

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

DX King July Numbers

John Forbus, NV4A

Below are the latest DX King scores, through July. It's a short list of calls ...only nine calls (for eight people since Art, W1AJT/VE3UTT gets to enter twice, but he has to work all his entities twice as well) out of a club with more than 200 members! Since the Contest Manager (that'd be me) doesn't include his own call in any contest where prizes are drawn, that's only eight people. ...eight people competing for a \$100 Amazon Gift Card ...that's \$100.

If you're interested in getting your name in the hat for that **\$100 Amazon Gift Card**, it isn't too late. Just go back to the January Pileup and read how easy it is to get in on the fun. If you look at your logs, I'm pretty sure that some of you who aren't in the DX King chase yet have worked enough countries so far this year to be included, especially with all the FT8 activity going on. I'm waiting to hear from you....

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

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	250	40	290
AA4SC	Unlimited	195	40	235
VE3UTT	Unlimited	191	39	230
W3GQ	Unlimited	161	37	198
K8YC	Unlimited	165	32	197
W1AJT	Unlimited	152	37	189
W3OA	Unlimited	138	34	172
NV4A	Unlimited	131	28	159
W3ZL	Formula	95	24	119

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR V.4 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:23
K4MD (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:7373
W4DXA (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com:23
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

W4DXCC Convention Coming Soon

The W4DXCC Convention (a.k.a., SEDCO), held annually since 2005 in Pigeon Forge, TN, will reconvene on September 21-22, 2018. The convention features speakers on DXing and Contesting in a friendly setting at a wonderful time of the year to be near Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Friday features a “boot camp” (details on the W4DXCC website) where there is always something to be learned—for hams old and new, alike.

An “unofficial” dinner on Friday evening at Calhoun’s Restaurant has become one of the features of the weekend. Arrange to sit with your friends there to get an early start for your eyeball QSLing that this weekend provides.

Vendors of radio equipment will be present and available to discuss your radio needs all weekend, and there are plenty of door prizes. More details are available at www.w4dxcc.com.

Below is a synopsis of the program:

Friday September 21st, Main Conference Hall

Ham Radio Bootcamp Overview

0800 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 1145	Bootcamp Program Morning
1145 - 1315	Lunch Break
1315 - 1545	Bootcamp Program Afternoon
1700 - 1900	Dutch Treat dinner at Calhoun's BBQ restaurant

The Pileup

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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 associating with 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:

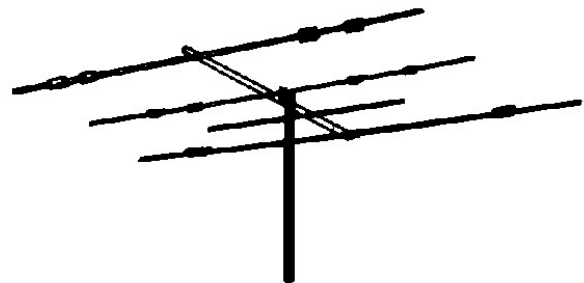
Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
218 Ohenry Avenue
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jew53@cornell.edu.

- 1930 - 2015 - **Building a Modern Solid State Amp or How We Shrunk the Linear - David Shoaf KG6IRW**
- 2015 - 2100 - **How to QSL efficiently and effectively - Tom Harrell N4XP**
- 2100 - ... - **Everything I ever need to know about Amateur Radio I learned from my Elmer – And other myths - Dan Henderson N1ND**

Saturday September 22nd, Main Conference Hall

- 0800 - ... **Registration Opens**
- 0830 - 0845 **Introduction, Pledge, Administrative details - Dave Anderson K4SV**
- 0845 - 0930 **Hams to the Rescue - Valerie Hotzfeld NV9L**
- 0930 - 0950 **Q and A**
- 0950 - 1035 **Bouvet : The Good, the Bad & the Ugly - Dr. Glenn Johnson W0GJ**
- 1035- 1055 **Q and A**
- 1055 - 1140 **Baker Island 2018 - Rick Boulis N4HU with Tom Harrell N4XP**
- 1140 - 1200 **Q and A**
- 1200 - 1330 **Lunch Break**
- 1330 - 1415 **I can not work DX because of the Noise - Mike Martin K3RFI**
- 1415 - 1435 **Q and A**
- 1435 - 1520 **DXing from Chile - Lessons learned over a decade - Dr. Scott Wright K0MD**
- 1520 - 1540 **Q and A**
- 1540 - 1625 **An in person look at WRTC 2018 - Scott Robbins W4PA**
- 1625 - 1645 **Q and A**
- 1645 - 1700 **Prize Wrap Up**
- 1830 - 2100 **Banquet**



