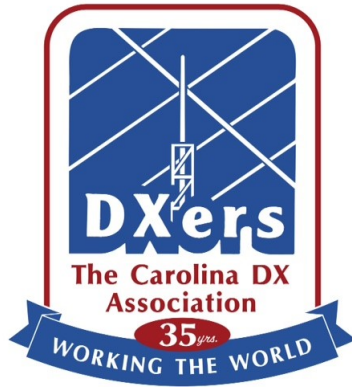


The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA



AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
NV4A	John Forbus	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
WA2TGE	Mike Keziah	Editor

Scores are in for 2016 ARRL VHF Contest

The scores are in for the ARRL September 2016 VHF Contest and we have some thanking to do. The **AA4ZZ** team placed third in the country and **CDXA** placed ninth in the club competition with a score of 89,246. The winner in the club competition was Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club with a total of 764,221 points. The following is a quote from the article "ARRL September VHF Contest 2016 Results" by Jeff Klein: *The Limited Multioperator (LM) category always seems to have tight competition and this year was no exception. With high QSO and grid totals for LM's, W3SO took the category from their WPA mountaintop location with a fine score of nearly 130k. Well-known HF contester Andy, N2NT continues to do well with his group at his NNJ QTH, just missing 100k this time around. Right behind was AA4ZZ who increased their score nicely in the last few hours with the tropo conditions they experienced from EM96 in western NC. Next in line was W4NH who set up just south of 'ZZ in EM85, also in NC. Followed by W2KV with 25k*

(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

from their northern NJ FN20 perch near the Big Apple. And from south Texas K5QE continued their excellent efforts from the Midwest region as they narrowly missed 40k points to lead the region and take 5th overall. LM entry totals were down a good deal this year, with no entrants from the Western region and only one from the Midwest.” Congratulations to Paul and his team.



DX King News

John Forbus, NV4A



Most details of our DX King competition are in the January 2017 Pileup. One additional bit of information is that, as with last year, the \$100 gift card will be an Amazon Gift Card.

Here are the first reports as of January 31, as they were posted by participants. This probably looks familiar. Dennis, K7BV, has once again taken an early lead in the Unlimited Class, chased closely by Ed, K5EK. So far, Bill, N4GBK, is the only entry in the Limited field. Good hunting to all of you and we hope that more join in next month.



With the ARRL DX Contest, CW and Phone, coming up soon, everyone has a chance to put some bit numbers in the list. Just keep your fingers crossed for some decent propagation.

DX King #s as of end of January:

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	198	40	238
K5EK	Unlimited	185	35	220
W3GQ	Unlimited	118	32	150
N4GBK	Limited	62	21	83

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2016

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

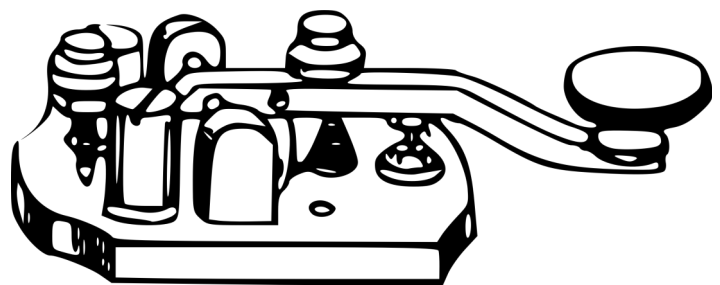
The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

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.



Win Gift Cards and Trophies in the ARRL DX Contest, Part II

by John Forbus, NV4A



Last month, we gave you the details you need to get ready for the ARRL DX Contest. This is just a reminder that the CW portion of the Contest starts Friday evening February 18. SSB starts Friday evening March 3.

One additional note is that we talked about the prizes available, but didn't say that this year's gift cards will once again be for the Outback Steak House, and "affiliated" restaurants. Good propagation or bad, let's all do as much as we can. ...and a couple of reminders: Don't forget to put "Carolina DX Association" as your club in your entry. Also, please send me your score summary (number of contacts, multipliers, and final score) along with your entry category, single or all band, power level, with or without assistance (such as Packet Cluster) at jtfnv4a@aol.com as soon as you can after the contest. We need to have all the info in time to award prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 10, so I will need all of your info by noon local time on March 7.



