

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Happy 35th Anniversary to CDXA

It seems hard to believe that our Club is 35 years old, but it was in July 1981 that a group of 17 avid DXers met at the QTH of Roger Burt, N4ZC, to discuss the formation of a club dedicated to serving DXers in the Carolinas. Our club, the Carolina DX Association, or as it was originally dubbed, “the Carolina DX Club,” began with that meeting. Those in attendance elected the first slate of Officers: Roger Burt*, N4ZC, President; Pete Nance, N5TR, Activities Manager; Martin Lafferty*, W4PNY, Newsletter Editor; Henry Elwell, N4UH (SK), Secretary; and Paul Deyo*, N1PD (then WA4ZMM), Treasurer. Other attendees were Jim Miller*, HP1XRG/K4SQR; Gary Dixon*, K4MQG; Larry Knain*, W6NWS; Ric Porter*, AA4SC; Jim, WB1AUL (SK) (*does anyone know Jim’s last name? His call isn’t in the FCC database*); Larry Sossoman, K4CEB (SK); Bill Parris*, AA4R; Hugh Campbell, N4AXT; Scott Douglass*, K2SD; Ron Bailey*; AA4S; Wayne Herman, AA4CQ; and last, but certainly not least, WA4VCC/W4VHF (SK), Ted Goldthorpe. The names marked with an asterisk are still CDXA members

| | | |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| K4MD | Joe Simpkins | 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 |

today. **Thank you all for a great 35 years.** You have helped us grow from 17 to over 200 members today.

Here’s a picture that shows most of those who were at the organizational meeting, sitting on N4ZC’s back porch. There’s a bigger version of the picture, with at least some of the attendees identified (thank you Roger!) and more 35th Anniversary information including our upcoming 35th Anniversary Celebration, and US Islands On the Air Activations, on the pages that follow.



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 |

CDXA 35th Anniversary Party



This July 24th, 2016, we will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of the CDXA, with a party & BBQ on the shores of Lake Norman, in *air conditioned* comfort. Please come join us for the celebration on Sunday July 24th beginning at 4PM at Jetton Park, 19000 Jetton Rd, Cornelius, North Carolina 28031. If you haven't signed up yet, the RSVP form is on the [CDXA website](#). There's also a link you can use to get directions to the park from your QTH. We hope to see you all there.



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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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](#), 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.

35th Anniversary Operating Event

Dick Williams, W3OA

The CDXA Officers have decided to add an on-the-air operating event to CDXA's activities celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Club's creation. This event will encourage members to participate in the United States Islands Awards Program (USI). Members can take part by operating from home or one of the eligible islands. See the accompanying article in this Pileup about a recent USI activation by W3GQ and W3OA.

To take part from home just make contact with a USI station that is using the Club call, W4DXA.

To take part from an island:

- Get permission from Gary, K4MQG, to use W4DXA. Gary is the trustee for W4DXA.
- Conduct your operation according to the USI rules, either a drive-on or boat-to island.
- Generate an .adi file of your log and send it to Thomas, N4HN, for posting to LOTW.
- Send a copy of your log to K4MQG and W3OA who will respond to QSL requests.

Of course you can do this any time you like but from now through the end of next July, 2017 would be most appropriate to celebrate our 35th anniversary.

All the USI details are on the [USI Web site](#). Let me know at w3oa@roadrunner.com if you have any questions, especially any questions on operating from Lake Norman islands.

K1N Awarded "Best Communication Award"

DXCoffee (www.DXCoffee.com) and the DX University have awarded the **2015 Best Communication Award** to the K1N DXpedition to Navassa Island. The team, led by Bob Allphin, K4UEE, included fellow CDXAer Lou Dietrich, N2TU. Congratulations to the entire K1N team.

