



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Six Meter Challenge

The Six Meter Challenge continues to “perk along”, but hang on to your hats! The REAL six meter season is about ready to begin with the end of May approaching. Late May through July is usually when the best Sporadic E (E_s) propagation is found. Add to that tropospheric propagation and trans-equatorial propagation, and “the magic band” begins to light up. And don’t forget FT8 and FT4 will help your efforts at collecting 6m gridsquares. Here are the people who’ve been hard a work collecting grids since January, but the next few months will be a big “equalizer” if you want to jump into the fray. Join the fun.

Competition details can be found in the January 2019 Pileup, available on the CDXA website.

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

Call	Category	Grids
W3OA	Low	72
W3GQ	High	43
K5EK	High	15
NV4A	Low	8
W4WNT	Low	7

The next issue of the PILEUP will be in July. The PILEUP is not Published in June or December. --The Editor

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

Gee, I didn't know that!!!

By John Scott, K8YC

I thought it was a quiz contest recently at a CDXA luncheon when President Paul Trotter asked me, "Do you know what a JIS screwdriver is?" I had to admit I didn't.

I didn't feel bad when Paul told me that until recently, he didn't know either. What Paul did know is that he had "jimmied up" a few Phillips head screws on his Japanese-built radios while doing some maintenance. He's now stopped doing that since he found that most of those screw heads that LOOK LIKE Phillips head screws are in fact designed to be tightened using a Japan Industry Standard (JIS) screwdriver! The shape and contours of said screwdrivers look to be identical to our American Phillips screwdrivers. But, the contours are decidedly different and the Phillips style driver is likely to slip out of the slot and damage a screw designed for a JIS screwdriver.

If you want to see just how it differs, watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEwVUZr5xxQ>

Never fear. Paul told me that JIS driver sets are available at Amazon and other well stocked sites. Thank Paul next time you see him.

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Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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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.

News for VHF/UHF Aficionados

Forwarded by Paul Ponak, AD4IE

Space Weather News for May 22, 2019

<http://spaceweather.com>

<https://www.spaceweatheralerts.com>

POLAR MESOSPHERIC SUMMER ECHOES:

Around the Arctic Circle, VHF radio signals are starting to echo from Earth's upper atmosphere--a phenomenon called "Polar Mesospheric Summer Echoes." This is a sign that ice is crystallizing around specks of meteor debris, forming the first noctilucent clouds of summer. Soon, their electric-blue tendrils may be visible to the naked eye in the night skies of northern countries. Visit Spaceweather.com for observing tips and more information about PMSEs.

Welcome New Members

We have some members this month who have found us for the first time, and some who have rediscovered us—perhaps in the stack of “things to do” just below their annual income tax preparation.

Here are the new members reported in the order in which their dues were received by Cliff Wagoner:

John Nelson, K0AJ; Terrell, NC

John Peay, W4PAY; Sherrills Ford, NC

Neill Singletary, K4ESE; Lake Waccamaw, NC

John Schneider, KB2COP; Wilmington, NC

Welcome to CDXA to all of you!

Pun Pfun

Q: What is the difference between a nicely dressed man on a tricycle and a poorly dressed man on a bicycle?

A: A tire.

The shovel was a ground-breaking invention.

Shout out to people who don't know what the opposite of in is!

I wanted to be an astronaut when I was a kid but my parents told me the sky was the limit

DX King: Bands are Open

By John Scott, K8YC

Listening around the bands to others talk and reading some of the radio journals might make you think our current solar minimum has made DXing a futile effort. Then, you look at what some of your fellow CDXA members have done through the end of April as competitors in CDXA's DX King competition, and you'll have an entirely different view of reality. Five people have each worked more than 180 entities in the first four months of 2019. All but one of this group have worked all 40 zones. The only person who hasn't worked 40 zones in the group can claim 39 zones!!! Almost all competitors can claim to have earned DXCC in the first four months of 2019 alone.

With that as evidence, I hope anyone aspiring to earn DXCC isn't waiting until Cycle 25 is in full bloom. It is available right now on a radio near you.

Here's a little secret for those who like the odds in playing the lottery. The chance of winning the lottery selecting 6 numbers from 49 is about 1 in 13,984,000. In 2018 there were less than approximately 15 people who had the required 150 points (entities plus zones) to qualify for a raffle drawing for the DX King prize. That's 1 in 15 odds at winning a prize. The "rewards" are not as big as a lottery win, but the odds are about ONE MILLION times better and you can enter merely by getting on your radio! Need I say more?

Below is how the race is stacking up. It looks like the same competitors are still working hard at surpassing each other. But, you only need 150 points to have high odds of being a "winner", and you have seven months left in 2019 to acquire them!

