The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The Carolina DX Association

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

Fall BBQ Returns to Lake Wylie, October 5

Joe and Margarett Blackwell will be hosting the Fall BBQ at their home on Lake Wylie on October 5, 2019 beginning at 4:00PM. The Blackwell's home is located overlooking Lake Wylie at 5430 Baker Lane; Lake Wylie, SC 29710.

The meal is once again being catered by Jim and Nick's BBQ and will consist of:

Hand Pulled BBQ Pork
Slow Cooked Whole Chicken cut Picnic style
BBQ Baked Beans
Creamy Cole Slaw
Potato Salad

As in past years, everyone is encouraged to bring a salad or dessert item to share. For 2019 we are requesting :

. . . . if your last name begins with letter A-L, please bring a dessert item,
. . . . if your last name begins with letter M-Z, please bring a salad item.

*******Reminder for 2019:*** *CDXA will no longer supply alcoholic beverages, because of liability issues. You are more than welcome to "BYOB"--bring your own beer, wine, or other alcoholic beverages.*

An RSVP Form will be coming soon.

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

"Granddaddy Cookout" on August 31

Shelby Hamfest has been called the "Granddaddy of them All" by its organizers over the years. So, it's time for a family reunion cookout for the CDXA family members with "granddad" on Saturday, August 31 from 11AM to 1PM at the Shelby Hamfest. The location will be in the flea market area with a precise location yet to be announced.

Each CDXA member and a guest are welcomed for a complimentary hotdog luncheon. Chairs will be available to sit and socialize. Stop in if you're there. –Bill Fisher

Heads up for Holiday Festivities

Please mark your calendars and save the date for the 2019 CDXA Holiday Party

When: Saturday December 7th
Where: Big Daddy's of Lake Norman, Mooresville, NC

Stay tuned for more information as the date nears.

The Pileup
Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association

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.

2019 DX King Results through July

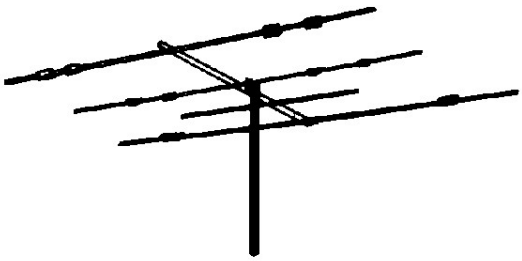
DX King numbers are slowly building up in spite of the propagation. Stay on the lookout for new "year-entities." Here are the results through July.

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	248	40	288
K7BV	Unlimited	239	40	279
K3WA	Unlimited	234	39	273
N4PQX	Unlimited	192	40	232
W4HG	Unlimited	189	38	227
W3GQ	Unlimited	175	35	210
K8YC	Unlimited	142	30	172
W4PNY	Limited	137	34	171
NV4A	Unlimited	128	29	157
W3OA	Unlimited	115	30	145

Six Meter Challenge

Even though there have been some 6 meter openings and a VHF contest to spice things up we are still disappointingly short on entrants for our 6 Meter Challenge. I realize we were hoping to get a bunch of HFers involved, and I hope some of you are out there just waiting to pounce. I'm also pretty sure we have a few very experienced VHFers in the Club who might want to join in. (Notice that K7BV has joined the fun.) Here are the numbers through July.

Call	Category	Grids
W3GQ	High	297
K5EK	High	291
W3OA	Low	277
K7BV	High	179
NV4A	High	20
W4WNT	Low	7



An Author in our Midst

CDXAers have an author in our midst in William LaMay of Matthews. Bill joined CDXA back in March 2005 after winning a small generator at the Charlotte Hamfest. A photo of Ted Goldthorpe delivering the generator to Bill graces the front page of the March 2005 issue of the Pileup. I received the note below from Bill recently.

> Hi John.
>
> I was wondering if there is a way to let members of the CDXA know of my book that I finally published this past March on the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe—SP3RN. I put the link to it below. He is the only canonized saint in the Catholic Church who held an amateur radio license. He also invented several electronic devices, which are described in the book, along with illustrations and developed a concept for a space craft as well. He was martyred in Auschwitz on August 14, 1941 while in a starvation bunker. He chose to take the place of another prisoner who was chosen to be put in this bunker, which was unprecedented in the history of this concentration camp.
>
> https://www.amazon.com/dp/1794305661?
>
> 73's and God bless
> Bill LaMay – K3RMW
> 704 995 0002

