



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

ARRL Contest “Interim” Reminder

John Forbus, NV4A

Last month, we gave you the details you need to get ready for the ARRL DX Contest. This is just a reminder that the CW portion of the Contest starts (...or started, depending on when you're reading this) Friday evening 15 February. SSB portion starts Friday evening 1 March. ...a couple of other reminders: Don't forget to put “Carolina DX Association” as your Club in your entry. Also, please send me your score summary (number of contacts, multipliers, and final score) along with your entry category, single or all band, power level, with or without assistance (such as Packet Cluster) to jtfv4a@aol.com as soon as you can after each portion of the contest. Please add any “Soapbox” comments about your experience in the contest as well.

I need to have all your input in time to award prizes at the CDXA dinner on March 8, so I will need all of your info for CW and SSB by noon local time on March 4. Last, but not least, even though we base our prizes on raw score, for the benefit of our official club ranking, please don't forget to submit your logs to the ARRL. The deadline recently changed to 7 days after the completion of each portion of the contest.

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

Don't forget that, if you're in the DX King contest, the ARRL Contest is a very good way to get a jump start on adding some new “year-entities”, not to mention that you're helping the Club with your score, so whether you score 100 or a million points, please submit your score to the ARRL.

One last thing to note: Starting a couple of years ago, the ARRL got a bit picky about its definition of who is eligible to contribute to the club score. They now collect a list of callsigns of members from all clubs wishing to participate in ARRL contests, and each member's 6 digit grid square. Only members within a 175 mile radius of the “Club Center” are eligible to be included in the club score. CDXA's Club Center was carefully determined by Dick, W3OA, several years ago, and it still seems to include the highest number of possible members (185 in the current eligibility list). You can view the most current list at <http://contest-clubs.arrl.org/viewlists.php>. If you don't see your call on the list, which is based on the Roster as of late January, please let me know BEFORE the start of the contest. After the Contest starts, the ARRL won't accept any changes. If you want to confirm your distance from EM95xe, here's a convenient link: <https://www.chris.org/cgi-bin/showdis>.

...and most of all, Have Fun!

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

"Busted Calls" in January's Pileup

Publishing a "perfect" newsletter is a nearly impossible task. It is easier for an editor to merely proclaim an error was made intentionally, just to assure him/her that someone is reading the newsletter. Yet there were two errors and one omission in the January 2019 Newsletter that warrant formal correction.

1. The name of Joe Simpkin's wife is Gina (as in Lolobrigida) rather than Geena (as in Davis). My apologies to Gina.
2. On Page 4 in the discussion of the growth of FT8 use, the Editor's comment should have read: "To nobody's surprise, FT8 accounted for over 50% of amateur QSOs in the month ending 2017."
3. Just missing the publication cutoff was Ray Week's score in the FT8 Challenge for 2018. Ray reported 316 grids worked using FT8 in 2018.

—The Editor

Gee, I didn't know that!

There is so much to learn about the software we use. Unless you are paralyzed about all things technical, it can be fun to do some snooping. The "Escape" key or "Cancel" button can be your friend in backing out of a place you don't think you should be!

There is a useful capability built into WSJT-X that I ran across when documenting a contact I had with a somewhat rare entity. I had worked VK0AI on Macquarie

Island and I immediately took a screen shot of the exchange and saved it, just in case I needed to prove to my QSO companion that we really did have a QSO. About then I found a file called ALL.TXT in the logging directory of WSJT-X. This file is created by WSJT-X automatically whenever WSJT-X is running. EVERYTHING seen on the "BAND ACTIVITY" screen is appended to the ALL.TXT file forever, until it is purged. If you want to save a snippet of the activity in the time period of an FT8 exchange, it is all there. Merely, highlight the text you want, then "copy and paste" it to where you want it.

If you don't have a need for seeing all that was going on in your WSJT-X sessions, it may be a good idea to purge the file periodically since it can get very big. My ALL.TXT file had grown to about 90 megabytes after about six months. You can see this file by navigating to WSJT-X's "Log Directory".

That is done by navigating to the <FILE> command and then choosing <Open log directory>. Once there you'll see the ALL.TXT file in the list. Also from the <File> command, you'll see the choice "Erase ALL.TXT" which provides you an easy way to purge the file under control of WSJT-X. —The Editor

The 2019 DX King Contest is Underway

John Forbus, NV4A

It's a new year, and a new DX King Contest. Check last month's *Pileup* for details. As usual, the list of January scores is pretty short, but it's impressive to see how many "year-entities" some members have already racked up. Feel free to join the fun. In the meantime, here's the January list:

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K7BV	Unlimited	191	38	229
K5EK	Unlimited	164	34	198
N4PQX	Unlimited	148	39	187
W3GQ	Unlimited	103	28	131
W4HG	Unlimited	93	30	123
K8YC	Unlimited	18	9	27

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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.

