

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

Holiday Party Set for December 7,



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

DATE: Saturday, December 7th, 2019

WHERE: Big Daddy's of Lake Norman 1162 River Hwy, Mooresville, NC 28117

TIME: Cocktails with Cash Bar beginning at 6:30 PM, Dinner service starting at 7:15 PM, Program and Officer Elections begins at 8:30 PM

Please complete the [form](#) to RSVP. Thanks

DEADLINE to RSVP for the PARTY is Monday, December 2nd, 2019.

For directions to the CDXA Holiday Party, click for [directions](#).

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

Pileup to have New Publishing Schedule for 2020

The CDXA newsletter, The **Pileup**, has been scheduled for publishing ten times per year since at least 2000. In 2000 the Internet and websites were just becoming entrenched as tools that the average person had access to and were starting to become part of everyday life. Indeed, the Pileup was being produced as a hard copy publication that was mailed to our members in that year! It was to be a year or so away before the Pileup was produced as a PDF file and emailed to the membership.

Today, CDXA members get more and more of their timely club information via postings on the CDXA website. An online calendar advises of upcoming events. Reservations for banquets are made and paid for using the website. Even scores for a yearlong contest like DX King are being submitted online.

The role of the Pileup has gradually changed to be a vehicle for introducing club contest rules, reporting on contest results, and publishing items of general interest to the membership. Accordingly, beginning in 2020, the Pileup will be published only 6 times per year, believed at present to be in the even numbered months. Availability of Pileup issues will be announced by an email alert as is the current practice.

Welcome New Member

The summer months are seldom “hot” as regards new members showing up at our door. As the cooler days of Fall are felt, perhaps people start thinking about how they’ll spend their winter evenings. Whatever his reason might be, **Doug Snowden, N4IJ** of Forest City, NC decided to join the ranks of CDXA. Welcome, Doug.

The Pileup

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:

To Be Determined

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be temporarily directed to the Webmaster via email at: wb4bxw@gmail.com.

Dues are Payable in December

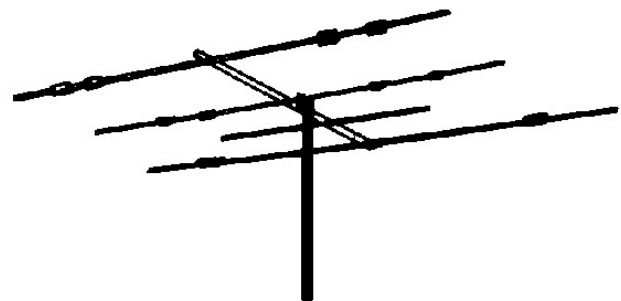
Since there is no PILEUP published in December and the club’s treasurer is yet to be elected, this shall serve as a reminder that annual dues for CDXA membership are payable in December. Our late treasurer, Cliff Waggoner (SK), always sent a dues reminder out to the membership, and payment could be made by PayPal for your convenience. The incoming treasurer will set the mode/method as to how he/she wants dues remitted. Please make a note on your calendar to remind yourself that your dues payment is due at year’s end. *—The Editor*

2019 DX King Results through October

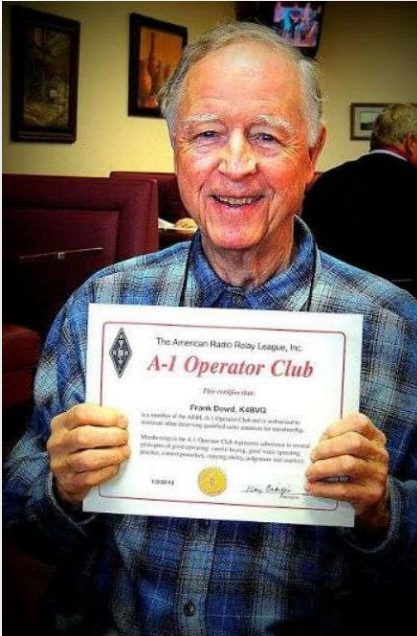
John Forbus, NV4A

It's encouraging to see that the top five scorers in this year's DX King contest have all 40 CQ Zones and over 225 entities, in spite of propagation, so you should still be able to snag some new ones for the year, especially with the CQWW CW Contest coming up. Meanwhile, here are the results through October:

