

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA BBQ On Horizon



The Blackwell's have opened their Lake Wylie home again in 2018 to host the 2018 edition of the CDXA Annual Bar-B-Que. It's a weekend event, so it is an opportunity to meet many of your CDXA friends face to face. It is a catered affair, with Jim & Nick's BBQ providing the eats. We'll have BBQ Pork and whole chicken cut picnic style with accompaniments of baked beans, slaw, and green

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|--------|---------------|---------------------------|
| 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 |

beans. More details to come—check out the CDXA website. Put the event on your calendar now.

When: Saturday, October 13, 4pm to 7pm

Where: 6391 Baker Lane; Lake Wylie, SC 29710

A map and directions are available on the CDXA Website in the Calendar of Events.

To the right is the “gang” in 2017 shown in Joe’s front yard.



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

Welcome New Members

Almost like clockwork, as the lazy, crazy days of summer start to wind down, CDXA experiences a membership surge. Maybe it is the prospect of a coming radio contest season, maybe it is the promise of longer winter evenings to work DX on the low bands, or maybe it is just because many are bidding an end to “summer vacations” and getting back to work. I guess we’ll never really know.

As August moved along we witnessed the return of **David Bower, K4PZT**, of Knoxville, TN to the membership roll. Many of you who have gone to W4DXCC/SEDCO know David because of the kinship CDXA has shared with the group of stalwart DXers that were named “The Tennessee Eight” in the early 2000s for regularly trekking to Charlotte each March for the Hamfest.

All time new members are also on the list, as well. Sometimes new members have just moved into the area and want to hook up with a DX Club, and others just come on board to give us a try. One of our new members this month, **Brian Harison, KN4R**, of Sherills Ford is not new to the area. In fact, your editor met Brian earlier this year when we transacted a sale of a piece of gear Brian had found on the CDXA Boneyard. I learned Brian has recently retired, so maybe he has more time to play radio. The other new member on the list is **James Little, K4JUO**, of Climax, NC. James will have to let us know his story on how he came to find us. Perhaps it will be as soon as the Fall Barbeque.

Anyway, let’s all welcome Dave, Brian, and James. We hope to have an eyeball QSO with you soon.

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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: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Need Macquarie Island for DXCC?

By John Scott, K8YC

An event with little fanfare occurred in May, 2018 when it was announced that Norbert Trupp, VK5MQ, was going to be stationed on Macquarie Island through December, 2018. His callsign for this visit is VK0AI, and I needed Macquarie for an all-time new DXCC entity (ATNO). It was announced Norbert was going to be using FT8 and generally operating during the hours of 0400Z to 0900Z as time permitted. Norbert has duties to perform as a scientist, and his on-air schedule was to be “spotty”. I managed to work him on May 27 at 0459Z. According to eQSL, he has now uploaded over 700 QSOs, and his latest upload to LoTW was 2 September. So, he IS still active.

Do you need Macquarie Island? If so, here are a few helpful hints I’ve noticed in trying to “find” Norbert. His operating pattern seems to be continuing to replicate itself.

1. Use the “search” function on DX Summit or the Reverse Beacon Network to find when and on what bands Norbert is operating. I quickly found he seemed to be operating on our local Sunday mornings starting shortly after midnight. (So, watch for him after “Saturday Night Live”. HI HI) His operating time seems to reflect how well the band is open. In May he was spending a lot of time on 30 meters.

2. Expect to work him using FT8, since that seems to be the great majority of his contact modes by far. That is probably the best mode for us in the SE USA, anyway. He had no CW QSOs and less than 20 SSB QSOs. He clearly seems to like FT8, and a contact is a contact!

3. Norbert DOES work other days, too, so keep an eye on DX Summit. He does not work EVERY weekend, so it may take a few weeks of looking for him after you’re done with your Saturday night date with your XYL’s and/or YLs!

Let me know of any successes you may have in finding Norbert.

