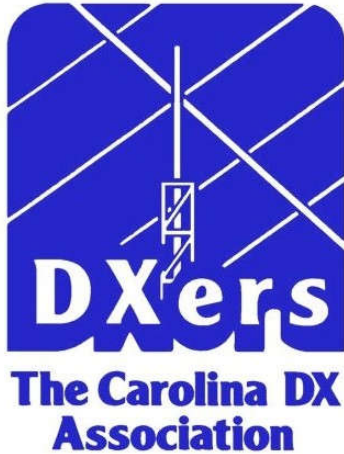
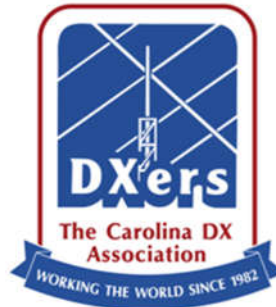


# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA



2018



**FT8**  
Challenge

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	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

### The Clock's Already Ticking

John Forbus, NV4A

Somehow, it's already 2018, which means that our new CDXA FT8 Challenge is already underway. Whether you're just curious about FT8, or if you've already made lots of FT8 QSOs, take some time to review the rules for this year-long event [here](#). The Rules should be

pretty self-explanatory, but it's the Notes at the end of the Rules that you might want to have more than a quick look at. The Notes include where to download [the most recent version of WSJT-x](#), version 1.8.0, and to read a description of WSJT-x. Also, be sure to have another look at [W4WNT's Pileup article](#) about WSJT-x. Last, but certainly not least, there's a really helpful [webpage](#), written by Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB. I *strongly* suggest that you open it, and follow along with it as you're setting up WSJT-x for FT8. Based on the fact that Gary implies that he'll keep updating the information he's providing, I'd also suggest checking back at least occasionally for a refresher on what buttons to push when and why, as well as to look for new or improved material. You might even want to minimize the page and keep it available for quick reference. I'm not going to bore you by repeating everything Gary says. My guess is that you can read at least as well as I can . . . it's time for stronger reading glasses for me! You do, of course, want to make sure you really are running the latest version of the software, which the article shows you how to do. It also shows how easy it is to get to the help menu. In case you haven't already caught on, WSJT-x is very well written software, especially considering the price—it's free! The one absolutely most useful tip, to me anyway, is the one highlighted in yellow in the middle of paragraph 2. It describes the use of "Shift-Click" on the WSJT-x waterfall to put your transmit frequency where you want it.

*(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

(Continued from page 1)

That tip, used along with the information in paragraph 9, especially checking the “Hold TX Freq” box, will really make a difference. The basic idea is that FT8 QSOs are expected to be “Split”, and you want your transmit signal on a clear frequency if at all possible. Having a very accurate clock on your computer is an absolute must for running any of the WSJT-x modes. Gary has that covered too, in paragraph 3. He also explains how to tell if a station is transmitting on the odd or even cycle. Reading the whole page takes a bit of patience. It’s detailed, very well written, and full of information. But, as Gary says, if you just remember “shift-click” you’re off to a good start! I can’t imagine that you can learn as much about FT8 anywhere else in the comfort of your shack as you can here. Take your time. Be patient, and, as you’re using FT8, follow the basic DXing rule of LISTEN, LISTEN, LISTEN . . . or in the case of FT8 with WSJT-x, it’s WATCH, WATCH, WATCH.

We’ll also be announcing a class by Bill Turner, W4WNT, as soon as details can be worked out. You’ll be better off going into Bill’s class already having some FT8 knowledge, and ZL2IFB’s information is great way to get off to a great start.

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
Copyright 2018

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 to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
218 Ohenry Avenue  
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).

## Here We Go Again

By John Scott, K8YC

Eighteen years ago, a new editor took his seat to begin producing the PILEUP for the Carolina DX Association. When then-President Bob Burton asked him to do the job, it was presumed that the job would only run coincident with Bob’s term as president. That presumption was incorrect. The last issue produced by that editor was in November 2011—12 years and three Presidents later.

I was that editor, and I’ve volunteered to prepare your newsletter once again. Let me assure you, I won’t be doing the job quite as long this time around! HI HI Allow me to set forth the vision of what I hope to be able to produce in upcoming issues, just as I did back in the February 2000 issue of the Pileup. Many of the items I set out to include in the Pileup are the same today. I’ll enumerate them below. One thing has changed for sure, and that is the pervasiveness of the Internet in all that we do. Notifications of coming events are done quickly and more timely using the CDXA website. Event registrations, dues notices and other member communications are now done using Google Forms or email reflectors. Many of these communications are “old news” by the time a monthly publication comes out, so there will be a minimum of those kinds of announcements in today’s Pileup.

Fortunately, with the help of you and fellow readers, there should be material worthy of publishing and of interest to your fellow CDXA members. The key here is for you to provide your seeds of wisdom to all of us. I can help you put your ideas into words, but the ideas need to originate with you. That means you all must become “volunteers” in a sense. Send me an article or idea of what you find interesting. If there is one thing I can assure you, it is that your satisfaction in your CDXA membership will increase proportionally to what you contribute as a volunteer of your ideas and/or services to the association.