CDXA 2018 ARRL International DX CW and Phone Contest Scores

John Forbus, NV4A

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW and Phone contests have been published, including the results of the 2018 Club Competition. CDXA's total score in the CW and Phone contests combined was 7,463,787 points, placing us in seventh place among the 46 clubs in the Medium Category this year. While we slipped to seventh from third place last year, at least we solidly trounced the Order of Boiled Owls of New York this year! Listed below are the CDXA members who contributed to CDXA's club score, in CW and Phone. The last column shows the member's place in his class in his ARRL Section and the number of entrants in that class from that Section. Thanks to all who participated and added to our overall Club result.

Note the "Notes" showing that we had some good overall results in the Roanoke Division as well. Also, K7BV was #5 in the Southeast Region (Delta, Roanoke and Southeastern Divisions) on CW, and K5EK was 19th. In the Phone Contest, K5EK was 15th in the Southeast Region and W7DO was 17th.

Call	Score-Phone	Class	Section	Ranking in Class	Notes
K5EK	774,336	Single Op Assisted High	NC	1/23	(1)
W7DO	528,525	Single Op Assisted High	SC	2/6	(2)
W3GQ	452,196	Single Op Assisted High	NC	2/23	(3)
W3OA	122,100	Single Op Assisted High	NC	6/23	
K2SD	84,336	Single Op Assisted High	NC	9/23	
K4KAY	70,308	Single Op Assisted High	NC	11/23	
WA3DQS	59,070	Single Op High	NC	1 /4	
W3ZL	28,182	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	7/22	
KD4RH	24,660	Single Op Single Band (40)	SC	1 /2	
W4GHV	24,108	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	9/22	
NV4A	20,700	Single Op Assisted High	NC	21/23	
KS4S	11,088	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	13/22	
K4KZ	5,796	Single Op High	NC	4/4	
W4WNT	363	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	21/22	

Notes: (1) 3rd in Class in Roanoke Division
 (2) 5th in Class in Roanoke Division
 (3) 7th in Class in Roanoke Division

Call	Score-CW	Class	Section	Ranking in Class	Notes
K7BV	1,418,820	Single Op High	NC	2/3	(1)
K5EK	1,287,264	Single Op Assisted High	NC	1/16	(2)
W7DO	755,955	Single Op Assisted High	SC	1/7	
W3OA	583,440	Single Op Assisted High	NC	4/16	
AA4V	365,400	Single Op Assisted High	SC	4/7	
W3GQ	343,860	Single Op Assisted High	NC	5/16	
K2SD	147,420	Single Op Assisted High	NC	7/16	
NV4A	119,196	Single Op Assisted High	NC	8/16	
K8YC	118,371	Single Op Assisted High	NC	9/16	
W4ZV	42,120	Single Op Single Band (160)	NC	1/5	(3)
WA3DQS	35,625	Single Op Low	NC	4/12	
W3ZL	29,388	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	4/7	
KS4S	10,653	Single Op Assisted Low	NC	7/7	
W4GHV	507	Single Op Low	NC	10/12	

Notes: (1) 3rd in Class in Roanoke Division
 (2) 2nd in Class in Roanoke Division
 (3) 1st in Class in Roanoke Division

2018 FT8 Challenge Update Through July

John Forbus, NV4A

FT8 continues to be a great way to deal with current band conditions. Now the problem seems to be that the FT8 portion of any band that's open at all is so packed with signals that it's hard to find a clear 50Hz-wide spot. But that's better than searching around the band and not hearing much or any interesting DX on phone or CW. If we could just do something about these mid-afternoon thunderstorms that make us dive for the shack to get everything disconnected from power and antennas, there would be even more time to search for new grids and entities on FT8.