W4VHF Returns to the Air

By Paul Trotter, AA4ZZ

Many of you know Ted Goldthorpe , W4VHF, from his long service as CDXA President. Not as many know that Ted spent many years as a champion VHF contester as well. That is what drove Ted to get the W4VHF call sign when the vanity program opened. Within VHF contesting Ted's favorite contest was the CQWW VHF where Ted won the Rover category quite a few times.

After Ted's passing, a number of his friends wanted to see his call sign preserved as a club call. Itice, K4LVV, his widow, was very supportive of the idea. As we looked into FCC requirements for an "in memorium" call sign we found the requirement that Ted had to have been a member of the club being granted the callsign. The current FCC rules require a club to give up any existing call sign it has when it gets a new call sign. After some head scratching we realized that the solution was simple, Ted was the founder of the Roswell DX Association, which is best known by Ted's promotion of its original WY2000 call sign as the "Welcome Year 2000" special event at the turn of the century. With some assistance from John Forbus, NV4A, soon W4VHF was the Roswell DX Association's new club call sign.

Itice requested that Roger Webb, W4MW, serve as trustee of Roswell because of his friendship with Ted. Roger decided that the perfect way to honor Ted was to use the W4VHF call sign in the CQWW VHF contest in 2018. This created lots of enthusiasm from the VHF contest team since Ted had been such a good mentor and friend to so many of us. It would be good for the W4VHF call sign to be a strong presence in a VHF contest once again.

Itice K4LVV was the first contact in the contest. What a great way to start. Saturday was very slow, but that changed with some great six meter openings to the west on Sunday. A number of our contacts were very moved to hear Ted's old call sign back on the air. While the FT8 mode we used during slow times on six was unknown to Ted, Ted was always an innovator and looking for any new technology to improve his score.

We wanted a good finish to keep up with the precedence Ted set. At the end of the contest it was hard to know how we had done given the slow conditions for much of the contest. While we will not have the final results for some time, and we do not expect to win, we do expect a finish near the top of the Multioperator category.

(Photos of the effort are on Page 4, overleaf.)

W4VHF, A Consummate Contester

If there was one aspect of amateur radio that Past President Ted Goldthorpe, W4VHF (SK), was known for, it was VHF contesting. So, it was not a surprise that Ted actually sought the callsign he came to be known by among his many friends and his fellow competitors in the VHF contesting world, when he found it was available.

If there was one contest Ted dearly loved, it was the CQWW July VHF contest. And, if there was one class he loved to enter this contest, it was the Rover Class. Ted had four very special sites he had searched out over the years in EM86, EM85, EM95, and EM96 that he would run in that order in the 27 hour duration of this contest. The contest operates only on 6m and 2m, which was also ideal for a solo operator. When Ted called, "Whiskey Four Victor Hotel Foxtrot, Rover, looking for ANYONE, ANYWHERE", the race was on. Ted could be heard down on the Carolina Piedmont working the many who KNEW Ted would be there roving, and wanted to get the four grids he was sure to offer sometime in the next 27 hours. Itice Goldthorpe, K4LVV was along for the ride, helping Ted setup at each of the four stops, and assisting with the logging. When the bands closed on Saturday night, they even had a great place to stop, dine, and rest for the night.

In the years between 2000 and 2007, W4VHF won the USA Rover Class SIX times. W4VHF holds 2 of the TOP 5 USA Rover scores ever recorded in the contest. This is the reason VHFers were happy to hear W4VHF on the air again in July 2018, and this is the reason some members of CDXA wanted to have the callsign remain "in the family".

Scenes from the W4VHF Activation in CQWW VHF—2018



The team that brought you W4VHF (L to R): Dick Williams (W3OA), Marc Tarplee (N4UFP), Wayne Starnes (KU4V), Bill Fisher (W4GRW), Paul Sturpe (W3GQ), and Paul Trotter (AA4ZZ).