Callsign	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	258	40	298
K3WA	Unlimited	257	40	297
VE3UTT	Unlimited	228	40	268
N4PQX	Unlimited	226	40	266
W1AJT	Unlimited	226	40	266
W4HG	Unlimited	216	38	254
W3GQ	Unlimited	189	36	225
K8YC	Unlimited	178	33	211
W4PNY	Unlimited	171	36	207
W3OA	Unlimited	134	33	167
NV4A	Unlimited	134	30	164



Frank Dowd, K4BVQ (SK)



On Friday, November 1, 2019 the Carolina DX Association experienced the passing of Frank Dowd, K4BVQ. Frank had been a member of CDXA for many years and until recent years had been a regular attendee at our weekly luncheons.

Despite being a Captain of Industry and a well known civic personality in the Charlotte community, Frank was “just one of the boys” when it came to ham radio and his personal relations with his fellow hams.

During Frank’s memorial service, one of the participants remarked that with Frank, “What you see is what you get.” All of us who knew him couldn’t agree more. It is appropriate then when we see Frank pictured above in one of his plaid shirts when glowing over being inducted into the “A-1 Operator Club”, we all felt that was the Frank Dowd we all knew.

Frank’s list of accomplishments is lengthy. Those who were not lucky enough to have met Frank are encouraged to look at his biographical summary which has thoughtfully been placed on his QRZ.COM entry by his family.

A Final Farewell

On Saturday, November 9, 2019 a number CDXA members paid their respects to Frank Dowd, K4BVQ (SK) at his memorial service held at the Myers Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. The highest tribute to our fellow ham was paid by the several hundreds of friends and family who attended that day.

Waiting to attend a reception following the service was Joe Simpkins (K4MD), Gary Dixon (K4MQG) and their spouses. Gary and Joe had known Frank for many years, and both regularly paid visits to Frank’s home to talk radio and old times together. Gary and Joe went to visit Frank at the hospital on October 30 after the CDXA luncheon to pay him a visit.

Frank was very weak during that visit and was resting in a bed, covered by a light cover. While he was alert, Frank was unable to speak that day, so Joe and Gary did most of the talking.

Gary relates their visit:

We talked to Frank about old times. It was clear that Frank understood what was being said, because in a few instances Frank’s eyes betrayed the emotions he was feeling. He couldn’t really speak that day, but the moist rim around his eyes told us some fond memories were being replayed in his mind.

After a suitable time, we felt Frank was tiring, and we thought it might be time to let Frank get some rest. After reliving a few more memories, I looked at Frank, and said, “Frank, I think you’ve understood everything we’ve said, haven’t you?”

Frank couldn’t get a word over his lips. I noticed only Frank’s arm was sticking out from underneath his covers. I said to Frank, “Joe is going to put his arm under your hand. If you know who we are and understood what we’ve said here today, you can still talk to us using Morse Code. If so, tap out two R’s to signify ‘roger’ on Joe’s arm.”

Without delay, Frank’s index finger tapped out in perfect cadence. . . dit dah dit . . . followed by . . . dit dah dit. Joe and I looked at each other with lumps in our throats realizing that there was a fully active mind inside that failing body.

Recovering our composure and deciding that we’d done our best this day, I then said to Frank, “You know what we hams do at the end of a QSO, Frank, don’t you? We send 73, meaning ‘best regards’. So 73 to you Frank.”

In perfectly formed cadence on Joe’s wrist, Frank tapped dah dah dit dit dit dit dah dah. Then, again in perfect Morse Code cadence he again tapped dah dah dit dit dit dit dah dah.