Call	Home Grid	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	All Bands
K5EK	FM03	406	460	423	710	439	143	28	68	259	2936
W3GQ	EM95	319	449	361	567	515	204	43	75	45	2578
W3OA	EM95	216	385	260	583	151	219	78	119	102	2113
AA4R	FM05	62	237	293	428	484	282	56	37	0	1879
K4GHS	EM96	135	196	387	283	379	220	21	5	0	1626
WA3DQS	EM95	195	130	175	73	123	96	26	62	21	901
N4GBK	FM16	55	73	97	143	77	49	73	41	44	652
NV4A	EM95	104	88	144	95	82	2	8	2	94	619
W4LK	EM93	34	121	132	217	70	25	3	2	8	612
W4GEH	EM95	64	164	101	125	49	14	0	4	0	521
WW4DD	EM94	116	130	34	142	5	0	0	1	2	430
W3ZL	EM95	0	58	9	185	12	1	0	6	38	309
W4JHU	EM85	29	73	0	39	26	3	0	4	0	174
N4APR	EM95	0	63	5	40	0	2	0	0	0	110
K8YC	EM95	0	9	23	15	14	1	0	0	11	73
W4GHV	EM95	3	23	10	22	5	1	0	0	1	65

Radio Shack Rises from the Ashes in Mooresville

According to a July 13 article in the *New York Post*, RadioShack is planning to open “express stores” within HobbyTown USA locations. The nearly century-old, twice-bankrupt retailer has signed a deal with HobbyTown USA to put a mini-RadioShack outlet in some 50 HobbyTown USA stores across the country that would sell items that might appeal to radio amateurs and experimenters. Those locations will be identified with RadioShack signage. HobbyTown markets remote-controlled cars and boats as well as drones and other hobby-related merchandise.

RadioShack shuttered all of its company-owned retail outlets. Its last unsuccessful effort to bail itself out of debt involved a deal with cellular provider Sprint. HobbyTown USA has 140 retail outlets, and, according to the *Post* article, RadioShack eventually could carve out a presence—on the order of 500 square feet—in all of them. HobbyTown USA stores in Parker, Colorado, and **Mooresville, North Carolina**, will be among the first to host RadioShack express stores.

New U.S. Submarine Forces Commander is Radio Amateur

ARRL Webpage, 08/10/2018



US Navy Vice Admiral Charles A. “Chas” Richard, W4HFZ, assumed command of US submarine forces during a change-of-command ceremony on August 4, held aboard the submarine USS Washington (SSN-787). He assumed command from Vice Admiral Joseph Tofalo. An ARRL Life Member, Richard, 58, is well-known in the AMSAT and APRS communities. He had been serving as the deputy commander of US Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

A radio amateur since 1974, Richard said on his QRZ.COM profile that he is active on 6 and 2 meters, as well as on HF when the VHF bands are closed. He also enjoys digital satellite operations. Richard has been on active US Navy duty since 1982.



The Fast-moving World of FT-8

If you’re reading this, I suspect it was the title that caught your attention. You said to yourself, “At 1¼ to 2 minutes to complete a QSO, what’s so ‘fast’ about FT-8?” In this instance, I’m not talking about the time to complete a QSO. Rather I’m talking about the evolutionary speed of this new mode. Two years ago at this time, hardly anyone knew about Joe Taylor’s new addition to the WSJT (Weak Signal-Joe Taylor) suite of weak signal modes. In mid-2017 it took off, and by the time the 2017 W4DXCC convention came around, amateur radio was abuzz with chatter about FT8.

Today, near the sunspot minimum, if you put your WSJT-X software on 20 meters at almost any time, you’ll see the entire 3kHz band segment filled with signals—each only about 50Hz wide. Needless to say, many who previously spent little time “chasing DX” now are finding some excitement easily working someone far away with only minimal antennas.

Yet, the speed I’m REALLY talking about is the evolutionary speed of the maturity of the software and supporting documentation. Not long after FT8 came out using gridsquares as its “locating” feature, the VHF/UHF contesters called for (and Joe Taylor provided) a VHF contest mode for FT8. When FT8 caught on in the HF world, cries began ringing out about how neat it would be if FT8 could be used for DXpeditions. Realizing that a DXpedition would literally wipe out normal communications on the small frequency segments allocated for FT8 on the HF bands, experimentation began on a DXpedition mode. The development took several test sessions, aided by willing hams, to iron out the details. In the Spring of 2018, those who took the time to fully understand how the DXpedition mode is to be used worked KH1/KH7Z successfully with relative ease.