National Parks on the Air

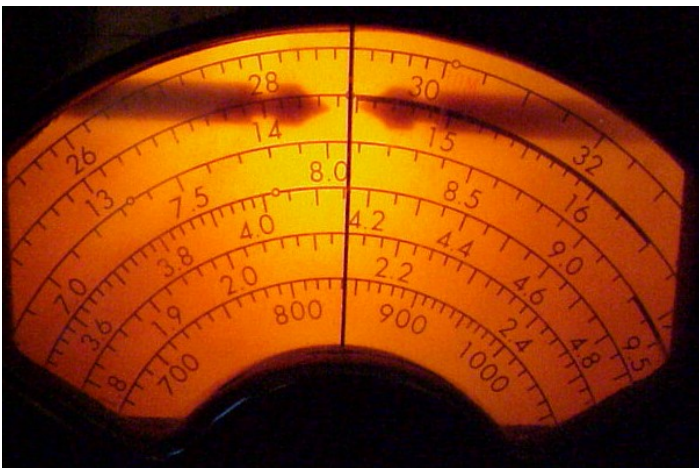
By Ed Kuebert, K5EK



Last year marked the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the National Park System, and the ARRL in cooperation with the National Park System sponsored the National Parks on the Air operating event. The event had two aspects Activators, those hams who went to National Parks to work others from the park and Chasers, those hams who worked the activators. This event consisted of the 489 National Parks – the 59 National Parks like Great Smoky Mountains National Park and other sites considered part of the National Park System like Moores Creek National Battlefield in Currie, NC. I believe 461 of the park units were activated during the year. Certificates are available from the ARRL for Activators, Chasers and those who made the Honor Roll – worked more than 75% of the 59 National Parks that were activated. There is a wealth of information about the National Parks on the ARRL web site <https://npota.arrl.org/nps-units.php>. I got started in early May when my son asked me to make arrangements to activate Moores Creek National Battlefield while he and his family were visiting us for Memorial Day.

Chasing the Activators was fun and could be done while chasing DX, casually operating or monitoring the spotting cluster. Chasing based on the spotting cluster was hit or miss. Many Activators self-spotted from their location. Those like me, who do not have that capability away from home, depended on others. I should note that during non-work hours if my XYL was with me she would call our son, N4UEZ, and get him to spot me. All who I worked were quite willing to spot me if I remembered to ask.

I did two types of activations, strictly from the car as a stationary mobile using a battery separate from the



car battery and from a temporary location – field day



style. I went to Moores Creek several times and operated both ways. The photo shows my granddaughter, KM4VCO, and me operating from a picnic table in the Moores Creek Visitor Center area. We made about 149 QSO. Caroline made about 140 and my son and I filled in the rest. It is just amazing how a YL attracts attention. I also activated Oklahoma City National Memorial, Fort Union National Memorial, Rocky Mountain National Park, Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic Site, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Assateague Island National Seashore, and Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

I had a fantastic time and wound up working 423 parks as a Chaser. The highlight, other than operating with my son and granddaughter was running into NA6L, John at the end of a seven mile snow-filled back road out in the sticks of New Mexico at the Fort Union National Memorial. He was working 20 meters from his car and I worked 40 meters from my car across the parking lot with absolutely no interference.

One might question what could make a dxer interested in such a non-dx activity. It is really quite simple. First, Activations were like mini dxpeditions. They required planning, obtaining permission in some cases, and precise execution. Chasing was very pleasant. There was competition, camaraderie, and enjoyment without the intentional interference, foul language, etc. that we quite regularly experience during dxpeditions. And, there was genuine help/advice on the NPOTA Facebook page from other Chasers and Activators. You just can't beat that.

North/South Carolina QSO Parties February 25th

North Carolina and South Carolina have joined forces to sponsor the *Carolina Weekend*. While each state is competing individually working together doubles the opportunities to work more contacts, While this is not contest usually worked by the club, individuals have been involved for years. The information for SC is at <http://scqso.com/> and the NC information is at <http://www.rars.org/ncqsoparty/>

ARRL DX International DX Contest CW Scheduled February 18th

Brush off the paddles, bugs and keyboards. The ARRL CW DX Contest is upon us again. Work as many Q's as possible and talk with John Forbus about how you may contribute to the club effort! Details of this contest are available at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx> . For those of you who are not professional contesters it will provide a great opportunity to pick-up some contest experience and maybe some great DX. Join the effort and have fun!



DX Calendar for the year 2017: Tear it out and keep it handy

Event	Dates	Event	Dates
*DX King/CQ DX Marathon	Jan 1-Dec 31	CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 27-29
*ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 18-19	CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 24-26
*ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Mar 4-5	Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 10-11
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	TBD	Dayton Hamvention	May 19-21
ARRL June VHF QSO Party	June 13-15	Field Day	June 24-25
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 15-16	Shelby Hamfest	Sep 1-3
ARRL September VHF QSO Party	Sept 9-11	CQ World Wide, RTTY	TBD
W4DXCC (SEDCO)/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 22-23	*CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 28-29
*CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 25-26	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Dec 1-3
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 9-10		

