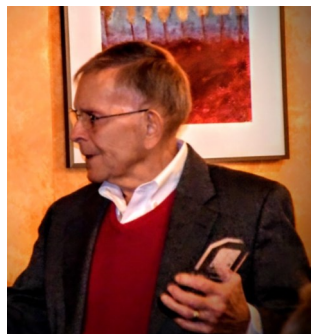
With the New Year, the CDXA Board is reviewing all the activities of our club. One of those is club sponsorship of Field Day each year. It has come to our attention that fewer and fewer of our members are participating in Field each year. CDXA is a DX club, which includes participating in the major DX Contests.

However, Field Day, while it's an activity that can be a lot of fun, is not a DX event. The officers believe we can better spend the investment we make in Field Day on other activities directly in support of our DX mission. If there are members who would like to participate in future Field Days, you are welcome to get together and to use the club call sign. Let me or another officer know of your interest, and we will support you, just not with CDXA funds.

We look forward to a great new year for the CDXA. Please don't forget about the new Carolina DX Foundation. Donations are tax deductible and funds will go to future DXpeditions.

A Little Recognition for one GREAT DXpeditioner!

At the Holiday Party, Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, one of the most travelled DXpeditioners, and one of the best CW operators ever, not to mention one of the nicest people ever, was presented with this "DX Ambassador" Award in appreciation for his participation in over 25 DXpeditions over the last 15 years. Congrats and Thanks Joe!



DX King Contest Within A Contest for 2016

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Once again this year we will be running our DX King competition, which is based on CQ Magazine's DX Marathon. The goal is to "work as many countries and zones as possible at least once during the calendar year". This can be accomplished inside or outside other contests. For 2016 we will raffle off a \$100 gift card from Amazon among all entrants with more than 100 points scored, after review by CQ.



The scoring is easy. You add the number of countries that you have worked that are on the CQ list of countries to the number of zones worked all during the calendar year 2016. Full rules are at: <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Rules/2016/2016%20Rules.htm>

The Countries list is at: www.dxmarathon.com/countrieslist/countrieslist.htm

Please read the official rules first, but here is a capsule version.

There are 3 entry classes:

Unlimited - according to your license

Limited - 100 watts, antennas may be directional

Formula - 5 watts or less or up to 100 watts, simple vertical or wire antennas only

QSL verification is not needed.

You may use packet cluster or other forms of spotting assistance.

CQ magazine provides an Excel spreadsheet for score submission at www.dxmarathon.com

You must have your scores to CQ by January 10, 2017.

Here are the rules for the CDXA DX King competition:

Certificates will be awarded for the top five scores in each of the three classes.

Final standings will be determined by the DX Marathon scores published in CQ.

After reaching a score of 100 (or sooner if you wish) fill out the on-line form that will be available soon. (More information to follow.) Please do this by the 6th of each month.

This has proven to be an exceptionally popular contest with our members and we're hoping that it continues to grow. The scoring is about as simple as can be imagined, and remember that contacting DXpeditions such as Palmyra (CQ zone 31) can add to your score.

Good luck and wishing you good DX and a winning score.

Win Outback Gift Cards and Trophies in the ARRL DX Contest

by Paul Ponak, AD4IE

The ARRL International DX Contest will begin with the CW contest starting on Friday February 19 (1900 EST), and the Phone contest will start on March 4 at EST). Once again we will be urging all members to participate to add to our club score. Remember that even if you only make a few contacts it will still help our club. Our scores for the last few years are shown in the chart below.

Year	CDXA Score	Number of CDXA Entries	Rank in Medium Club Category
2007	7,910,718	30	9
2008	11,293,344	43	3
2009	10,157,613	36	7
2010	22,155,432	46	3
2011	26,587,443	47	5
2012	23,932,758	47	4
2013	26,958,444	49	4
2014	30,100,296	50	8
2015	29,291,437	41	2

Our results have been consistently in the top 10 and last year we moved up to 2nd place, although it was a close race with the 3rd and 4th place clubs. We did, however, drop off a bit in our number of participants. To keep things going we are again offering some excellent prizes for this year's participants.

First place prizes- Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card which is also good at Carrabba's Italian Grill and Bonefish Grill. The DXpedition and Multi-op prizes will only be awarded to an entrant whose score is high enough to have won one of the other first place prizes:

- Top combined CW plus phone score
- Top CW score, low power
- Top phone score, low power
- Top CW score
- Top phone score
- Top Multi-op score

Also:

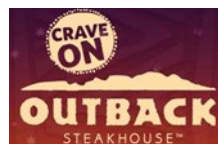
1000 or more QSO's in the CW and phone contests: Each participant can choose a trophy or a \$25 Outback Steak House gift card.

500 or more QSO's total in the CW and Phone contests: Each participant gets a photo printed CDXA certificate and a chance in the raffle for a \$25 gift card.

250 or more QSO's: Each participant gets a chance in a raffle for a \$25 gift card.