Now, all this could not have happened if the knowledge of FT8 was transmitted only by word of mouth. Joe Taylor—a Nobel Laureate and educator—did a marvelous job of preparing documentation. Others jumped in to assist. Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, produced about an 8 page document first called “FT8 Operating Tips”. That document is now over 50 pages long and should be required

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

reading for anyone using FT8. Here's where to find it: [FT8 Operating Tips](#)

You'll note the link to Gary's work still indicates it provides "tips", but I can assure you it is a full-fledged operators guide. It includes information on the DXpedition Mode. Joe Taylor's WSJT-X full FT8 installation instructions quietly mentions this documentation, but I am afraid few take the time to follow the link.

In the fast moving FT8 world, it was apparent that there were many who had not "caught up" with the world for the first DXpedition use of FT-8 for Baker Island. That has now been remedied by Joe Taylor in a document created in May 2018 entitled [FT8 DXpedition Mode - User Guide](#).

Back in 1962 a Broadway musical opened entitled, "Stop the World—I want to get off!" The world was moving fast then, and it continues to spin today. You can't get off. So you might as well get on the FT8 world by checking out the documentation cited above.



Generator? I thought you brought it...

Reprinted with permission from OH1BR from his booklet, [The Radio Amateur's Conversation Guide](#).

Pun Phun

Those who suffered the foibles of your "old editor" in the years he published the Pileup from 2000 through 2011 know that he has a hard time passing the groan available from a well-constructed PUN. So, here we turn on the "Way-Back Machine" for a few groaners.

These puns are appropriate for "communicators".

I'm positive I just lost an electron. Better keep an ion that.

How do turtles communicate with each other? With shell phones.

Since hams have been relegated to the status of dinosaur's by some, here's some appropriate questions:

What do you call a super articulate dinosaur? A Thesaurus

What do you call a dinosaur with one eye? A do-you-think-he-saur-us.

And finally. . . .

Why do programmers make good dancers? Because they have algorithm.

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

Here's what was going on ten and twenty years ago as cited in the old issue of the PILEUP.

Ten Years Ago

A gang of CDXAers went down to South Carolina to put Fox Mike 13 on the air using N4BX. . . . Itice Goldthorpe (K4LVV) became a new member of CDXA and reported having 525 grid squares (today, she's at 575!). . . .CQ DX Editor Bob Schenck (N2OO) reported his experiences of 30 years earlier that involved a contact with CDXA member Steve Sullivan (KZ2I).

Twenty Years Ago

President Joe Simpkins, K4MD reflected for members in his Presidential letter in the Pileup that Roger Webb's, W4MW, presentation on moonbounce communications at The Wood Shed in Stanley had created a "buzz" for those attending. . . Joe was also in the midst of converting some commercial GE Phoenix radios for use on the PacketCluster (remember those RF connections?)



Here's the team that brought you KH1/KH7Z from Baker Island. This DXpedition was sponsored by the Carolina DX Foundation (CDXF).

The Back Page

The **DX King** competition seems to have slowed down as attention has shifted toward FT8. The odds are quite good right now for a nice prize at year end with so few in the raffle draw, but there is still time to get your name in the hat. (See page 1.)

The **W4DXCC Convention** (SEDCO) is now only about 5 weeks away. It's a great time to whet your appetite for the coming contest season, see a bunch of ham friends, and enjoy the Smoky Mountain area in the fall season. (See page two for more details.)

Standings for the **ARRL International DX competition amongst CDXAers** are now out. See page three for John Forbus' synopsis.

The **FT8 Challenge** standings are reported through July. (See Page 4.)

Radio Shack to have a presence soon in Mooresville, NC in a HobbyTown USA store. HobbyTown USA's store is in the Wal-Mart complex east of I-77 at Exit 36. (See Page 4.)

A radio amateur is now **commander of the U. S. Submarine** service. (See Page 5.)

All you ever wanted to know about **FT8**. (See Page 5.)

Sit back and **relax**. (Page 6.)

Articles and Ideas are welcome. With over 200 members, surely some of you have something that you'd like to tell your fellow CDXA members. Pick up your pen. Become "published". —*The Editor*