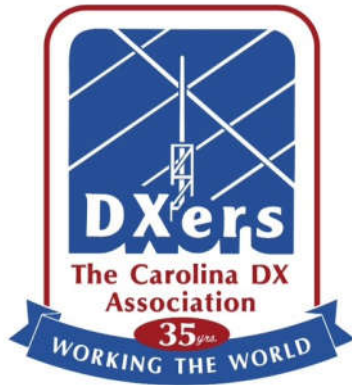


The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA



DX King News, May 2017

John Forbus, NV4A

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

Here are the scores we have as of the end of April. The numbers are going up, (except for mine, it would seem!) even though slowly. If you want to be in the running for the Amazon Gift Card, don't forget to post your scores every month on the CDXA website or

K7BV	Unlimited	248	40	288
K5EK	Unlimited	237	40	277
W3GQ	Unlimited	212	37	249
W1AJT	Unlimited	187	38	225
W3ZL	Formula	139	28	167
W3OA	Unlimited	132	31	163
K4ESE	Unlimited	134	27	161
W3ZL	Formula	130	28	158
K8YC	Unlimited	117	33	150
N4GBK	Limited	90	30	120
W4WNT	Formula	85	22	107
NV4A	Unlimited	83	17	100

Congratulations Gary Dixon!

Look to see what most of us will never see. Gary recently received his 60th year membership pin from the ARRL! Con-



just click this [link](#).

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

NV4A, W3GQ and W3OA on NC059L and NC060L

Dick Williams, W3OA

April 14th was a beautiful Carolina Spring Friday and a great day to qualify two more Lake Norman islands in the US Islands Award Program. A sunny day, water, boats, radios, and buddies. An outstanding way to spend some time playing with our toys. (A quote, with a few minor changes, from our article in the January Pileup.)

Both NC059L and NC060L are on the west side of Lake Norman, just off the southern tip of Governors Island. NC059L was our first stop. On of the first things we saw on arrival was the sign shown below. We concluded we weren't in violation and proceeded to set up.

We quickly divided the setup duties between the three of us. Paul set up the station on the boat, Dick set up the antenna, and John was in charge of unrolling the coax between the boat and the antenna. The next picture shows John in action performing his assigned duty. You can see what fine job he did!



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://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.

The next picture shows us setup and operating. One big difference between this trip and our previous operations is this time we operated off of a generator instead of battery power. And that allowed us to use Paul's KPA500 and run 500 watts vs. 100 watts on previous trips. We were afraid the generator would be too loud so we put it on the beach. Moving the generator was doable but not fun.



We operated on NC059L from 10:58 (local) to 11:52 and completed 41 QSO's, 30 on 40 meters and 11 on 20. Then we move on to NC060L.

Here's a picture of the setup on NC060L. Notice the generator is still on the boat. And it stayed there. What's a little noise vs. having to lift the generator off an on the boat.



We operated on NC060L from 1:18 to 2:15 and completed 29 QSO's, 23 on 40 meters and 6 on 20. We were glad we had the amplifier because some of these QSOs were pretty hard to come by.

We encourage CDXA members to plan similar operations for themselves as a portion of CDXA's 35th anniversary celebration. CDXA has some 100 ft. runs of coax you could use and I'd be glad to loan you the 20/40 dipole we used. Drop me a note (w3oa@roadrunner.com) if you want to discuss planning an island operation.

VHF Conference in Charlotte

The 20th annual Southeastern VHF Society conference was held at the Doubletree Inn Hotel on Yorkmont Road, near the airport, on April 28 and 29, 2017. It was last held in Charlotte in 2012. The conference committee was made up of Bill Fisher, W4GRW; Gary Green, W2ZV; Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ; and Thomas Wright, N4HN of the CDXA. The conference discussed all the great VHF and UHF weak signal activities that do not involve repeaters. All of these fun things are available to anyone with a Tech or higher license. The two day conference included a luncheon on Friday and a dinner on Saturday night. On Friday morning, there was an antenna range to determine gain of antennas made by the attendees and a noise figure measurement event for preamps created by attendees.



Another of the highlights was the Friday evening, indoor flea market where attendees were able to buy and sell all types of VHF specialty antennas and gear.



Steve Kostro, N2CEI, President of DownEast Microwave, from Florida, gave a talk on the miniaturization of microwave circuits.

As a refreshing change from the low sunspot activity of today, Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ, from Charlotte, talked about a phenomenal band opening during the June VHF contest in 1979, when the W4BFB contest team on Roan Mountain, was #1 in the USA.



The award winning presentation was given by Tony Emmanuele, K8ZR, from Ohio, on using the MSK144 mode of WSJT-X in VHF contesting. These modes are becoming very useful for both Es and Meteor Scatter during VHF contests.

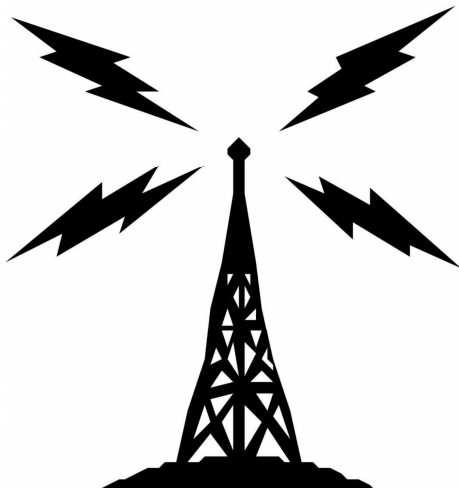
Gary Greene, W2ZV, from Waxhaw, discussed the "Hentenna" which is a wire loop. The antenna originated in Japan where "Hen" is the word for Strange! It is similar the the H-Double bay which the AA4ZZ team uses very effectively in Boone during the VHF contest season in June, July and September.



John Kludt, K4SQC, from Georgia, discussed the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) activities including the newest phase which will put HamTV into the mix of communications with schools around the world.

Two interesting presentations were by Sherman Banks, W4ATL, on Terrain Analysis of QTHs which allows you to see if that hill out back really is affecting your score. Ben Lowe, K4QF, discussed signal attenuation by foliage around your site. Does that tree cut down on signal strength on 2m and 432 when it is in leaf? Two meters, no, but it has a negative effect on 432!

The conference attracted VHF enthusiasts from Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, Alabama, Maryland, Florida, Ohio and the Carolinas. Next year, the 21st Annual SVHFS Conference will be in the Valdosta, GA, area in April 2018.



Debbie Bouton Makes Donation to CDXA in Memory of Hal Bouton N4QT (SK)

After the death of Hal N4QT, some of the hams in the CDXA Organization assisted Debbie with the sale of Hals equipment. Debbie very generously gave a \$750 donation to the CDXA. We appreciate the gesture made by Debbie and thank her for the kind consideration.

Apology from Editor

The timeliness (or lack thereof) of the May edition of The Pileup is the result of a serious family illness and my being distracted. Normally, there is no June Pileup (I am told) and so this year I will try to make up for May with the June edition. Thank you for your understanding.

Request for Articles

The article well is very dry these days. I really need your contributions to the Pileup. I'm certain that each of you has some pet project you are working on, some aspect of the hobby you would like to know more about (research and write an article!), a piece of vintage equipment that you are able to provide insight after many years of experience, or a new piece of gear you are just really excited about, or a new piece of ham software that has peaked your interest. Maybe you wrote an article years ago and it could be updated and found interesting by your peers.

For example, I am struggling with the RTL-SDR dongle trying to get it working with SDR# on my laptop and maybe that will be an article in the near future. If you don't want to read about my attempts to make an easy project difficult, send me some articles. Thanks!!