I wrote Bill to ask him how he got the inspiration to write the book, and his response was:

> ". . . sometime just prior to 2012 I found out through the internet that there was a patron saint for amateur radio—which surprised me—who actually held an amateur radio license. He was St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan priest who was martyred in Auschwitz. We had a special event station at St. Matthews Catholic Church on October 10, 2012 commemorating the 30th anniversary of his sainthood. The thought of writing a book never crossed my mind as I never was that inclined to sit down a write a book. But through some constant prodding from the Holy Spirit I started in about 2015 and finished in March of this year. I'm a slow writer (LOL)! St. Kolbe used the radio not as a two way communications format like we do but to broadcast the atrocities being committed by the Nazis. His call was SP3RN, which he picked out. RN stood for Radio Niepokalanow (Polish for City of Mary) which is the name of the monastery he built near Krakow. If you go to www.saintmaxnet.org you can get more information about him and our weekly ham radio nets. He was a brilliant scientist and inventor as well and could have been a Nobel prize winner but chose to be a humble priest. His illustrations and descriptions of his inventions are in the book as well as his biography.

The reviews of Bill's book on the link above cite that Bill provided much insight into the entirety of Saint Kolbe's life. You might wish to check this out.

RF Connections

A few weeks ago at CDXA's weekly informal luncheon, Paul Trotter turned to me and asked, "Do you know how the N connector, the C connector, and the BNC connector got their names?" I was stumped. I only knew that the N connector is the favorite in the VHF and UHF worlds. In the past, I had also heard Paul say that the pervasive PL-259 (often called a UHF connector) produces "an impedance bump" when used at VHF and higher frequencies.

Clearly, here was a topic that warranted a modicum of research. Next stop when I got home was an Internect connection. Here's a brief synopsis of what I found. Simple searches on "N Connector", "C Connector", "BNC Connector" and "UHF Connector" will enable you to get the full story.

UHF Connector. This ubiquitous connector is more commonly known by hams as a PL-259. The female mating part is numbered SO-239, and is what you see on the back of your typical amateur radio chassis. Male to male connections to extend the length of a piece of coaxial cable is accomplished using a "barrel connector".

The connector was invented in the 1930s. It is a threaded connector as we all know. It was a shielded form of the popular banana plug which had been most often used up to the invention of the PL-259. The designation of the connector as a UHF connector is a misnomer today. That is because in the 1930s frequencies greater than 20MHz were considered ultra high frequency. The ITU has since reclassified radio frequencies with 3MHz to 30MHz being called High Frequency (HF), 30MHz to 300MHz being called Very High Frequency (VHF) and 300MHz to 3GHz being called Ultra High Frequency (UHF). Yet, the old designation for the PL259 has "hung around" all these years.

The PL-259 is reliable up to about 100MHz which is

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Imagination

By John Scott, K8YC

Did you ever wonder why when you look in a mirror your hair is parted on the left in your image but you know it is parted on the right? "Because" is not an acceptable answer! That sort of introspection is the kind of thinking that goes on in the fertile mind of one of the 20th Century's greatest minds. It is also the sort of imaginative thinking that earned this same man the Nobel Prize for his work in Quantum Electrodynamics. This person is Richard Feynman.

I recently happened onto a one hour video on YouTube entitled "New! FUN TO IMAGINE with Richard Feynman" (See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1ww1IXRfTA) In that hour, you'll witness how a true genius can explain some of the everyday things we experience at a fundamental scientific level in terms anyone can understand. In it, you'll learn how many of the things in the world we see at a macroscopic level can be explained by atomic particles "jiggling"! If you don't know who Richard Feynman was, you really ought to.

When I got to the middle of the presentation and he began discussing light and radio waves, I was hooked at the marvelous insight he had. Ever wonder how the stars producing pulsars, despite their mass could rotate around each other multiple times per minute to produce the pulsations? Then, listen in.

Feynman worked with Robert Oppenheimer and many other great scientists at Los Alamos in the 1940s before going on to become an esteemed professor of physics at California Institute of Technology. Then, when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, it was his imaginative insight that finally led to explaining why it had happened. Along the way, he just happened to imagine his way to earn a Nobel Prize for Physics. Over his life, he had a reputation somewhat of being a "rascal", but nobody ever doubted his contributions or his intelligence. Want to know more in some delightful reading?