My original statement of intent for the newsletter identified areas for reporting. These are the areas that seem as valid today as they were in 2000 and I

(Continued on page 3)



## The ARRL International Grid Chase 2018

John Forbus, NV4A

CDXA isn't the only one chasing grid squares this year. The ARRL has announced a year-long operating event that, while much broader in scope than the CDXA FT8 Challenge, will also center around working as many grid squares during 2018 as possible. General information about the ARRL event and the Rules can be found [here](#). The way the event works is pretty simple. Make a contact on any band (except 60m) and any mode. Upload your contact to Logbook of the World (LoTW), and once a month, the ARRL will match contacts. If there's a match, and it's a new grid square, you get credit for that grid square. It works anytime, including during contests . . . which means that you can add to your ARRL Grid Chase numbers while also helping CDXA increase contest scores. How great is that? The information on the event also includes a comment that FT8 is a great way to add to your score. Of course, to participate in the ARRL event, you have to use LoTW. You do, don't you? Just in case you need to find out about LoTW though, go [here](#) for an introduction to LoTW and to get started. There's no charge to use LoTW, whether you're an ARRL member or not. As an aside, it seems that many (most?) people on FT8 are using LoTW. I recently uploaded to LoTW 24 FT8 contacts that I had made the week before Christmas. Eighteen of those contacts have already been confirmed. That's a 75% hit rate, and of course, more QSLs will probably show up. Some DX Spotting sites, like <http://www.dxwatch.com> tell you if a spotted station uses LoTW, so you can pick stations to call that are at least pretty certain to result in a confirmed grid square.

Enjoy playing in both the CDXA FT8 Challenge and the ARRL International Grid Chase 2018. Information on CDXA's FT8 Challenge can be found on Page 1 of this newsletter.

*(Continued from page 2)*

hope to be able to weave them all in future newsletters.

Contest Competition—recaps of how CDXAers did in contests

Construction Corner—review of home brew products or station improvements that have been found to be helpful

Software—today there is a lot more software (especially freeware) for hams readily available via Internet downloads. We need to hear about the software you've found that is particularly helpful.

Product reviews—in our association, we have people with the skills to provide a technical review of a product, even though it might not be supported by lab measurements. Share with us your latest “find”.

“Whizbang” Websites—proliferation of websites of interest to hams has only increased as the Internet has blossomed. Let us know when you find one.

Humor—I always keep my eyes open for “family-oriented” humor. At the risk of a few groans, I may even resurrect the “Phun with Puns” item from time to time. (Oh, noooooooo, not that!!) Cartoons are fair game, as long as permission to publish is granted by the cartoonist.

Featured members—Word has it that the Roving Reporter still has a car and a notepad to visit our members that are spread across the region. This helps us to get to know those we don't get to see via eyeball QSOs very often.

Only my callsign and email address are different from 2000. Help keep the Pileup interesting. Send your “stuff” to: John Scott, K8YC  
k8yc@roadrunner.com

### About our hobby. . . .

If you have a hobby, the name you are called is quite simple or somewhat bravado— Depending on whether you're low brow or high,  
It's “buff” or “aficionado”.

--G. O. Ludcke



## DX King Contest Within A Contest for 2018

John Forbus, NV4A



As we've been doing every year for quite a while now, in 2018 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". For 2018 we will again raffle off a \$100 Amazon gift card. The rules of our DX King competition follow those of CQ Magazine's DX Marathon exactly, and we use their scoring spreadsheet as well. The goal stated above couldn't be simpler. You can work countries/zones both inside and outside of other contests—working contests is a really easy way to add to your score, and help CDXA's total contest scores as well. DX King/CQ Marathon is also a way to keep up with how you're doing with your country count during the year. 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 calendar year 2018. The final scores will be announced after CQ announces its DX Marathon scores. Then, we will have a drawing among all the DX King entries which were included in the CQ list. In other words, *don't forget to submit your final score to CQ Marathon by 5 January 2019.*



### \$100.00

Full rules are at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Rules/2018/2018%20Rules.htm> . CQ magazine provides an Excel spreadsheet for score calculation and submission along with information on how to submit it at <http://www.dxmarathon.com/Submission/2018/Submission2018.htm> . If your logging software won't directly convert your submission into the required spreadsheet format, check out this easy-to-use program: <http://software.ad1c.us/marathon/> . Note that, as I'm writing this, the 2018 version isn't posted yet. When it's posted, if you are already using the program, you can click "Update" at the top of the program's main webpage, to update and keep all your current station information.

Please read the official DX Marathon 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.

You **must** have your scores to CQ by January 5, 2019

Here are the specific rules for the 2018 CDXA DX King competition:

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

For those entrants who have scored 150 or more points, an Amazon \$100 gift card will be awarded by raffle.

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 on the CDXA Website. We'll be updating the form, but in the meantime, the current form works fine. You should do this by the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month, starting in February, or after you have 100 points.

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 even contacting someone close to your QTH will still give you Zone 5. Also, a reminder: Don't assume that all US stations are in the Zone matching their licensed call area. Check QRZ to be sure.