The 2019 Six Meter Challenge has started

John Forbus, NV4A

A few of our members seemed to have taken advantage of the January ARRL VHF Contest to rack up some six meter Grid Squares. I've been looking for six meter openings, and have seen some six meter spots, mostly to the west, but haven't been at home when they occurred.

But, be on the lookout for openings as a way to get those new grid squares. Here's the initial input for January. Thanks to W3OA for doing the heavy lifting to get the input sorted and formatted.

Callsign	Grid Squares
W3OA	42
W3GQ	35
K5EK	11
W4WNT	7
NV4A	5

Pun Pfun

Here are a few “groaners” to help you get through the February doldrums. Trying these on your friends is no guarantee that you’ll be voted “the life of the party”, however.

I got a new pair of gloves today, but they're both 'lefts' which, on the one hand, is great, but on the other, it's just not right.

A cop just knocked on my door and told me that my dogs were chasing people on bikes. My dogs don't even own bikes...

Claustrophobic people are more productive thinking out of the box.

Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account? They were prime mates.



Here is a photo sent along by our Italian member, Fabrizio “Brix” Vedovelli, IN3ZNR. Brix is seen here doing some trekking in the Dolomite Mountains near his home in nearby Trento in northern Italy. There is a chance you’ll hear Brix in the upcoming ARRL DX SSB contest. Say hello to him and identify yourself as a fellow CDXA member. Brix is a member of the “Tifariti Gang” and you’re likely to find him operating on a DXpedition with that group almost anywhere.

Ham Radio to the rescue, again!

(A Rex Morgan comic strip running from 1/31/19 to 2/7/19.)

Rex Morgan is on his way to a medical conference when trouble begins on his airplane. . . .

A HAM hears the failing aircraft and runs from his shack.

He instinctively knows there's trouble. . .



Meanwhile, Rex Morgan and his seatmate brace for a hard landing.

The ham operator, knows his encomm skills are keenly prepared to deal with the worst possible situation. . .

The ham races to the rescue!

(Check your daily paper for the exciting continuation!)



“Don’t bother me, I’m CONTESTING”

Offered by: Paul Trotter

Anton, OE3AH, was running up a good score in the ARRL CW DX contest when he had a major interruption—unexpected guests. The “guests” were not family friends, but a group of 50 Nazi SA storm troopers. Anton was participating in the CW portion of ARRL DX contest in 1938 and the German invasion of Austria occurred during the contest. OE3AH was a member of the Austrian royal family headed by Archduke Anton von Habsburg, Prince of Tuscany. This put him under great scrutiny by the invading Nazis. They stayed at his 35 room Sonnberg Castle for 10 days and conducted regular inspections thereafter. Anton somehow managed to turn in his log to the ARRL and ended up finishing 7th in Europe despite the interruption.

The Austrian royal family was considered by Hitler to be a threat to the German takeover of Austria. Several members of the Austrian royal family would spend the war in a concentration camp. Anton dealt with a mandatory draft by serving as a flying instructor in the German military. For unknown reasons he was discharged in 1944 and would join his wife, Romanian Princess Ileana, who had fled to her castle, Bran Castle, in the Transylvania region of Romania. Bran Castle is called “Dracula Castle” by many because of its prominent place in Transylvania, although connections to the Dracula story are weak. Anton would operate from there as YR5AH after the war. His QSL cards were actual currency that had a picture of the castle on them. The communists would force Anton and Ileana into exile at the end of 1947.

By renouncing his titles Anton was able to return to Austria a few years later and become OE5AH. Anton and Ileana divorced and she and the children moved to the United States. One of their sons Stefan Habsburg worked for the research division of GM in Detroit. Their son Dominic Habsburg received title to Bran Castle after the fall on the communists in Romania.

The Back Page

Reminders for the upcoming **ARRL DX CW and SSB Contests**. See Page 1. Full contest details can be found in the January issue of the Pileup, available on the CDXA website.

Do you know what the “**ALL.TXT**” file is in WSJT-X? See Page 2.

DX King competition for 2019 is off and running. The upcoming ARRL DX contests are a great way to gather countries and zones quickly. And, remember, at year end having 150 points (countries plus zones) puts you in the raffle for a gift card to Outback Steakhouse! See Page 2.

See the early leaders in the **2019 Six Meter Challenge**. More prizes—all outlined in the January 2019 Pileup. See Page 3.

Have some **Pun Pfun** on Page 3.

Amateur radio in the Rex Morgan, M.D. comic strip! Hams to the rescue. Page 4.

Radio contesting at the beginning of WW II. See above, this page.

(There will be no Pileup in March because the Editor will be unavailable. —The Editor)