A bird's eye view of the AA4ZZ Contest Site used to activate W4VHF.

DX King August Update

by John Forbus, NV4A

Here are the latest DX King Numbers. K5EK continues to lead with AA4SC in second. Of course, once again, let me remind you that it isn't necessarily the top scorer who gets the prize—a round of applause maybe—but not the \$100 Amazon Gift Certificate. That's determined by lottery after the official 2018 CQ Marathon results are published. So jump in for a chance to win.

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	253	40	293
AA4SC	Unlimited	210	40	250
VE3UTT	Unlimited	191	39	230
K8YC	Unlimited	177	33	210
W3GQ	Unlimited	169	37	206
W1AJT	Unlimited	152	37	189
W3OA	Unlimited	142	34	176
NV4A	Unlimited	131	28	159
W3ZL	Formula	98	24	122

FT8 Challenge through August Update

by John Forbus, NV4A

Bill Garwood, N4GBK, must have been pretty busy on FT8 this month, since he's jumped ahead of K5EK into the lead. Not many people updated their numbers this month. There'll be a reminder e-mail to all members near the end of this month to remind you to upload your latest FT8 (and DX King) scores.

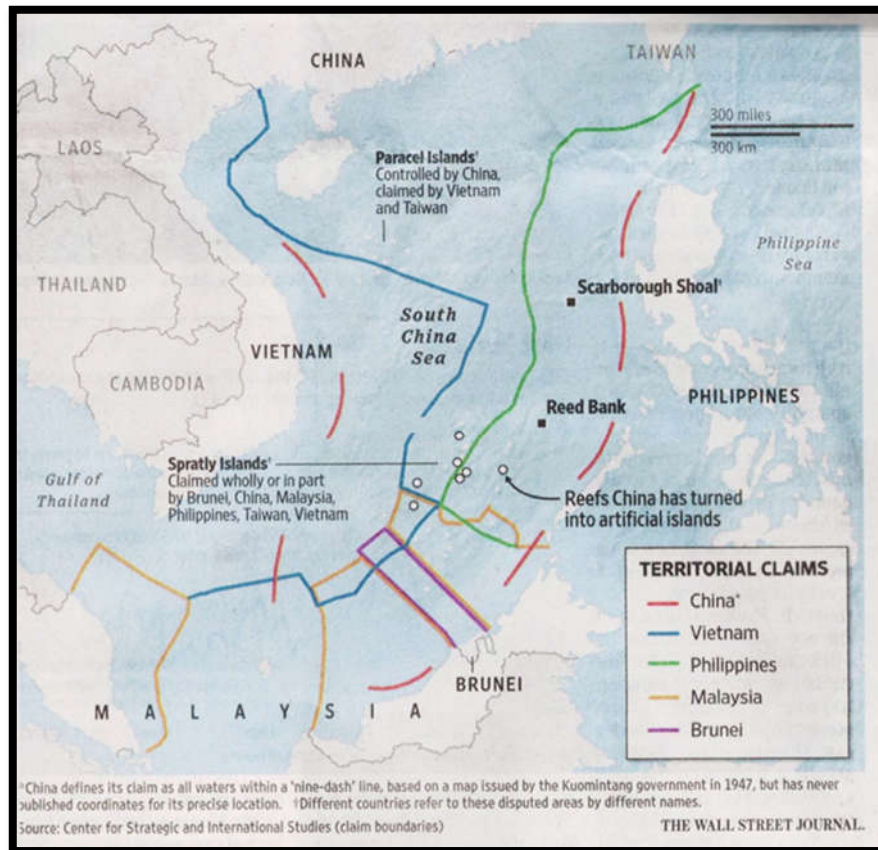
Call	Home Grid	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m	All Bands
N4GBK	FM16	286	496	414	635	443	250	198	233	157	3112
K5EK	FM03	408	467	454	727	460	155	30	92	276	3069
W3GQ	EM95	324	483	388	634	566	206	51	90	49	2791
W3OA	EM95	218	398	279	626	252	246	85	130	104	2338
AA4R	FM05	62	237	293	428	484	282	56	37	0	1879
K4GHS	EM96	135	196	387	283	379	220	21	5	0	1626
WA3DQS	EM95	195	130	175	73	123	96	26	62	21	901
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
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	13	27	23	21	1	0	0	11	96
W4GVH	EM95	3	23	10	22	5	1	0	0	1	65
W3ZL	EM95	0	0	0	34	11	1	0	8	10	64