The Wayback Machine

This month, we're going back to July 1981, and the formation of the Carolina DX Association. The attendees at N4ZC's QTH that day are listed on Page 1, and most of them are shown in the picture below. I'm not sure any of them envisioned a Club that, 35 years on, would have over 200 members, some of whom are in the DX Hall of Fame and Top of the Honor Roll. Others have been on multiple DXpeditions., and many are well-known in the DX community. We're also happy to have members who are able to learn from the "masters" to better their DXing skills and accomplishments. While we are a DX Club, we've also done very well in contesting over the years. We have been through the ups and downs of propagation as solar cycles continue to "do their thing." Even with the abysmal propagation numbers we're seeing now, there's still DX to be had, especially for those of us still working hard to get in the neighborhood of the Honor Roll. We have seen the coming of the internet-connected computer as an integral and vital part of most of our stations. ARRL's Logbook of the World (LOTW) has made it easier, faster, and cheaper to get needed QSLs. Of course, since not everyone uses LOTW, we still get to send out QSLs and keep our fingers crossed for a return QSL from those ATNO's. In the end, working DX is still working DX. It's a combination of our experience and skill as operators combined with the tools we have at our disposal, including the computer tools, our transceivers and amps, and our antennas, where, if we have the funds and the land, bigger is still better. On the other hand, some of our members are proof that we can work a lot of rare DX with minimal stations. ...There's that experience and skill thing again.

While we certainly don't know what the next 35 years will bring, we do know that we will need to focus on bringing more young hams into the DX community and into CDXA. It will be a challenge, but with the number of hams growing every year, and new and better digital protocols and operating modes coming, there's no doubt that we can continue to grow.

Now, here's another look at the picture taken on N4ZC's back porch way back in 1981. The picture was provided by John Scott, K8YC, and was taken by Paul Deyo, N1PD. Who do you recognize? Here's what Roger has to say: "I can ID some but not all. Left to right: I can't ID first guy. 2nd is Jim, WB1AUL. He changed his call but can't remember new call. He has been SK for at least 25 years. (*Ed. Note: then there's a guy you can just barely see.*)

Next, without a gray hair on his head, is Gary, K4MQG. Then there's Henry, N4UH/SK, and Larry K4CEB (SK). Behind K4CEB's head is Bill, AA4R. (*Ed. Note: No ID on the guy in the red shirt.*) Then, at the back, also without a gray hair, is me, N4ZC. To my left front, looking at K4CEB, is Larry, W6NWS. Standing (wouldn't bet the farm on it) is Pete N5TR, and looking at the camera is Ron, AA4S. That leaves AA4CQ, K2SD, N4AXT, W4PNY and Ted, W4VHF (SK) to ID.

N4AXT gave up ham radio at least 25 years ago. I lost track of AA4CQ many years ago, and finally, the



back of one of those heads is Scott, K2SD." Scott confirms that one of those heads is his.

US Islands Program and CDXA

Dick Williams, W3OA

This April, the CDXA Officers were looking for an on-the-air activity to help celebrate the Club's 35th Birthday. One possibility they considered was to encourage members to participate in the United States Islands Awards Program (USI). This article describes some efforts to investigate that possibility.

The USI: USI is similar to the IOTA program except the target islands can be in fresh water and are all in the 50 States and U.S. territories. Some of the criteria target islands must meet are:

1. The island is totally surrounded by water and is a minimum of 100 feet long in any direction and a minimum of 50 feet from the main shoreline. Bridges and narrow causeways linking the island to the main land are acceptable.
2. Operation from boats is allowed as long as some part of the radio station (transceiver, antenna, feed-line or power supply) is physically located on the island.
3. The island must be present on a map, including aerial images like Google maps. The island name should appear on a map or as a minimum be known locally.

The USI keeps a list of eligible islands - currently there are nearly 3000 on the list. There is a two-step process to get an island listed. Someone, maybe you or me, submits a form to the USI Qualification Manager who determines if the island meets the criteria. If so, the island is added conditionally to the list. It's not officially added until a "qualifying" operation occurs from the island. And that requires a minimum of 25 QSOs including contacts with at least two DXCC entities (including the US.) After an island is qualified anyone can conduct additional operations from that island and there is no minimum QSO count requirement.