Two books written by Feynman will keep you chuckling. Both were New York Times Bestsellers. While somewhat autobiographical in nature, Feynman always disputed that was the case. The first book he wrote was "Surely you're joking, Mr. Feynman"—Adventures of a Curious Character. A few years later was a sequel entitled "What do you care what other people think?"—Further Adventures of a Curious Character.

When you have those two books under your belt, perhaps you'd like to take a look at the three volume set entitled "The Feynman Lectures on Physics". There you'll see the brilliant insight he offers in the Cal Tech freshman physics class to some of our nation's most brilliant minds.

If **any** of you reading this article take me up on my suggestion that you learn more about Richard Feynman, I'd like to hear about your experience.

What is a DXpedition, anyway?

By Joe Blackwell, AA4NN

It was the summer of 1956 when I returned from a tour on Guam as a point-to-point CW operator concerned with tracking aircraft movement over the Pacific. This new assignment was to Stead AFB near Reno, Nevada, for the purpose of providing needed communications support for the Strategic Air Command's (SAC) survival training program. The basic idea of the program was for Air Force crews to survive behind enemy lines to construct a useable landing strip for a C47 rescue plane equipped with Jet Assist Take Off to bolt into the air to save the day.

These exercises were performed from various locations in the Plumas National Forest of Northern California. Our group would camp in a squad tent to man the radios. Everything was real except for a few crews where the C47 would do a fly-over rather than land for a pick up.

From time to time there would be a mock Operational Readiness Test throughout the United States and Canada. We set up our communications base at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Later we were called into the BIG worldwide tests. Our station would be in Puerto Rico. Six months later for another big test we would be in the boonies of North Africa. These two remote sites gave me the experience which later I learned was just like a Ham Radio DXpedition.

We used two towers, each 90 feet tall, about 40 feet apart. They were raised using the falling tower method. No beams, just 5 dipoles of various frequencies from top to bottom. Our equipment lineup was two BC-610s crystal controlled and several HQ receivers.
I was not a Ham at the time in North Africa, but there was an Extra class Ham among us who revealed himself. When not doing a Readiness Test he would rig the BC-610 Master Oscillator into the 20 meter ham radio band, boot leg a 5A1 call, and have a great time. The unaware callers would never get that 5A1 QSL card!

Back at Stead AFB (we called it "Stud AFB") the Extra class Ham administered to me the Conditional Class written exam, which I passed; then he checked a perfect copy of 20 wpm text. Being a Louisiana boy, the FCC assigned K5GFN to my Conditional Class license, 1955.

After earning a BS in Math and Physics at Louisiana

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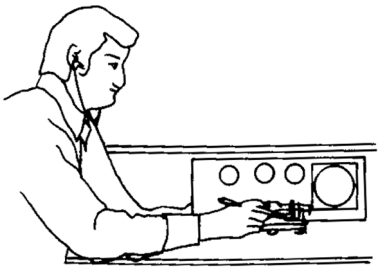
Tech in 1960, I eventually found North Carolina in 1963. Working at Celanese home office I met Gary Dixon, K4MQG, who invited me to his shack for some CW using his loosely configured Bug. What fun. So, in 1977 I was required to pass Novice, General, Advanced, Extra, and 20 wpm to become AA4NN in North Carolina. I moved to South Carolina in 1989.

The venerable BC610 military transmitter.

I worked for years rag chewing on 40m CW, years of contesting, years of DXpeditions (last of which was K9W Wake Island), years of QRP, ...now years of quiet.



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why we find it being used for 6 meter work by many. Serious 6 meter aficionados will usually resort to using an N connector (see below). The reason for this is because the PL259 produces a Surge Impedance "bump" as frequencies get much above 30MHz. This impedance seems have taken this name from pulses of RF energy which are well known to possess significantly higher frequency components as pulse widths become shorter and shorter. The construction of the female portion of the connector has a slightly larger diameter than the pin of the male portion with which it mates. To accommodate the larger diameter of the female portion within the connector there is a variance in the longitudinal cross section of the dielectric which gives rise to a change in impedance with higher frequencies. So at higher frequencies, the impedance of the connector does not match the characteristic impedance of the 50 ohm cable which it is designed for.

N Connector. As frequencies climbed with the progress of 20th Century radio, a need for a better connector for higher and higher frequencies was identified. A Bell Telephone Laboratories engineer by the name of Paul Neill invented the N-connector in the 1940s. This connector was designed to be useful up to microwave frequencies. It exhibits a screw connection and has a construction inside the connector to avoid the impedance "bump" noticed in the PL-259 connector. The connector is available in both 50 ohm and 75 ohm versions. The N connector took the name of its inventor, Paul Neill.