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

## Roving Reporter Visits K7BV

The Roving Reporter directed his feet to Turkey, NC to talk with Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV, for this issue of the Pileup. Many of us know Dennis by having seen him at a Yaesu booth at Dayton or hamfests, but as this reporter discovered, Dennis' interest in ham radio is long and deep.



**Dennis Mostchenbacher, K7BV**

**Roving Reporter (RR)** Let's start at the beginning, Dennis. When and how did you get started in amateur radio?

**K7BV** My start probably equates to how many became hams. At age 9, back in the early 1960s, my older brother and I used to visit repair shops to collect discarded radios and TVs. We would salvage whatever parts we could and use them to tinker with all things electronic. My brother was more skilled at creating things in those days (I claim he got the brains and me the looks). He managed to do some "IF tweaking" with a tiny screwdriver on an AM radio. We were sure surprised to suddenly hear a guy talking to other people about day-to-day stuff. Turns out this gent was a Ham on the 160m band. I can say that I became fascinated about radio from those beginnings. Along the way, we

met one of those Hams we heard, and I was "hooked". We purchased an ARRL License Manual from Allied Radio and studied it to prepare to get a license. I was horrified to find out I would not have phone privileges. I was so upset I actually cried and gave up hope. I quit!

**RR** You can't leave us there. Surely that wasn't the end of things?

**K7BV** Not on your life! If there is a "label" that I put on myself, it is that I display behavior that strongly resembles Obsessive Compulsive Behavior (OCB)—if something is worth doing, it is worth *overdoing*. I would not be denied my goal of operating a radio. At age 12, I began studying the license manual again and right after I turned thirteen was licensed as a Novice. In those days, it took 6 months between taking the Novice exam and getting the license! I had no Elmer and my understanding of electronics was slim so I stumbled along learning by my mistakes. For example, I didn't have a transmit/receive relay and used a knife switch for that function. Eventually I worked a station from Guam and a number of Mexican stations—I became hooked on DXing. I was very shy and quiet. I was a skinny kid with big ears that made me look like Howdy Doody. Every school had its bullies, and I was their favorite target as the weakling "geeky" kid who played with radios. Thankfully, I could lose myself in radio from all that torture. Along the way in those early days, a ham across town was testing his gear using a light bulb as a dummy load, and he actually heard my CQing. We worked each other—he with his light bulb antenna and me with my 300 ohm twin lead folded dipole without a balun at 15 feet. I rode my bike over to his duplex garage where he was fooling with his stored radio goodies. It turned out that he was Johnny W6MYC, a very well-known ham with tons of creds in DXing, space and hi-tech related fields. So now I had an Elmer. He actually loaned me a Collins 75A4 for operating in the Novice Roundup. I won that contest for my ARRL Section! Now, contesting was embedded in me as a passion, too. Not long after that I did a demo of my hobby in junior high school, and discovered there were others who shared my interests. From that time on, most of my friends were hams.

**RR** Does that mean you cruised through your high school days playing radio?

**K7BV** To be sure, I had my share of radio experiences in high school, but there were other things driving me, too. Naturally some of those things wore skirts. But more important, since an early age I had always dreamed of being a sailor in the U. S. Navy. I enrolled in the Naval Reserve the day I turned 17 with my fa-

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

ther's approval. Turns out the Navy needed Radiomen so badly, I was given two promotions the day I enlisted because I had a General License. During summer break between my junior and senior years, I completed my Navy boot camp training so I could go on active duty right after I graduated. But, not before I squeezed in my first of many DXpeditions; this one to St. Lucia that had only one active ham and he did not QSL.

Not all of my radio activities were shared with my high school friends. With a DXCC on the wall at the age of 14, I qualified for membership in the Orange County DX Century Club, an off shoot of the Southern California DX Club. This group was composed of renegades from the Southern California DX Club. They DX'ed rough being rowdy and vocal hard drinking guys, quick to argue pretty much anything. They did not play nice in pileups...or life either, I imagine. (Hmmm-maybe that is where I got that attitude) My interest in contesting had expanded after my Novice Roundup victory, and I was accepted, to a point, as a newbie good contest-er. I had become a good CW operator and loved being in the pileups with my 75 watts and low wire antennas. However, a few of the fellows in the club were concerned about "the Kid" at these club meetings where booze was spilled and an occasional cuss word erupted from their mouths during their "discussions". I loved every second of those meetings, of course! One of those in the club was Don Miller W9WNV—a DXer many will recognize. Don somewhat smoothed the way for me with the group. As an aside comment, I was to meet Don over 40 years later in Visalia (after he served his jail time – another story), and he still remembered me by name.

**RR** Did your time in the U.S. Navy curtail your radio operation?

**K7BV** Wait just a second, I wasn't in the Navy just yet. Immediately after graduating from high school, one of my good high school friends and I planned a DXpedition to St. Lucia and Antigua. With a Swan 350 loaned to us by Mr. Henry himself of Henry Radio, we drove from California to Florida, and then flew to St. Lucia. We operated from the station of VP2LS on St. Lucia and from VP2AZ on Anguilla. It was a hoot. (About 40 years later I met a fellow from St. Lucia on 40 SSB. I asked him if he knew VP2LS. He replied, "That was my father. I am Lionel, the guy who went swimming with both of you in the Caribbean every day." Amazing! That first DXpedition would lead me to doing similar trips to 40+ islands and places around the world on all continents. Every one was an adventure and expanded my appreciation for people's life styles and beliefs.

