

# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### Labor Day Weekend = Shelby

There was good news and not so good news at Shelby this year. The really good news was that the weather was gorgeous. Saturday was certainly one of the nicest days we've had in some time. More good news was that Paul, W3GQ, won a nice dual band Alinco HT, one of the prizes given away over the weekend. The not so good news was that participation, from vendors and attendees, seemed to be down this year. There was still lots to see, and there were plenty of people to talk to. There were also a lot of empty spaces, both inside and outside. Let's hope that the forecast of bad weather from Hermine, which, ironically, gave us the great weather, may have kept some people away. I did talk to one fellow from northeast Georgia who says he's now going farther afield in an attempt to sell his goodies (...all the usual stuff.) He had specialized in military surplus when he first started his business, but says now surplus is very hard to find cheaply if at all, so he sells what he can get. He added that if business at hamfests continues to fall off, he'll probably

- 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

sell off his stuff and do something else. Let's hope, both for his and all our sakes, that that doesn't happen. Here are a few pictures. Below left is fellow CDXAer and Vice Director of the ARRL Roanoke Division, Bill Morine, N2COP, manning the ARRL booth. The picture on the right



was still plenty of interest in the vendors' wares.

For a couple of more pictures, just turn the page.



### 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

(Continued from page 1)



On the left, Paul, W3GQ, is manning the W,N,K4 QSL Bureau. He was obviously busy because I couldn't get him to stand still long enough to get him completely in the frame. (...that's my story, and I'm sticking to it.) On the right, it seems that Dick, W3OA; and Gary, K4MQG; are waiting for a quorum to start an INDEXA Board Meeting.

...and there's no question that Paul, KD4OZI is a ham.



### The Pileup

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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://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: [jew53@cornell.edu](mailto:jew53@cornell.edu).

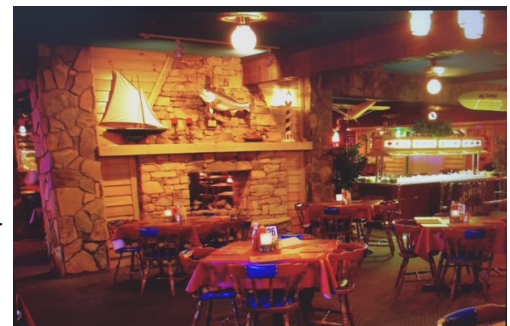
## 2016 CDXA Holiday Party



It's still in the 90's outside as I write this, so it may not seem possible that it's time to be thinking about the annual Holiday Party, but the third of December, the date of the Party, is less than 80 days away, and it's time to put it on your calendar. In fact, the RSVP form with all the details you need is already on the web at <https://goo.gl/150jg1>. As is now standard, we'll be accepting Paypal, and the Paypal link is at the bottom of the form. Note that through the end of October, there's an "early bird" special of \$32 on the price. It's \$35 starting 1 Nov.



Oh, yeah. Where is the party, you ask. It's going to be at Big Daddy's of Lake Norman (exterior above and interior below) on Route 150 in Mooresville. Anyplace with NASCAR race cars on the roof has gotta be great. They're known for their seafood, oyster bar, prime rib and steak, and their huge salad bar, which is included in our deal. Also, they really are a favorite of the local NASCAR drivers and teams. They have lots of space, inside and out, so there's NO limit this year on the number of attendees and parking won't be a problem.



## DX King News

Paul Ponak, Contest Manager

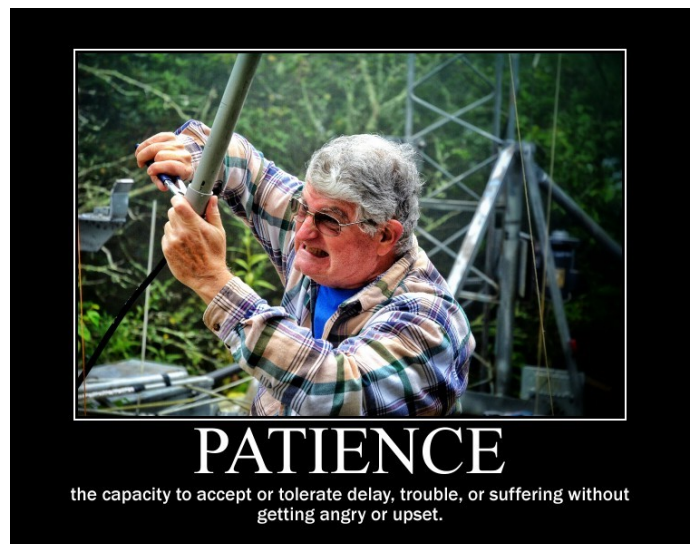
As we enter the last third of the year we see some familiar names at the top of the categories. Ed, K5EK, is still leading the Unlimited category with 305 points and Dennis, K7BV, is close behind with 297. In the Limited category Wayne, W4HG, leads with 222 points, and in the Formula class Cliff, W3ZL, leads with 170.

It's not too late to get into the drawing for the \$100 gift certificate. All that you need to do is attain 100 points (see the January Pileup for rules), and with CQWW coming up that is a reachable number. Here's how things stand as of the end of August: (Note that not everyone updated their numbers for August, so this includes July numbers for some, and the latest August numbers for others. Don't forget to go to the CDXA website after the end of every month to post your new numbers.)