C Connector. About the same time the N Connector became available, an engineer at Amphenol by the name of Paul Concelman invented the microwave capable C Connector. This connector secures the connection with a 2-stud bayonet base. It is available in 50 ohm and 75 ohm versions.

BNC Connector. Identification of the need for a smaller connector with quick disconnect capabilities soon became known. The resulting connecter was called the Bayonet Neill-Concelman Connector, or BNC Connector! The cables being connected with these connectors were generally miniature to subminiature cable assemblies. The connector is specified as being usable for up to 4 GHz frequency with voltages below 500 volts. The BNC Connector is available in 50 ohm and 75 ohm variants.

The BNC was popular in early computer networks such as ARCNet and 10Base2 variants of Ethernet because of the small cable sizes and the quick disconnect features enabling compact patch panels for network administration.

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TNC Connector. Next came the "Threaded Neill-Concelman Connector" or TNC Connector. The threaded version of the BNC connector provided a better connector at microwave frequencies than did the BNC Connector. The TNC Connector is also available in 50 ohm and 75 ohm variants.

So there you have it. Almost a century of RF connector technology in a nutshell. The chart below provides a recap of the features discussed above.

Designation	Frequencies	Type	Varieties
N	Up to 11GHz	Threaded	50 Ohm, 75 Ohm
C	Up to 11GHz	Bayonet	50 Ohm, 75 Ohm
BNC	Up to 4GHz	Mini Bayonet	50 Ohm, 75 Ohm
TNC	Up to 11GHz	Threaded	50 Ohm, 75 Ohm
UHF or PL259	Up to 100MHz	Threaded	50 Ohm

Roving Reporter Drops In on K3WA

Your Roving Reporter makes it a point to try to get to all compass points a number of miles from Charlotte since the CDXA membership covers the Carolinas and more! This month, he turned his "wheels" toward Pittsboro, North Carolina, SSW of Chapel Hill, to pay a visit to Bill Axelrod, K3WA.

Bill Axelrod, K3WA

Roving Reporter: Good afternoon, Bill, I had to look carefully at my NCDOT Official Highway map to find Pittsboro. What a delightful community of 5,000 people. Are you the same Bill Axelrod that I used to see on the roster of the Northern Illinois DX Club? That club has some DXers and contesters known by a number of CDXA members.

K3WA: I'm the one and the same "Bill" that you speak of!

RR: I saw your name pop up on the CDXA Roster a while back and thought, ". . .we ought to get to know more about Bill." Tell us how North Carolina became home for you.

K3WA: My life started out as an East coast native, but I was mostly absent from there during my 31 years serving our country in the United States Navy. After retiring from the Navy, I started my second career in Hawaii, then moved with my job to Virginia. I was active in the PVRC there and at my home in West Virginia. In 2008 I fully retired at which time moved to Peoria, IL. Last year my XYL and I agreed taking care of a homestead wasn't as much fun as when we were younger so we began looking for alternatives. Since we both had some family ties to North Carolina, this area became part of our search pattern. We found this delightful place with a homeowner's association that took care of the outside properties and included families of all ages so it wasn't a full-fledged retirement community, and it met our dwelling requirements. We also were aware that the winters would probably be a bit milder than the Illinois plains tend to be in January!

RR: Looking at your entry on QRZ.COM, I know you have a long history with amateur radio. What station setup did you have in Illinois, and did the homeowner's association (HOA) here affect your radio hobby?

K3WA: In Illinois, we lived in a more rural environment with few neighbors and no rules to abide by. I had two towers, low band antennas, beverages, and 12 acres to play with. But, as you know, keeping antennas, towers, and 12 acres maintained is a lot of work. Then, here in Pittsboro the HOA has allowed me to put up a flagpole. How I use my flagpole was not specified in my request or in its approval. I've found it is a reasonable radiator of RF on occasions. HI HI It is obviously not a competitive contest station but I am on the air.

RR: Let's go back to those roots on the East coast. Your QRZ.COM entry says you became a ham in 1956. Tell us how you got started.

K3WA: I was 13 years old in 1956 when I became a ham. I had an ARC5 military receiver and a Heathkit AT-1 transmitter. Because I lived on a farm with lots of land, I had long wires almost anywhere I needed them. It always fascinated me that without any intervening infrastructure I could talk to people far away from me.