I barely made it back home in time to begin my Navy duty. It would not have been good to be AWOL on the first day, would it? I served two years in the Navy. And, yes, as a Radioman aboard a ship offshore of both North and South Vietnam. When not in the war zone, I was able to get on the ham bands from time to time using some pretty cool gear. However, a young person's idealized image of Navy life was not what was actually experienced. After two tours of duty in the Vietnam conflict, I moved on to a job with Collins Radio in Southern California. I worked on the production side of aeronautical radio products. I was lured to a job with AT&T in Detroit in 1971. I was still in a business related to communications—but I was sad to lose my Collins Employee discount. Later, I learned of a job in Alaska from my brother who was up there designing fire protection systems going into the pump buildings all along the Alaska Pipeline then under construction. There was plenty of water around to put out fires...but it was all frozen. Our systems used new hi-tech gas and smoke detectors to activate fire and explosion suppression systems using the exotic gas. After 5 months in Anchorage, the company wanted me to move to Houston since this type of fire protection business was important to the oil production business that had engineering companies throughout the state of Texas. I eventually would come to own six fire protection design and installation companies throughout the Western United States.

**RR** How about radio after leaving Collins?

**K7BV** I was never far from radio. I did DXing and lots of radio contesting continuously when I had a station at my disposal. In 1995 I took on the job of editing the ARRL's National Contest Journal and did that for 5 years. I loved contesting, but I wanted to WIN at contesting—remember that OCB thing mentioned earlier. I finally made a dream come true when I took part in the Olympics of Amateur Radio—the World Radiosport Team Contesting. Ralph K9ZO picked me to pair up with him at the WRTC in Slovenia in 2000. Actually meeting and competing against many of the world's top contesters was a fulfillment of a lifelong dream. I maintain friendships with many of those folks today.

In 2002, I sold my portion of my partnership to my partner and took a job at the ARRL as the manager of Sales and Marketing. This was a new position created to bring all sales/marketing related functions at ARRL, other than development (fund-raising), under one manager. Still into contesting in a big way, while at ARRL I became an Ambassador-at-Large and Referee for the 2002 WRTC in Finland. Once again, I enjoyed being close to the world's top contesters. I held the ARRL job for 4-1/2 years until 2006 when I was offered a job at

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

Yaesu as Executive Vice President North American amateur radio products.

**RR** You must have lots of mementos of all your radio efforts starting with winning the Novice Roundup as a youngster.

**K7BV** I suspect anyone whose been “hamming” for a while has plenty of what we call “wallpaper”. My competitive instincts were alive from my early days in California. I became a member of the Certificate Hunters Club (CHC). This group was composed of those who LOVED collecting wallpaper. It had a following not unlike the 10-10 Club for 10 meter operators. When a member would call “CQ CHC”, you were guaranteed a pileup. I loved it in the 60s, but I believe the club has faded away! I also operated in all the State QSO Parties where I met many of my best contest buddies still active today. Field Day was a great learning event, too.

**RR** I haven’t heard you mention 6 meters. In recent years I came to think that was your first love.

**K7BV** Six meters is a somewhat recent passion. In 1964, I was loaned a Gonset G-50 AM radio set and became fascinated with the band that summer. Unfortunately, I found I could destroy TV reception in my neighborhood with unpleasant results, so I drifted away from that. By the way, my record distance for TVI was an old cranky woman six blocks way! Thirty-eight years later I came back to 6m, and have been enjoying it ever since. Applying my OCB principles, I put up a big “H” frame of 7el yagis in Connecticut when working for the ARRL. I have plans for another big H frame here in Turkey soon. However, I have rediscovered the thrill of HF DXing in a big way. I’ve put up some good antennas. I’ve found this is a great place for both HF and 6m operations.

**RR** Now, tell us how Turkey, NC came to be on your radar?

**K7BV** I guess everyone knows about my bout with cancer that occurred in 2010. An event like that can change a person’s life. I’ve detailed some of my thoughts and feelings on my journey through that era on my blog at <http://k7bvcancer.blogspot.com/>. I decided that participation in the WRTC was the apex of my chase. I no longer had the quest to win as my goal. Instead, my quest was my own self-satisfaction since I knew the contesting ropes well and had a greater appreciation for living each day as it came. I wanted to live as far away as I could get from crazy California and it’s....ah....uniqueness.... I always had a desire to own a log home. Turkey gave me that. I wanted a radio-

quiet place with some acreage and no constraints on building and raising antennas. Turkey gave me that. I’d been on the road 32 weekends per year for Yaesu, and wanted to curtail that. I am now down to 3 or 4 a year. With my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday this January, it is for sure time to smell the heated ozone—from my signal. I’m staying home more now, building antennas, and operating as much as possible. My XYL, Lieska, has gracefully tolerated my passion for radio which was not the case in earlier marriages. Appropriately, I was getting divorced every peak of the sunspot cycle! Lieska has her own passion with quilting which she can peacefully do here. Oh, and she’s won her share of the “wallpaper” that her avocation provides to its best quilters. In that sense, we share each other’s interests and accomplishments—and that’s working out real well.