A Blast from the past.... 1997, 1987

Heard Island, January 26, 1997, 2000 Zulu

My address at this moment is #1 Heard Island. Around me are three men, each silently exchanging a series of electromagnetic pulses with another human more than 5000 miles away. To all outward appearances, nothing is happening. The elephant seals and penguins in the nearby mossy hummocks are unaffected. The albatrosses and skuas continue their bobbing and casual foraging. In the distance, a volcano vents steam, and the wind pounds in violent gusts. Heard Island continues as it always has, unaware that at this moment, on this spot, a world record is being set. As I write these words, we are logging our 80,000 radio contact—more than any other amateur

THE CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION

President: Gary Dixon K4MGG
 Vice Pres: Skip Richardson WA4UUP
 Sec/Tres: Bill Jennings W4UNP
 Net Mgr: Roger Burt N4ZC

Editor: Scott Douglass K2SD
 2440 Williams Rd
 Matthews, NC 28105
 (704) 847-8320



FIRST CLASS MAIL

A Report from Orlando

By Mike Keziah, WA2TGE

Recently a friend, N4MLC (Mike Chandler from Seneca, SC) suggested we make the trip down to Orlando for the HamCation Hamfest. I had never been to that hamfest and it sounded like a great trip. I immediately began thinking about what I could “pick up” at the hamfest and decided I really needed nothing. (I made that decision without input from XYL, thank you very much!) Several other ham friends that I hadn't seen in a while were going and it would be a great time to renew old acquaintances. Mike and I decided to drive down. Both of us being over the age of 60 (or 70 as the case may be), we decided to share the driving in two hour shifts and in eight and one half hours we were pulling into the hotel in Orlando. The trip down was full of conversation covering about any subject imaginable. In fact, the drive down and back was one of the highlights of the trip. When we arrived we met our friends for dinner and then, back at the hotel we talked into the wee hours.



We arrived at the hamfest on Saturday morning. The weather was great, 81 degrees and sunny. The hamfest was huge. I don't believe it was as large as the one I attended at Dayton but it was sufficiently large to attract many of the equipment manufacturers and some large vendors. Of course, the first thing to do was put the prize stub into the barrel. I toured the building containing the equipment manufacturers and looked over some of the new offerings. My friend Mike was there for some serious

shopping and we split up agreeing to meet for lunch at one of the many food vendors operating outside. I had an opportunity to see the new Flex amplifier and the SPE series. I picked up a couple of trinkets totaling 20 dollars and I was done with shopping.

I had decided to interview a few people at random so during the course of the day I talked to over 50 attendees. I was interested to see what kind of opinions I might find about:

1. Why do you come to hamfests?
2. Do you think hamfests are growing or shrinking?
3. *Only to young people*, What got you started in ham radio?
4. *Only to women*, Why did you come to the hamfest?

While I won't bore you with statistics, the vast majority of hams went to Orlando to see the latest and greatest the manufacturers had to offer. With the decreased participation of the manufacturers in smaller hamfests, Orlando is one of the few remaining places the manufacturers display their new equipment. Very few people were there to purchase new equipment but many were there to buy “stuff,” stuff being defined as those little things that you need to complete a project or that you didn't know you needed until you saw it in the vendor's shop. Some indicated they just wanted to stay current with what was going on in ham radio. These were primarily the people who went to the forums.



Another common answer was seeing friends that were frequently met on the air but a “face-to-face” at the hamfest was something to be *looked forward to*. This answer was the most common of all the answers. Its impact was very evident as you would see groups of friends sitting at the food vendor tables or

standing in circles sharing stories and and enjoying each others company. Many of the hams from outside the US were putting faces with voices as they met their US counterparts. I was told that foreign participation was down a little due to current exchange rates, but foreign calls were evident on many name tags.



I was surprised at the answers to the query about hamfests growing or shrinking. Many of the respondents indicated that it depended on the location. Local hamfests seem to be shrinking but the larger hamfests seem to be doing fine. However, there was a group of attendees that indicated their local hamfests were *holding their own* but not growing. There were a few comments expressing concern that the change of location in Dayton may impact attendance negatively next year.

The hair, if present at all, at the hamfest was definitely gray and represented the vast majority of the attendees. Young hams were in a very small minority. The young hams I interviewed were mostly young engineering students or students in high school enrolled in technology related courses. Their introduction to ham radio grew out of their interest in electronics and some had become hams without the help of an Elmer. One individual was writing ham blogs for the internet and had written articles for the ARRL. Many were interested in the new digital modes and EME. These young hams were leading the way into the future of our hobby and I think if there are more like them our hobby is in great hands.

When I asked the same question to the females at the hamfest I got one surprising answer, "I am here because I am a ham extra." Other answers were, "I don't have to cook," "It gets me out of the house." Of course some of the answers I got from the men included, "I come here to get away from the wife."

Mike and I spent only one day at the hamfest and we didn't have time to see it all. There was a huge area for a flea market which I did not see. The facilities were great and parking was ample. If you have the opportunity I would certainly recommend the Hamcation event. Had a great time!



The Back Page

JANUARY CONTEST



WINNER!!!