More information is available on the [USI Web site](#) and in the May 2015 QST.

CDXA Interest: I was unaware of the USI until I read an article in the May QST last year. I live on Lake Norman and have a boat, so this seemed like something fun to pursue. At the only two of the approximately 100 Lake Norman Islands were on the USI list and both

those were "drive-on" islands, it appeared no one had qualified any Lake Norman Islands from a boat. Oh Boy I thought, Fresh Meat! The only problem I could see was finding the island names as required in the third of the criteria above. I had no luck finding a map showing the names of more than a few islands and emails to Duke Power (the Lake manager) and a local fishing guide produced no response.

Fast forward to March 23 this year and there is an article in the Charlotte Observer about adopting Lake Norman islands. You don't get to live there but you can pick up other people's trash. The article said most islands do not have names but one couple had adopted two Islands, N17 and N20. I wondered if all the islands had similar designations, and a couple of emails put me in contact with a retired Duke employee who has a map showing the numbers for all the islands. I picked out about 15 islands and had their numbers within a day.

The CDXA Officers met on April 6 and discussed, among many other items, using USI as a Club operating event. I felt there were two questions we needed to answer before proceeding. 1) Would names like N17 and N20 meet the USI criteria for island names, and 2) Would operating from a USI produce enough activity to be fun for the operators? The Officers asked me to investigate further and report back.

Trial Operation: I decided we needed a trial run, and it made sense to do this from the two islands closest to my QTH, N-61 and N-62. Both had sand beaches (Photos 1 and 2) that are a good place to park a boat and provide easy access for erecting antennas. I submitted the initial forms and after I explained where the names came from Islands N-61 and N-62 were placed on the USI list, conditionally. W3GQ and NV4A both live on the lake near me and we started discussing how to do the trial operation. Figure 1 shows these two islands and the locations of W3OA and W3GQ. NV4A is out of the Figure, a little to the south. For reference, this is in an area west of Mooresville, NC and the yellow highway across the top of the picture is NC 150.

The essentials of our plan were:

Use the Club callsign, W4DXA, as this may grow into a Club activity

Operate from NV4A's pontoon boat as he has an auxiliary, deep cycle, battery with charging circuit.

Use W3GQ's FT-857D and run full power W3OA will provide a parallel inverted V antenna for the 20 and 40 SSB USI frequencies Start at 1400Z (10:00 AM local) on June 2 and operate for 3 hours. Start on N-62 and if successful there move to N-61

A few days before the planned date, NV4A said health issues would prevent his participating. So we put his deep cycle battery on Paul's pontoon boat. Paul also had a solar powered battery charger, and he connected that to John's battery. This became another part of the experiment – would this setup power the radio for the entire operation?

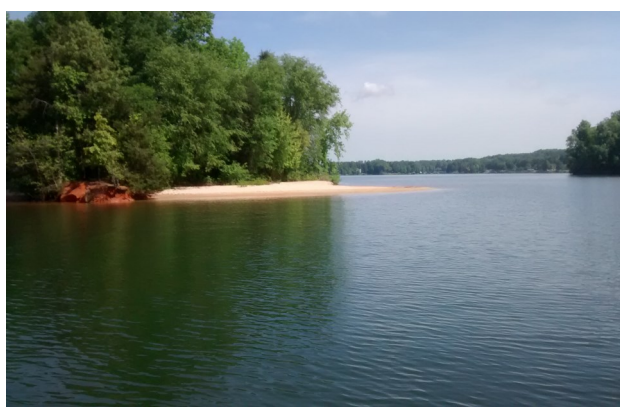


Photo 1, N-61

We picked a Thursday morning, June 2, for our trial operation. We wanted to avoid the heavy boat traffic and competition for beach space expected on weekends. In the days prior to June 2 we advertised our operation on the [USI Web site](#) and the CDXA email reflector. John, NV4A, and John, K8YC, agreed to spot us on the DX Cluster.