**RR** I keep seeing your station spotted on the clusters, so I know you’re on the air. And, I see you duking it out at the top of the DX King standings each year using your growing antenna farm. Thanks for sharing a bit of your life with us.

### CDXA Website at your Service

Our webmaster, Wayne Setzer, WB4BXW, is always busy making improvements to the CDXA website, but many of them probably go unnoticed. Since your editor has been out of the editor’s chair for a few years, it was an eye opener to notice all the new names that now appear on the roster. Therefore, it is appropriate to point out some of the features of our website for those who have not taken the time to fully explore it. I should begin by noting that our website could easily be considered a “portal” to the amateur radio world since there are links galore that will be helpful to you. Here’s a quick rundown of the major “picks” on the site.

**Home Page**—This is where you arrive when you navigate to <http://www.cdxa.org>. Here is where you’ll find the latest CDXA news that will announce happenings and events germane to CDXA. You can explore the archives of the Pileup going back to the first issue in December 1982. There is some interesting material stored in those old issues, some of which will be reintroduced in the coming months. At the bottom of the home page there are a number of hot links to take you off to other sites.

**Bone Yard**—This is the place to swap or sell gear. No charge for a listing. New items are flagged for your convenience.

*(Continued on page 8)*

(Continued from page 7)

**CDXF**—Here's where you find information on the Carolina DX Foundation—the 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation that provides you a tax deductible place to make donations. Donations go to support DXpeditions and other charitable endeavors undertaken by the foundation.

**Contest Events**—In this place are links to ARRL Contests, CQ Contests, State QSO parties, and even ham-fests published in QST. If you've ever fumbled around trying to find the exchange for a contest you've come across while spinning the radio dial, this is a great place to jump start your search.

**Dealers/Manufacturers**—Wayne has assembled quite a collection of ham radio dealers and manufacturers available as “hot links”. Why look elsewhere when perhaps the very site you need is here? By the way, CDXA is not endorsing any particular dealer or manufacturer via this list. It is provided only for your convenience.

**Email**—this gives you access to the CDXA mail reflector if you want to send a note to the entire association. Please use the list with discretion. If you need to reach only a person or two, consider using the roster.

**Roster**—Here you'll find all members including their name, callsign, address, telephone number, and email address, unless a member has asked that one or more of these items not be displayed. Please note the roster can be sorted by any of the field names by clicking on the column headers. Also, clicking on a callsign will take you to the member's entry on QRZ.COM, and clicking on the member's first name (if underlined in blue) will provide you with a photo of the member. (If you want to have a photo associated with your name, send a copy to the Webmaster, Wayne.)

**HR Links**—Here is a collection of ham radio (HR) links to sites of interest to hams. At least the K8ZT pick will take you to a site that has even MORE sites! One site that is certainly to be of interest to DXers is the NG3K site of DX and Contest Operations. This is THE place to go to find out what entities are going to be active in a contest, and it usually provides the QSL route.

**Join/Renew Membership**—This is “membership central”. Need to renew your membership or change any of your membership data? Here's where to do it. You can even renew your ARRL membership here, and each ARRL renewal using this mode provides a small rebate to CDXA from ARRL!

**Packet Cluster**—Having trouble connecting to the CDXA Packet Cluster? Well. . . . we've not used packets for awhile so perhaps we should just call it the “Cluster”, but here you'll get help in getting connected to the CDXA cluster via the Internet. There's even a user manual here for the commands needed for our cluster software.

**W4 QSL Buro**—You did know that CDXA's own Paul Sturpe (W3GQ) manages the W4 QSL bureau, didn't you? Also, a number of CDXA members serve as letter managers and bulk sorters for this bureau. Let Paul know if you want to help in some way. Since the 4<sup>th</sup> call area is geographically large, the area has two bureaus—one for single letter prefixes and one for double letter prefixes. Almost any question you may have about using the bureau and how it operates can be found here for BOTH 4<sup>th</sup> call area bureaus.

And. . . ., this is not all the picks. I'll leave it to you to visit the website and satisfy your curiosity of what's been left out. By the way, keeping all this material current is a big job that Wayne does for us. If you run across a broken link or something that's not quite right, drop Wayne a note by clicking on the “Webmaster” link displayed at the bottom of most pages.

## A Little More Information on CDXA and Club Log

John Forbus, NV4A

The September 2017 *Pileup* included some guidelines on CDXA Club Log “policy.” It might help to back up just a bit, and take a look at Club Log, ([www.clublog.org](http://www.clublog.org)) including CDXA participation. First, Club Log says about itself that it's “. . . a free web-based tool for producing DXCC league tables, expedition tools, log search services and most-wanted lists for ham radio.”