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Shortly after I became licensed I became interested in working DX. Most of the time, finding DX meant searching up and down the bands by twisting a knob. Then one day I noticed that there were callers all up and down the band, and they were mostly International stations. That's when I found out what contesting was all about. I became hooked on contesting at an early age. Even though I didn't have a bunch of high-gain yagis high above the ground, I found that contesting was a wonderful way to fill in DXCC countries and bands. I managed to earn my Worked All States (WAS) award, then 5BWAS. Eventually I earned DXCC, then nine band DXCC. One of my earliest thrills was in 1957 when I worked a Moroccan station—my first DX. I am lucky that I can remember even that much about those days. While in the Navy in 1980 in a jungle setting, I contracted Malaria and was quite ill with a very high fever. I lost a lot of memories from those years that I was only able to learn about by talking with my parents and friends that knew me in those days.

RR: Wow! It looks like you've recovered the important memories about ham radio, at least! When did the U.S. Navy come into the picture?

K3WA: I do know that at 18 years of age I enlisted in the Navy. When it was discovered that I was an amateur radio operator, my military specialty was identified as electronics and I was assigned to the Navy Electronics School in San Francisco. When all the serious "bookwork" of school had been completed, I joined the Amateur Radio Club at the school. Shortly thereafter someone asked if I'd like to be in the "Sweeps" contest. We took "Number 1" in that sweepstakes contest for our section and my love for contesting was well entrenched after that.

RR: Did being an electronic technician allow you to do much "building" of electronics gear for your radio hobby?

K3WA: I'd have to say that when ashore those first years I was more focused on contesting. Then when I was assigned to a ship, contesting was limited. When I returned to schools for additional training, I had the opportunity to build things, but my first order of business was learning my new skills. Of course, the longer I was in the Navy we saw transistors come into play, then integrated circuits and printed circuit boards, and it became harder and harder to dedicate the time to building. Also, space aboard a ship was not conducive setting up a hobby workshop!

RR: One of CDXA's silent keys once told me that he had to start his DXCC chase over with each new Coast Guard station he was assigned to. How did that work for you?

K3WA: I was in the Navy for 31 years. I've never been #1 DXCC Honor Roll, probably because I wasn't always in a situation that allowed me to work the really rare ones when on the air. But I have managed to get my current count to 336 DXCC entities. I have worked over 300 countries on seven bands, 283 on 80 meters and 201 on 160m, so I am satisfied with my progress. Of course, many of those have come since I retired from the Navy and "stayed home".

RR: Tell us more about your career in the Navy.

K3WA: With a start as a seaman with an electronics specialty, I rose in rank to an officer level. Then I was offered the opportunity to become a line officer. Over the years I was able to complete a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and management and a Master's degree in Foreign Affairs. I retired as a Commander in the Navy which is like a Lieutenant Colonel in the other U.S. military services.

RR: What has occupied your time since leaving the Navy?

K3WA: I started a business which made use of my military experience and military contacts. We performed a service called rapid prototyping. When the need for a special capability or system was identified, we would build it to the specifications of the requesting party. If it performed as expected after a suitable number of tweaks, the government would contract the building of the device to a major manufacturer. That kept me busy and fulfilled following my time in the Navy.

RR: And of course, ham radio continued during all this time. Bring us up to today.

K3WA: Radio contesting has continued. My two favorite modes are CW and RTTY. I sprinkle in some FT8 and FT4 in the digital modes, but I spend little time using any other modes of communication. As you saw from my QRZ.COM entry, I was active in the Northern Illinois DX Association before moving to North Carolina. In a contest a few years back with members of that group, I was able to use a Flex Radio for the first time. I found it to be the best radio in my long radio career amongst a number of other very fine radios, so I've enjoyed my Flex 6600 and Power Genius amplifier ever since.

For several years before moving here, I was the Chairman of the W9DXCC Convention. As you might imagine, that occupied a lot of my time. I've joined CDXA and got active again in PVRC. Now that I am here, I am happy to have my callsign listed in the Club Log League listing as a CDXA member.

RR: What are some of your notable experiences in your years as a ham?

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K3WA: Several come to mind. One of the first was during an early assignment in the U.S. Navy. I was stationed at a Naval Air Station on Kodiak Island from 1963 to 1965. When the famed "Good Friday Earthquake" hit us, we were completely cut off from any sort of communications to the outside world. The ham radio station at the Air Station was able to reestablish communications shortly after the disaster struck and, along with several other hams, provided both U.S. Government and personal communications in and out of Kodiak until regular communications were restored. That was a fine example of amateur radio's emergency communications capabilities.