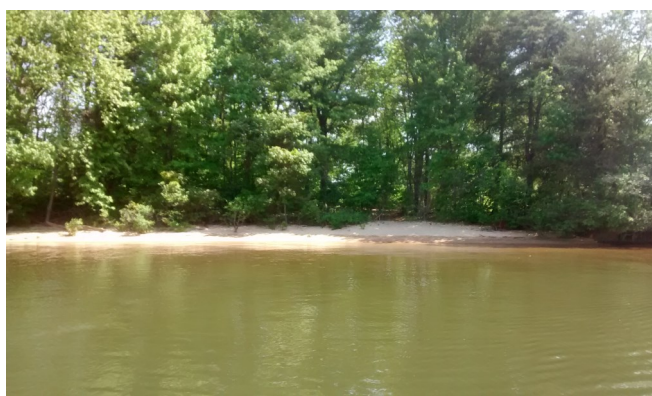


Photo 2, N-62

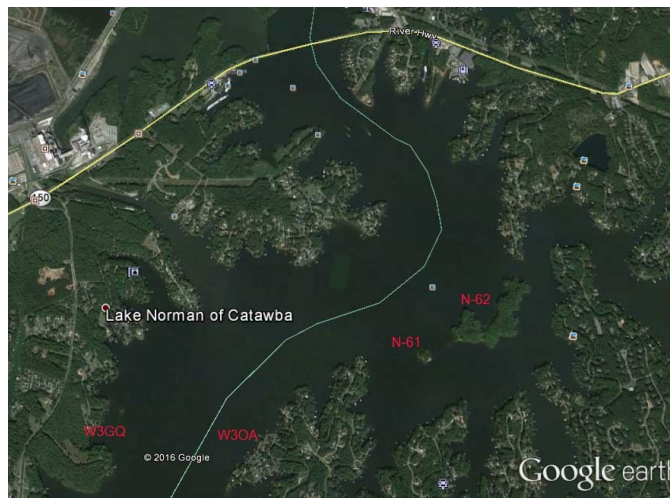


Figure 1.

We arrived at Island N-62 at 9:15 AM. The first order of business was erecting the inverted V for 40 and 20. We did this using a sling shot to put a rope in a convenient tree, see Photo 3. We found the wide spacing between the parallel dipoles made the antenna very prone to getting caught in tree limbs during raising and lowering. We may try using 450 ohm ladder line for future trips. Never-the-less, it only took a few minutes to get the antenna up, run the coax to the boat, and complete station set up. W3GQ operating as W4DXA made our first contact at 9:40 on 40 meters SSB, less than 30 minutes after arriving.



Photo 3

Now it was time to see if enough operators were interested in the USI program to make this any fun for us. We were pleasantly surprised. By 10:00 we had the 25 contacts needed to qualify N-62, all on 40. But we

(Continued on page 6)

couldn't move yet because we still needed one contact from outside the US. We started asking for DX contacts and moving between 40 and 20. Finally, with some help from K4MD, N2TU, and K8YC, we made contact with VE3LDT at 10:47 on 40. By this time we had 58 QSOs and decided it was time to move to Island N-61. W3GQ announced our intent to move and stated we would resume operation from N-61 in about an hour.

And that's what happened. We took almost exactly 60 minutes to take the antenna down, move to N-61, erect the antenna, and start operating. It was W3OA's turn at the mic. and he started calling CQ at 11:47. The first station to respond to his CQ was the same VE, VE3LDT, that had closed our activity on N-62. Then we knew we would have no trouble qualifying N-61. We had the needed 25 QSOs within 25 minutes and finally went QRT with 46 QSOs from N-61 at 12:39, three hours after our first QSO from N-62. We were just about out of battery power. The FT-857D manual shows a minimum supply voltage of 11.7 volts. At the end, an external power meter appeared to show we were still putting out full power but the radio said it was getting 11.0 volts.