You can only win one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition (meet the 175 mile criteria) as defined in the contest rules can win a gift card or trophy. The rules are available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA certificates. Prizes will be awarded based on your claimed score. Let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or need help in preparing for the ARRL DX Contest. And please let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for the contest.

Paul Ponak, AD4IE
 pponak@carolina.rr.com
 980-231-0345



Here's What You Can Win!!



CDXA 2015 REPEATER OVERHAUL IS COMPLETE !!!

If you've noticed a better signal from the CDXA repeater over the last few months, our Cluster Manager, Joe Simpkins, talks about all the hard work and effort that went into making that possible.

Here is the keeper of the keys, Gary Dixon, K4MQG! Thanks to him for housing W4DXA for a long time and being so hospitable and cooperative!! On October 20, 2015, we put the final touches on the project after months of work focused on reviving our local two-meter repeater. After noticing the decline in equipment performance and a similar decline in the use of our repeater, I purposed to reverse the decline by analyzing each component of the current and improved installation with technical assistance from Pete Manfre, WA2ODO, and Gary Greene, W2ZV. Planning for the upgrade was followed by numerous bids and problem solving as we progressed through the brainstorming sessions.



Initial measurements were taken and a plan devised. We learned the current repeater (ICOM) was only putting out 2 watts, the 100-watt amplifier was inop, the Astron Power Supply was dead, the duplexer was not well tuned, the feedline was rife with water ingress problems, and the antenna connectors were green, but not from envy. All in all, we had a very poor signal compared to the robust sound of the past. Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, gave new life to the Astron Power Supply. Gary Greene, W2ZV, worked on the amplifier. About that point in time, roughly November 2014, we learned about the Yaesu company offering a new Digital/Analog repeater from our very own Yaesu contact, Lou Dietrich, N2TU. The repeater was offered for a very attractive price to Repeater Clubs around the world. The new repeater is known as the DR-1X. The old ICOM had served us well, but ICOM no longer offered service or support on it due to its age. So the new repeater was ordered, and arrived in the spring of this year. During the wait, the old duplexer composed of four 6" canisters was reworked by Pete Manfre and Gary Greene, the amp and its power supply removed for repair, and the old ICOM pressed back into service at 20-25 watts. ICOM recurring problems continued to appear, refreshing our desire to quickly get its replacement on the air. Antenna and feedline problems would just have to rock along until we had all the parts on hand to engage Don Daso, K4ZA of Tower Works, to install the hardware. The new antenna was selected and purchased. It is a new Super Stationmaster, and now resides at the 100' level on K4MQG's tower.

New Andrew 7/8" hardline and connectors were purchased/acquired from WA2ODO.

A new antenna mount was designed and constructed by WA2ODO and myself (as the welder trainee), weatherproofed, and transported to the tower site. Did I mention the failure to function on the part of my 1998 SUV about this time? Life goes on! Well, all that is now in the rearview mirror of progress. Thanks also to Thomas Wright, N4HN, for contributing low loss interconnect cabling for the installation, and the constant quality feedback and hands on assistance of Ric Porter, AA4SC! What a great bunch of men to work with!!!



Astron and the four can Duplexer

DR-1X & Amplifier



January, 2016



The Shack

Antenna just to the right near top



Frequency is still **147.180MHz** +600 Say "Hey" as you can and enjoy!!

73 de Joe Simpkins, K4MD

A photographic look back at the 2015 Holiday Party



The Back Page

- Happy New Year. The bands are about to be very busy. Fellow CDXAers Lou, N2TU, and Dick, W3OA are probably unloading equipment on Palmyra as I write this. See Page 1 for the other Most Wanted entities that are about to be activated, and good luck to everybody on both sides of the pileups.
- CDXA has a new Contest Manager, Paul Ponak, AD4IE. Paul's bio is on Page 2. ...and let's not forget the nine years Dick, W3OA, put in doing an outstanding job as Contest Manager. The Club gave Dick a nice plaque thanking him for his service. There's a picture on Page 1.
- There's a wrap-up of CDXAers participation in the 2015 CQWW phone and CW Contest on Page 3.
- CDXA now has 232 members, an all-time high. If you haven't paid your 2016 dues, please get them in, and help us stay at that level. See Page 4 for a note on dues payment. Thanks to all who've renewed, and Thanks in advance to the rest of you who will be renewing shortly.
- There's a wrap-up of the 2015 DX King Contest, and an article on the 2016 edition, which is already underway.
- We have a new provider for CDXA apparel. Details are on Page 5.
- Thanks very much to Don Daso, K4ZA, for the list on Page 5 of CDXA members who have become Silent Keys over the years.
- Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, was presented with a well-deserved "DX Ambassador" plaque at the Holiday Party. Pictures are on Page 6.
- The ARRL DX Contest is coming up, starting with the CW portion next month. Details are on Page 7.
- After a lot of planning and work, we have a new repeater. See the article on Page 8.
- Last, but certainly not least, there are some pictures from the Holiday Party on Page 11.

73, and see you next month.

John, NV4A

PS: Since we no longer mail the *Pileup* to any of our members, the "Mail" section of the Back Page is gone ...for good.