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	265	40	305
K7BV	Unlimited	257	40	297
W3GQ	Unlimited	240	39	279
W4HG	Unlimited	233	40	273
W1AJT (VE3UTT)	Unlimited	208	40	248
K4HC	Limited	175	38	213
K8YC	Unlimited	176	34	210
NV4A	Unlimited	152	31	183
W3ZL	Formula	141	28	169
KZ2I	Unlimited	130	36	166
K4FS	Unlimited	133	31	164
K3IRV	Formula	124	30	154
N4GBK	Limited	114	30	144
N4PQX	Unlimited	96	34	130
W4WNT	Formula	73	19	92

## The Fall ARRL VHF Contest

...is over for another year, and the usual suspects activated AA4ZZ up above Boone, where the temperature on Sunday morning was reported to be 47 degrees. It's too early for any results yet, but here are a couple of pictures taken by Bill, W4GRW, showing two extremes of contesting. The beautiful sunset would make the drive, and sitting in front of a mic or key calling CQ into (sometimes) empty bands, all worthwhile. The other picture is of Wayne, KU4V, having a bit of trouble with some annoying antenna hardware. We've all been there, and I think he looks pretty calm, all things considered. (*Ed. Note: Wayne, don't blame me. Bill was the one who came up with the caption.*)



## Coming Soon ... CQWW DX

Paul Ponak, Contest Manager

It's not too early to think about the upcoming CQWW DX contests. The Phone contest is on the last weekend of October, beginning Friday evening at 8:00 PM EDT and the CW contest is on the last weekend of November, beginning Friday evening at 7:00 PM EST. You can get a good warm-up for the CW contest by spending some time in the ARRL CW Sweepstakes on the weekend of November 5-6.

Full information about our participation in the CQWW will be in next month's *Pileup*. So why mention the contest now? Well, it's not a bad time to check out your station while the weather is still mild. I don't go along with the old superstition that antennas put up in the rain and sleet do a better job than those put up in good weather. If you want to get a jump on things, here is a link to the rules for the contest, or as CQ magazine calls it, "The Contest": <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>.

## WW4CP Update

By now I think everyone knows that Chris, WW4CP, finally got his new liver. He's home at the Price "chalet" on Lake Norman and is into recovery mode. He's seeing his doctors twice a week, and working with a physical therapist. He's still not up for a steady stream of visitors, but he's walking and moving around as much as possible every day, and I can assure you that his sense of humor is intact. His wife Ellen is taking good care of him, and his dog Chase is providing him great company and helping him keep busy.



## The Wayback Machine

Let's start with a picture of one of our Charter Members, Martin Lafferty, W4PNY, who missed the big Party, but showed up at lunch a couple of weeks ago, conveniently wearing his new wooden 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CDXA Badge. (Don't forget that you can order one for yourself. Just check Page 7 of last month's [Pileup](#) for the details.) Since this is our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I've been randomly "thumbing" through the old *Pileups* on the website (thank goodness once again that K4DXA saved them, K8YC took the time to scan them, and WB4BXW took the time to get them onto the website!), and have listed just a few of the happenings over the years below, in absolutely no particular order. We'll do more looking back, with perhaps a bit more order and focus, in coming months.



The CDXA logo shows up on the oldest of the newsletters, and according to Gary, K4MQG, it was designed by someone in Ted, W4VHF's (SK) office.

The newsletter became the *Pileup* at the hands of Scott, K2SD, when he became the newsletter editor in January of 1987.

Dues for 1990 were \$15 for those who NEVER used the packet system, and \$30 for those who did.

The March 1983 newsletter reported that a team of CDXAers was back from a contesting trip to Morocco, with 4,201,128 points in the bag. The team included AA4SC, KU4V, KC4CD, WB4YFD, and K4BF, who was also the holder of the call they used, CN8CX.

In the December 1989 *Pileup*, under the heading "DX - Trash", it was mentioned that that "4Q2POP on Starbucks Island is still a bogus operation." ... There were only 50+ Starbucks open back then. Maybe someone was trying to drum up business for a new one in an exotic location??

The December 1989 issue has pictures of what's left of K4MQG's tower, a tangle of antenna parts in Ken Boyd's back yard, and what was left of Frank's (W4BVQ) tower. There was no text to go with the pictures, but it would be a pretty good guess that this was damage from Hugo. To see the carnage, look at the [Dec. 89 Pileup](#).

## The Back Page

- The Shelby Hamfest over the Labor Day weekend was fun, but attendance was down
- The big news is that we have a place, date and time for the Holiday Party. Check out Page 2, and then fill out your RSVP form.
- In spite of the (lack of) propagation, people continue to raise the number of countries and CQ Zones they've worked during 2016. K5EK is in the lead, with K7BV not too far behind. Thanks to the CY9C DXpedition, most of us added at least one more to the list.
- The CQWW Contests are right around the corner, kicking off with the Phone contest the last weekend of October. As AD4IE points out, now is a good time to make sure everything in and outside the shack is ready to go.
- There are a couple of pictures on Page 3 showing the yin and yang of contesting.
- Chris, WW4CP, has his new liver and is getting along with his recovery. See how good he looks on Page 4.
- The Wayback Machine delves randomly into some old *Pileups*. Thank goodness that they've been preserved on the web thanks to Ken, K4DXA (SK), John, K8YC, and Wayne, WB4BXW.
- The *Pileup* is rather short this month. Your help with articles, as always, would be appreciated. Articles from those of you who were in CDXA in the early years will be especially appreciated.

Till next month,

73, John, NV4A