Any ham can join, and use their services. In answer to the question of “Why join Club Log?”, their website says that “Club Log is not only an expedition log search service, but a toolkit for all DXers. (*Be sure to check out this link.*) If you sign up and upload your log, you will be able to track and refine your log and DXing progress more closely. Your participation will also improve the usefulness of the database—for example the propagation and most-wanted charts—and as a result help expeditions to plan their activities in the future. Did you know that Club Log will completely automate filling in OQRS forms, and show you which slots you

(Continued on page 12)

## Win Gift Cards in the ARRL International DX Contest

John Forbus, NV4A

The ARRL International DX Contest will begin with the CW Contest starting on Friday February 16 at 1900 EST, (0000Z February 17) and the Phone contest will start on March 4 at 1900 EST. Both contests will run for 48 hours. Once again we urge 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, and might give you an ATNO, or at least help you pile up your DX King score. It's also worth noting that you can expect a high LoTW QSL rate from contest QSOs.

Our scores for the last eleven years are shown in the chart below.

Year	CDXA Score	No. of CDXA Entrants	Medium Club Rank
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
2016	26,497,110	49	3
2017	15,246,312	30	3



Our results have been consistently in the top 10 in the “Medium Club” category, The last two years we’ve been in 3rd place. Considering the competition and the propagation, that was a good showing. It’s also worth noting that almost all the top ten finishers in our category except for CDXA and a club improbably named “The Order of the Boiled Owls of New York” feature the word “Contest” prominently in their names, and even the Owls say their primary interest is radiosport.

To keep things interesting we are again offering some excellent prizes for this year’s participants.

**First place prizes** Each winner gets a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift Card which is also good at Carrabba's Italian Grill and Bonefish Grill. Winners also have the option of donating the \$50 to CDXF in lieu of the Gift Card. 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      |

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

**500 or more QSO's total in the CW and Phone contests:** Each participant gets a 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.

*(Continued on page 10)*

(Continued from page 9)

## Win Gift Cards in ARRL International DX Contest (con'd)

Contestants can only win one prize. Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition as defined in the contest rules can win a gift card. 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.

For a quick summary of the Contest rules relating to club size and which stations are eligible to compete, CDXA is a "Medium Club" which includes clubs with between 10 and 50 entries, all of which must be within a 175 mile radius of the club "Center." In our case, thanks to a lot of work by W3OA a few years ago, CDXA's Center is the center of EM95xe, which makes almost all CDXAers eligible. We're just beginning the process of doing the yearly review required so that ARRL has a complete list of eligible contestants. We will post the Eligibility List on the CDXA website when this year's update is completed.

---

### 2017 CQWW CWAC Wrap Up

John Forbus, NV4A

CDXA's total score in the 2017 CQ Worldwide contest was just less than 9.5 million points, with over 5.7 million in the SSB portion and almost 3.8 million in the CW portion. Scores were down this year, no doubt reflecting propagation conditions, but also less participation. Compared to 2016, we had four less participants in SSB, and five less in CW. We need to get our participation back up in 2018, especially since we can't count on better propagation to help us. Even though it seems that the 2018 CQWW Contest is a long way off, please be sure to check the Contest and Event Calendar in this issue of the *Pileup* (Page 11) and put CQWW on your "Must Do" list. Don't forget that there are some nice prizes to be had. . . . see below.

CDXA members competed for first place Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) awards in five categories. Each winner got a fifty-dollar gift card for Outback Steak House. The winners were:

- Top Combined Score—K5EK , 3,044,974 points\*
- Top Phone Score—N4PQX, 1,130,916 points
- Top Phone Score, Low Power—W3ZL, 107,900 points
- Top CW Score—W3OA, 1,178,928 points
- Top CW Score, Low Power—AA4R, 397,584 points

Since a participant can win only one prize, we had no one in the "1000 or more QSOs combined" category. This underlines the point about poor propagation.

Participants 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 three winners :

K2SD                                      K8YC                                      K4KAY

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 two winners here:

WA3DQS                                      K4CEB

K4KAY won the gift certificate.

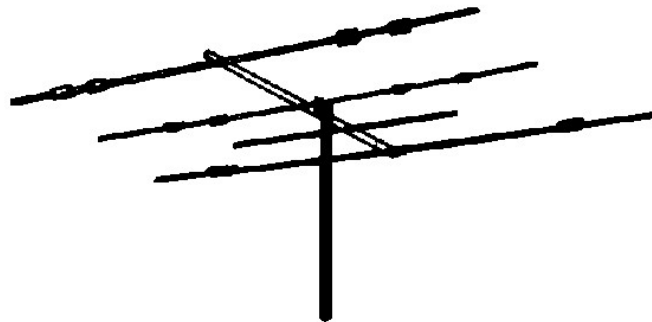
\*Ed, K5EK chose to donate the \$50.00 value of the Gift Card to CDXF rather than take the gift card. Thanks for the donation Ed!

### DX Calendar for 2018

Keep a copy of this around to keep track of the big events coming in 2018.