Photo 4 – W3GQ on N-62

After the operation comes the paper work. When I arrived back home there was an email from VE3LDT

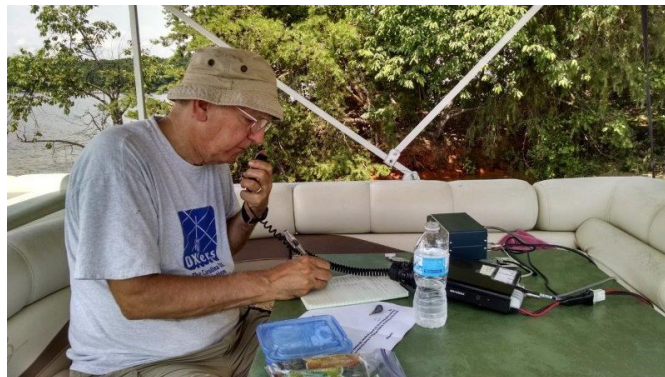


Photo 5 - W3OA on N-61

requesting confirmation of his contacts from both islands. I submitted the USI forms stating we had qualified the islands. This is now reflected in the USI [Island Directory](#) where island N-61 (USI number NC052L) and N-62 (USI number NC053L) are shown as qualified by W4DXA with operators W3GQ and W3OA. And W3GQ entered our paper logs into N1MM (using "DX" for the contest name) and created an ADIF file. Copies of this file went to Thomas, N4HN, for entry into LOTW, and Gary, K4MQG, to keep the trustee for W4DXA aware of our activity.

Conclusion We can say yes to the two questions we set out to answer. 1) Would names like N17 and N20 meet the USI criteria for island names, and 2) Would operating from a USI produce enough activity to be fun for the operators? We reported our success back to the CDXA officers and they decided to encourage members to participate in the USI as an operating event in celebration of CDXA's 35th anniversary. See the article in this Pileup on Page 4.

Editor's Note: Thanks to the great idea and thorough planning by W3OA, and, of course, the operating skills of W3GQ. I was sorry to miss the fun, but hope to be along for the next adventure. We hope some of you will join in to activate more islands.

CDXA welcomes a new member

CDXA is happy to welcome a new member: Tony Rogozinski, W4OI, 208 Tory Creek Rd., Meadows of Dan, VA 24120, 276-880-6613, trogo@telegraphy.com.

Tony spends much of his time in Columbia, where he is/has been 5K5Z, HK4T and HK4AR! He's a founding member of the VooDude Contest Group, a member of the Florida Contest Group, the Central Arizona DX Association, and now CDXA. He also has "feet on the ground" DXCC, having visited 103 DXCC entities. We look forward to hearing more from Tony.

Winner Of The Gift Card for contacts with The AA4ZZ Contest Team

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

In an effort to help our "mountain men" in the ARRL June VHF contest, we had a little in-club competition. Any club member contacting the AA4ZZ group (which represents CDXA in the contest) had their call sign put into the hat every time they worked them. The winner was drawn at our club luncheon by AA4ZZ, and I am pleased to announce the winner of a gift card for Out-back Steakhouse/Carrabba's Italian Grill was Larry, W4LK. Larry assured me that the card would be put to good use.



Bob Southworth, KI4YV (SK)

John Scott, K8YC

Bob Southworth, KI4YV, passed away on May 26. There was a memorial service at Covenant Presbyterian Church where Bob's ashes were placed in a crypt beside those of his beloved wife, Jane, who died and was interred there in 1997. Bob was a longtime member of MARS/W4BFB as well as a member of CDXA. I first met Bob as the station manager of the Discovery Place Amateur Radio Room where I served as a volunteer for 13 years. Other CDXAers who volunteered there were Ken Boyd, Bill Turner, Cliff Wagoner, and myself.

As a representative of MARS, Bob worked with the architect of the expansion of Discovery Place in planning the installation of the radio tower on the roof and appropriate grounding when it was decided that there was to be a radio room at Discovery Place. Bob then went on to serve as station manager for many years until replaced by John White, WB2NHQ.