Spratly Islands & Scarborough Shoal—Impossible DXCC Entities?

By John Scott, K8YC

Have you ever wondered why the Spratly Islands and Scarborough Shoal seem to be so difficult to be put in your radio log? To be sure, some of the difficulty is that the shortpath propagation from the Southeast United States is through the Northern Auroral Oval which plays havoc with our signals.

The other difficulty is that the “ownership” of these two entities has long been disputed by the countries ringing the South China Sea. Therefore, getting permission to operate on these entities is a diplomatic challenge. The map below appeared in an article in the Wall Street Journal on September 11, 2018 and shows the overlapping claims to the underwater land masses under the surface of the South China Sea. While Scarborough now carries a Chinese callsign prefix, the Spratly Islands exist under several flags—at least at present.



What is the driving force for these claims? Fossil fuel reserves! As is evident from the map, China, as the “big guy on the street”, has extended its claims well over 300 miles from its nearest land mass, and even lays claim to land less than 100 miles offshore of other sovereign nations. Scarborough Shoal is far closer to The Philippines, and Spratly Islands seem more likely to be claimed by Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei or The Philippines than far away China. Competing military garrisons on Spratly Islands have gone so far as to repel with gunfire boats getting too close to “their” shores. By claiming sole sovereignty to almost all of the South China Sea, China is now suggesting that others have no right to sea lanes in the Sea. To back that stance, several reefs have been converted to islands with earthen fill and now are in the process of having air fields built on the man-made islands. So, don’t hold your breath awaiting for all this to get sorted out soon.

Pun Pfun

Here's a little humor to brighten your day. . . .

The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory. Just one byte, and then everything crashed.

Thanks for explaining the word "many" to me, it means a lot.

My wife told me she was leaving me because I keep pretending to be a Transformer. I said, "No, wait! I can change."

I just found out I'm colorblind. The diagnosis came completely out of the purple.

The future, the present, and the past walked into a bar. Things got a little tense.

Just burned 2,000 calories. That's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I take a nap.

Don't trust atoms, they make up everything.

The Back Page

The **Annual CDXA Barbeque** is just around the corner. Highlights are outlined on Page 1. Keep your eye on the CDXA website for more details and signup sheets. Oh, and put the date on your calendar.

Do you need **Macquarie Island** for your DXCC pursuit? Did you know someone operating using FT8 is there RIGHT NOW? Some helpful hints at putting VK0AI in your log can be found on Page 2.

W4VHF. What a great callsign for a VHF contest, huh? Did you remember Past President Ted Goldthorpe (SK) owned that call and set a few records in VHF Contesting using it? It is now a memorial callsign in our possession and was again activated in the recent CQWW VHF 2018 contest. Details on Page 3, photos on Page 4.

DX King standings through August are on Page 5.

How are you doing on the **FT8 Grid Challenge** for 2018? Several are "duking it out" for winners honors. But, did you know that 200 unique grids using FT8 will get you in the running for a drawing for a gift card to Outback Steakhouse and you can be a "winner" of that card? Maybe no applause, but at least good "eats". Current standings can be found on Page 5, and you still have plenty of time to rack up 200 grids before year end.

Do you have **Scarborough Shoal** or the **Spratly Islands** in your log for DXCC yet? Your wait may be complicated by International diplomacy. See Page 6.