Event	Dates	Event	Dates
*CQ DX Marathon and DX King	Jan 1-Dec 31	*2018 CDXA FT8 Challenge	Jan 1-Dec 31
ARRL January VHF Contest	Jan 20-22	CQ World Wide 160 Meter, CW	Jan 26-28
*ARRL DX Contest, CW	Feb 17-18	CQ World Wide 160 Meter, Phone	Feb 23-25
*ARRL DX Contest, Phone	Mar 3-4	Charlotte Hamfest	Mar 9-10
CDXA Annual Hamfest Banquet	Mar 9 or 10 (TBD)	Dayton Hamvention	May18-20
ARRL June VHF Contest	June 9-11	Field Day	June 23-24
CQ World Wide, VHF	July 21-22	Shelby Hamfest	Aug 31-Sep 2
ARRL September VHF Contest	Sept 8-10	CQ World Wide, RTTY	Sept 29-30
W4DXCC (SEDCO)/Ten-Tec Hamfest	Sept 21-22	*CQ World Wide, Phone	Oct 27-28
*CQ World Wide, CW	Nov 24-25	ARRL 160 Meter Contest	Nov 30-Dec 2
ARRL 10 Meter Contest	Dec 8-9	ARRL Int'l Grid Chase 2018	Jan 1-Dec 31

Notes: All Contest Dates are in UTC. EST = UTC-5 hours. EDT = UTC - 4 hours  
 \* Asterisks denote contests for which CDXA awards prizes and/or certificates.



### Welcome New Members

We welcome the new year with six additions to our membership roster. **David Purifoy WD4PDZ** of New Bern, NC adds to our numbers in the eastern part of our state as does the return to our membership ranks of **Roy Lincoln, WA4DOU** from Elm City, NC. Also reappearing on our roster from the Charlotte area are **Thomas Hunt, KA3VVJ** and **Mary Hunt, N4MH**. Two new members from the vicinity of Charlotte are **Mark Scott, K4MV** of Salisbury and **Ambrose “Bo” Barry, W4GHV** of Concord. Welcome to all of you.

(Continued from page 8)

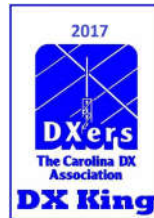
need, if you have an account? You can sign up free anytime.”

In short, Club Log is a great tool to keep up with your personal DX count progress, follow DXpeditions, keep up with the “Most Wanted” entities list, and a lot more. If you’re a CDXA member, and you want to join, just let them know in the sign-up process that you want to be included in the CDXA club list. When you do that, Club Log has a simple verification process to ensure that you really are a CDXA member—they ask me and a couple of other Board Members to approve or deny your membership as a CDXAer. If you’re on the Roster, you’re in. It’s as simple as that. It’s kind of surprising to me (...but I’m actually new to being on the approval list) that we get requests for CDXA Club Log membership from non-CDXA members. Those folks get denied, but I send them a nice note pointing them to our website and welcoming them to join us, and then reapply to Club Log as a CDXA member. One other note on the DXpedition charts: As a CDXA Club Log member, you can see how you did working a DXpedition compared to other club members. It’s fun, and informative. If you get whooped by another club member, ask what he was doing differently and what his rig and antenna setup was. It might help you improve next time. Of course, if you’re at or near the top of the list, there are those bragging rights . . . . .

If you really want to use the some of the handiest features of Club Log, you definitely want to upload your log. Club Log will check your log for errors, and will even make corrections if it can. I used it to straighten out a number of entity errors in my Ham Radio Deluxe log. You can get your DXCC totals and needed entities, your yearly totals, band totals, etc.—all computed from your log data. It’s a very useful feature. Club Log will even help you with your log submissions to LOTW. One thing which seems to cause a bit of confusion is joining the “Club DX League”. You can upload your logs, and keep them private, or you can join the Club DX League as a CDXA member, with permission, just like joining Club Log initially. All our members are welcome and encouraged to join the Club DX League as CDXA members. In fact, in the introduction to the Club DX League list, Club Log says “The league below is based on all of the QSOs in active members’ logs. Only the primary callsigns of members are considered. The data should be interpreted with care if the number of members in a club is much less than the full membership expected.”

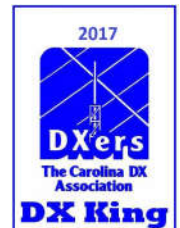
Note that CDXA, which has about 200 members, has only 55 Club DX League entries. **One note of caution:** Especially if you decide to put your log in the Club League list, you need to keep your logs current. Logs with no entries for a year are automatically removed from the list. It probably should go without saying that you’re encouraged to keep adding to your DXCC entity count, since our club’s League standings are based on the AVERAGE entity count of all members participating in the league.

Really, it’s all pretty simple. The more you use Club Log, the more comfortable you’ll be using it, and the more you’ll be able to get out of it. In other words: Try it, you’ll like it! If you really get stuck and need help, feel free to ask me for help.



## DX King News

John Forbus, NV4A



2017 is over, and so is the 2017 DX King Competition. Remember that your entry for the 2017 CQ Marathon is used as your final score in DX King. The CQ submission deadline is 10 January, which very well may have passed by the time you read this. Ready to try it again in 2018? See the announcement in this issue of the Pileup.

Here are the scores submitted for the 2017 DX King competition as of December 31. Remember that these are preliminary. We’ll announce the final results, as well as the winner of the \$100 Amazon Gift Card once CQ Magazine announces its CQ Marathon results.