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	231	40	271
K7BV	Unlimited	224	40	264
K3WA	Unlimited	220	39	259
W1AJT	Unlimited	194	40	234
N4PQX	Unlimited	186	40	226
W4HG	Unlimited	165	36	201
W3GQ	Unlimited	164	36	200
VE3UTT	Unlimited	142	34	176
NV4A	Unlimited	116	28	144
W3OA	Unlimited	112	30	142
K8YC	Unlimited	112	28	140
W3ZL	Formula	89	21	110

Ham Radio to the Rescue—Epilog

In the April 2019 issue of the PILEUP, we found in the “REX MOGAN, MD” cartoon series that a ham radio operator had saved the day when a large plane had to make a forced landing on a dirt road near his shack in the desert. Here’s the wrap-up of the story as broadcast from the local TV news desk.



First Annual CDXA/PVRC Raleigh Hamfest Lunch!

On Saturday, April 20th, CDXA [East] and PVRC-NC East organizations combined forces to break bread and discuss antennas and the propagation gods impact on contesting. This became the first ever CDXA Raleigh Hamfest luncheon and consensus was for it to become an annual event. The site was the Backyard Bistro, across from PNC Arena.

Many in attendance are members of both organizations, yet eyeball QSO’s produced many new off air handshakes. W3GQ even received a hand-delivered QSL from VP5M [K4QPL] by providing a remote station log view on his phone.

This was a joint venture with the PVRC that Wayne Starnes, KU4V, helped organize and coordinate. There were almost 30 combined CDXA and PVRC members in attendance—a great turnout.

The CDXA members in attendance were:

Robert McNeill W4MBD Morehead City NC
Nyles McKeithan KS4S Lumberton, NC
Bill Parris AA4R Southern Pines, NC
David Funderburke N4DKF Peachland, NC
Don Daso K4ZA Charlotte, NC
Wayne Starnes KU4V Cary, NC
Paul Trotter AA4ZZ Charlotte, NC
Bill Fisher W4GRW Charlotte, NC
Paul Sturpe W3GQ Mooresville, NC
Dick Williams W3OA Mooresville, NC
Stan Dicks W4AG Chapel Hill, NC

Here is a link to photographs taken at the event:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/MnJfF2VnjGetCiDA8>

Dayton without Rain!

By John Scott, K8YC

Those who have gone to Dayton Hamvention the past couple of years at the new Greene County Fairgrounds probably have wondered if ever stops raining in Xenia, Ohio. Despite a cold front from the NW that dropped a lot of rain in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Northern Ohio on Thursday, only a light sprinkle made it to Xenia overnight on the first day of Hamvention on Friday. Partly cloudy Friday morning became mostly sunny by the afternoon, and Saturday was bathed in bright sunshine. Wooooohoooo!

The usual hospitality rooms at the Crowne Plaza were filled with contesters and DXers until late in the evening on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. Generous vendors provided bottomless boxes of pizza at about 11PM each night, so nobody had to go to bed hungry. Most people attended to the need to quench their thirst from their own pocketbooks.

DXers and Contesters should make it a point to attend the DX Dinner at the Marriott on Friday night and/or the Contesting Dinner at the Crowne Plaza on Saturday night at least once in their lives to meet all your radio friends.

Selected photos taken when the author was not too busy enjoying himself are below.



Throng of people and bright sun made everyone joyous.



Rich Moseson answers CQ reader's questions.



Dean Saxton (G4WQI), Jack Emerson (W4TJE), and Wayne Ashworth (W4HG) settle in for the DX Dinner. Dean is Jack's regular UK SKED keeper.



Bob Schenck, Paul Sturpe, Gary Dixon, and Dick Williams enjoyed sharing the DX Dinner table with Joe Taylor, K1JT who received the CQ DX Hall of Fame Award this night.

More Pictures from Dayton



Anything goes at Dayton.
Note the callsign in the hairdo!



Don Greenbaum (N1DG) and Kevin Rowett (K6TD) received the DXpedition of the Year award for bringing us Baker Island.

Left: Dean Saxton's XYL, home in the UK, remarked she saw no women in the first photos sent from Dayton, so Dean, Jack, and Wayne went looking for one so Dean could show that there were a few female hams in the crowd.



The Back Page

Six Meter Challenge rolls on with the best 6m days to come in the next few months. See Page 1.

If you don't know what a **JSI screwdriver** is, you should! See Page 2.

DX King participants are busy. They like the odds for a prize in this solar minimum year. See Page 3.

Hams are still helping out **Rex Morgan**. See Page 4.

RARSFest luncheon in Raleigh was enjoyed by many. See Page 4.

Photos from Dayton Hamvention. Everyone should go to Dayton at least once. See Pages 5 and 6.