A second experience was created by an 11 meter contact I had before this band became refarmed to the Citizen Radio Service. I had a contact with a ham in Cambodia. I tried over and over to get a QSL card to confirm this contact. Finally, I just gave up. Then one day, twenty years later, a QSL card showed up in my mailbox. I'm still not sure how that letter found me since I moved around a bit in my naval career.

On the humorous side, here's one that you may enjoy. I lived in Athens, Greece from 1975 to 1977. I served as an exchange officer in the Greek Navy. That was long before reciprocal licensing was a thing. For a foreigner to operate in Greece, the Greek Government had to authorize a license for the operation. Unfortunately for me, this was a period when Greek-US relations were at a low point. The Greek government was upset with the U.S. and refused to issue amateur radio licenses to any foreigner—which obviously included me. I did find one other foreigner who did have an appropriate license issued before the latest change in Greek governments. He was no longer active but did have a station. He agreed to allow me to use his station and get on the air.

The Greek government used the prefix SV0 to identify foreign hams with a Greek license. Since there was only one SV0 license and since he had not been active in a couple of years, when I got on the air with that SV0 prefix no one knew what it was. I developed some major pileups every time I called CQ. What fun! And imagine the disappointment people felt when they got my QSL and found out it was just another SV QSO!

RR: So, Bill, can we say that amateur radio has had a place in your life?

K3WA Most definitely! From a teen aged kid, it gave me a path in the Navy that led me through the ranks as a specialist officer and then to a line officer for a 31 year career. It also paved the way for me as a business owner to fill out my working career. The skills we learn as hams still can provide a good career path for our youth. We need to help them see the possibilities.

September 20th and 21st, Pigeon Forge, TN

Hello Friends and Club Officials

I want to ask that you pass along this announcement about this year's W4DXCC convention to your club members and friends, thank you in advance.

Hello from **W4DXCC 15 DX and Contest Convention**. The response to this year's event is just Awesome! Plan on attending today! The Website has been updated with the latest News. Go Here: W4DXCC

Friday is the **Ham Radio Bootcamp** where we do our best to provide the knowledge to new and experienced Hams alike. If you're new to some of the new digital modes like FT8-FT4 you won't want to miss Bootcamp. After dinner Friday evening we meet for a special Live **Ask The Elmer** session in the main convention hall. Come and ask those questions you have from A to Z.

Saturday is the main convention where we have six presenters giving you the inside scoop on what is going on. Following each presentation we have time for questions if you would like to know more.

We have all of the leading radio and equipment manufacturers set up in the lobby with the latest gear for you to twist the knobs or click the mice. More importantly you can have a one-on-one session to ask questions about the gear with the company representative in a relaxed environment.

We have a fully operational ham shack set up where you can come learn hands-on with an Elmer to show you the ropes and make QSO's in CW, Phone and different digital modes.

The Convention is a great place to meet with your friends. Coordinate with your friends to attend the convention and spend time with them reminiscing of the good old days.

We will have VE Testing on Saturday, so get to studying for that test and also study for that upgrade!

It is time to make your Hotel reservations for this year's convention. Go here to the Website Hotel reservation page Hotel Reservations.

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The Convention admission includes Snacks and Drinks during Saturday's session and Lunch. Convention registration is now open including online ticket purchase. There is an evening banquet that you can attend. When you purchase your convention tickets also buy the banquet tickets, since there is limited seating for the banquet.

You can make your ticket purchase anytime by going here Online Ticket Purchase

Check out the website and learn about the W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention. Go Here W4DXCC Convention

Best 73

See you soon,

Dave Anderson, K4SV
Convention Leader

The Back Page

Fall BBQ to be on the shores of Lake Wylie on October 5. See Page 1 and put it on your calendar.

Stop by the CDXA **"Cookout" at the Shelby Hamfest** and bring a guest. See Page 2.

Holiday Party set for Saturday, December 7. Save the date. See Page 2.

Six Meter Challenge results and **DX King** results year to date are on Page 2.

Member Bill LaMay has written a book! Find out what it's about on Page 3.

A synopsis of **RF Connectors** may help guide your selection. Page 3.

Who is **Richard Feynman?** You need to know more! Page 4.

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, relives his early radio days in the military. See Page 4.

The **Roving Reporter drops in on Bill Axelrod, K3WA**. See Page 6.

Do you have your **W4DXCC reservations** yet? Details on Page 8-9.