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	282	40	322
K5EK	Unlimited	281	40	321
W3GQ	Unlimited	241	40	281
W1AJT	Unlimited	224	40	264
K8YC	Unlimited	206	39	245
VE3UTT	Unlimited	197	40	237
K4ESE	Unlimited	165	35	200
W3OA	Unlimited	158	35	193
W3ZL	Formula	156	32	188
N4GBK	Limited	133	34	167
W4WNT	Formula	101	24	125

## CDXF Reaches out In Different Ways

The Carolina DX Foundation has been quite active in recent months. The foundation is a charitable 501(c)(3) foundation. Contributions to the foundation are generally tax deductible based on an individual's own tax situation.

Support for DXpeditions furthering scientific investigation of electromagnetic wave propagation in the high frequency domain is one of the foundation's goals. To that end the following DXpeditions have been supported by CDXF in the past year:

Macao XX9D  
Bangladesh S21ZED & S21ZEE  
Temotu Province H40GC  
Mellish Reef VK9MA

DXpeditions being supported which are to operate in 2018 are:

Saint Brandon 3B7A April 5-17, 2018  
Bouvet Island 3Y0Z Operations begin  
approximately January 23, 2018

Both of these locales are high on the "most wanted" list. Bouvet is the highest occupying #2 position!

Access to the island is via chartered boat and an accompanying helicopter, because of the absence of safe boat landing areas on the island. Twenty international operators are on the team. The climatic environment on Bouvet is forbidding, even though it will be in the "summer" on this Antarctic island while the operation is underway. Transportation costs and duration make this a very complex expedition with costs in the vicinity \$700,000. As with most DXpeditions to rare places, the people on the team are paying about 50% of the costs—the rest is coming from donations from foundations, clubs, and individuals. CDXF is making its largest contribution to date of \$2,000 to support this DXpedition. More information is available on the DXpedition website at <https://www.bouvetdx.org>.

With the passing of Roger Burt, N4ZC (SK), one of CDXA's founders and its first President, the Carolina DX Foundation made a contribution to the Heart Society of Gaston County at the family's request. In memory of Roger and his love for contesting, the Foundation has also arranged to support a permanent award plaque for the CQ World Wide CW contest. The plaque will be awarded annually to the Single Operator All Band (SOAB) contestant from Zone 5 in the United States who wins that contest class. Let's hope a future winner will be a member of CDXA.

---

## Christmas Cheer for Those Who Serve Us!



CDXA has an informal luncheon almost every week of the year at Skyland Restaurant. Our waitress, Tabitha, is our regular server each of those weeks. The hat is passed around among those who attend the luncheons to recognize the service she provides throughout the year. Club President Trotter donned his holiday garb the week before Christmas to present Tabitha with a check by which she can enjoy a little holiday "cheer". (Note: This spontaneous member activity is NOT a Carolina DX Foundation activity. It is only by coincidence that this item is on the same page as CDXF news. —The Editor.)

## The Back Page

This first issue of 2018 was much larger than expected. Our contest manager, John Forbus, NV4A, was really busy writing about all the contest wrapups of 2017 and the perennial contests for early 2018—ARRL International DX Contest—as well as two new contests based on grid squares. Below is a synopsis of all you'll find in this issue.

**FT8 Grid Challenge** on Page 1 is CDXA's own "contest within a contest" for chasing grid squares using the new FT8 digital mode.

**Greetings from this year's editor** of The Pileup. What to expect and how you can help to meet those expectations.

The ARRL has conceived of a new contest called the **ARRL International Grid Chase**. It is an annual recurring year round contest is based on gathering grid squares. On Page 3, John Forbus provides a recap of what it's all about.

**DX King for 2018** is pretty much the same as it has been for the past several years. This year round contest helps make low sunspot activity somewhat tolerable. Read more on Page 4.

The **ROVING REPORTER** has been found. He wandered over to Turkey, North Carolina to talk with Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV. The interview starts on Page 5. Will you be ready to chat when he comes to your door?

Our unsung Webmaster, Wayne Setzer, continues to enhance our webpage. Beginning on Page 7 you can find **Everything You Didn't Know about the CDXA Webpage**.

On Page 8 begins a overview of some of the features of **Club Log** that make is a useful tool for DXers as well as a source for data of interest for DXers and DXpeditioners.

February and March will find the annual **ARRL International DX Contests** on tap. Here the focus of world wide hams will be on working U.S. Hams. It's as close as one can get to being on the other end of a pileup by staying at home, and the results will propel your DX King and Grid Square Chase results for 2018. See Page 9.

Recap of the **CQWW CWAC for 2017** will be found on Page 10.

The **2018 Contest Calendar** is on Page 11. You'll also meet some of our **new members** there!

The **2017 DX King contest recap** on Page 12 showed that those who stayed the course proved there was still DX to be had in these propagation doldrums. Some came close to working all the known 'DXCC entities on the air in 2017. How about 282 countries and 40 Zones in a single year? That's a good count for a lifetime for many.

The **Carolina DX Foundation** quietly moves along fulfilling its charter as a 501(c)(3) organization. Page 13 recaps its activities in 2017.

We don't forget those who faithfully serve us. By tradition, we provide a little "**Christmas Cheer**" by passing the hat for the server at our weekly luncheons. See page 13.