Bob was a member of our "Greatest Generation" and served on a boat disguised as a copra (dried coconut) trader in the South Pacific. The boat was used to spy on and keep track of Japanese naval ships, and Bob was the radioman disguised as a deaf, mute seaman. I asked him if their boat was ever boarded by the Japanese, and he said it was. Bob's skin was dyed dark to look like a fellow who had lived on the sea forever. When asked how they got away with sending radio reports, Bob told me that backstay of the boat served as the antenna, and the rusty turnbuckle that secured the end of the backstay was really not metal at all but instead was an insulator altered to look like rusty metal! This was an OSS (Office of the Strategic Services) operation that Bob told me was classified until almost 2000--even though the very same operations were the subject of a TV Series in 1965-66 entitled "The Wackiest Ship in the Army".

The [September 2001 issue of the Pileup](#) on Page 3 will give you some insight into Bob's varied career.

DX King News

Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Full details of our DX King competition and your chance to win a prize are in the January Pileup.

Here are the reports for the 2016 DX King competition through June 30. *(Ed. Note: Not everyone has updated their scores to the end of June, so some of these scores are out of date. If everyone gets their scores into the score sheet by the 5th of the following month, we should be able to get everyone's scores up-to-date even if a miracle occurs and the Pileup gets out a bit early again..)*

| Callsign | Category | Countries | Zones | Total |
|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------|
| K5EK | Unlimited | 258 | 40 | 298 |
| K7BV | Unlimited | 237 | 40 | 277 |
| W3GQ | Unlimited | 232 | 39 | 271 |
| W4HG | Unlimited | 214 | 40 | 254 |
| K8YC | Unlimited | 174 | 34 | 208 |
| K4HC | Limited | 162 | 38 | 200 |
| W7DO | Unlimited | 161 | 34 | 195 |
| K2SX | Unlimited | 153 | 37 | 190 |
| NV4A | Unlimited | 150 | 31 | 181 |
| W3OA | Unlimited | 137 | 33 | 170 |
| W3ZL | Formula | 140 | 28 | 168 |
| KZ2I | Unlimited | 129 | 36 | 165 |
| K4FS | Unlimited | 120 | 29 | 149 |
| N4GBK | Limited | 108 | 29 | 137 |
| K3IRV | Formula | 105 | 27 | 132 |
| K1MIJ | Unlimited | 91 | 23 | 114 |
| W4WNT | Formula | 65 | 19 | 84 |
| K4MLD | Formula | 59 | 20 | 79 |

73,
Paul Ponak , AD4IE

For service "above and beyond" ...the award goes to:



At the June 1 CDXA lunch, Paul, W3GQ & Dick, W3OA were presented with AA4ZZ VHF team polo shirts for the outstanding work, time & effort they put in on the 2M SSB tower on "the mountain" outside Boone.

Not only did they remove the damaged top cage from the tower, they made another trip to Boone to bring the top cage home & even have had the cage welded and fixed better than it was before. Check out the cool team shirts they got for their efforts.



The Back (1/4) Page

-This issue is primarily dedicated to the kick-off of the 35th year of CDXA. All the charter members are listed on Page 1.

-The 35th Anniversary Celebration and BBQ is coming up on July 24th. If you can come, and haven't signed up, you can just go to the CDXA website to put your name on the list of attendees.

-On Page 3, we try to identify, from a picture taken by Paul Deyo, N1PD; as many of the original members as possible. If anybody else can add anything or anyone, please do.

-An article on Page 2 suggests a fun 35th Anniversary CDXA year-long (...or longer) operating event, activating islands through the new United States Islands Award Program, and the article beginning on Page 4 discusses CDXA's first trial activation of a couple of Lake Norman islands.

-Sadly, Bob Southworth, KI4YV, passed away on May 26. There's a very nice tribute to Bob from John, K8YC, on Page 7.

-As I'm writing this, it's the evening of the 4th of July, and I have to say that the folks around here do love their fireworks, as much as I do!

Happy Fourth of July!!!!
73, John, NV4A