We bid Frank our 73s and left our friend for the last time at the Charlotte hospital. Outside the hospital, Joe and I were speechless.

CQWW CW Is the Weekend *before* Thanksgiving

John Forbus, NV4A

Conditions for the SSB contest could surely have been better, as has been the case for every contest recently. We persevered anyway, and at least 10m was open part of the weekend. Some comments from the SSB participants are included at the end of this article.

Moving on to the upcoming CW Contest: Due to the time change back to standard time, remember that the contest will begin at **7:00 PM EST Friday November 22** (that's 00:00:00 UTC Saturday) and last for 48 hours (minus a second), ending at 23:59:59 UTC Sunday, or **6:59:59 PM EST on November 24**. Here's hoping that the timing of this year's contest will help participation. At least we won't all be stuffed with turkey and all the fixin's from our Thanksgiving dinners.

Logs for the CW Contest are due 2359 UTC (7:59 pm local) November 29, 2019. See <https://www.cqww.com/logcheck/> to submit your logs. Be sure to put "Carolina DX Association", *spelled out just that way*, as your club. Also, please get a summary to me at jtfnv4a@aol.com also by 29 November so I can get everything ready to announce CDXA Contest Within a Contest prizes at the Holiday Party. (All the information on the CDXA Prizes are in the October Pileup CQWW Article.) Please include number of contacts, number of countries, number of zones, total score, power level (high, low, QRP), and whether you were assisted or non-assisted. Also, any comments or thoughts about the weekend are always appreciated. If you need to review the CQWW rules, they're at www.cqww.com/rules.htm,

Let's hope for decent propagation on contest weekend. I hope to see you in the pileups.

Shifting back to the SSB contest, we had 14 entrants send their scores to me for a total of 2,371,914 points. Here are a few comments from our members who entered the SSB contest:

IN3ZNR: Just a single band effort on 15m, due lack of time. 73! (Thanks for submitting your log Brix!)

K4FA: I only had time to put my butt in the chair for an hour so the score is measly but thought I would give you a few more points as you requested. (Thanks Gary, it all helps!)

W1AJT: Not a fan of phone contests but conditions better than expected. VP6R on 5 bands was satisfying considering my antennas. Totally forgot to go to 160m–dah. Hope all had fun.

N4PQX: Start of the contest SFI=69 A=34 K=3, enough said. Only heard two others KZ2I up in SNJ and W3OA very late yesterday and only once. Hoping for better conditions for the CW test. Had some minor issues with the newest N1MM program, hopefully it will be updated prior to the CW test.

AA4R: Rough contest!! 80 and 40 were really tough for low power. Did OK on 20/15 and 10 but not great. Ran low power, assisted, with wire antennas.

W4WNT: Geo magnetic storm and my End Fed antenna added up to a low score. I need to get some more wire in the air!!

K8YC: Tired of listening to static crashes and QRM, I cut it short.

NV4A: Arrrrgh! My tri-bander died right at the start of the contest on Friday night when I rotated it from Europe to the Caribbean! (...broken connection at the feed point???) and my multiband dipole which is my backup antenna was on the ground. Even after I put the dipole up on Saturday, I can't say things were much better. Made a few contacts on 10m on Sunday. Only other CDXAer I heard was W3OA.

2019 CQ Marathon Submission Deadline

There will not be another issue of the Pileup before the submission is due for the 2019 edition of the CQ Marathon. If you are participating in the DX King Competition or merely just accumulating QSOs for the CQ Marathon, please be advised that the submission deadline for the 2019 event is **January 5, 2020**.

Those competing in the CDXA's DX King competition MUST also make a submission to CQ Magazine in order for their DX King entry to be valid, since the CQ Marathon score is the determinant of the eventual DX King winner. Make a note on your calendar.

So long, It's been good to know ya'...

I'm not sure why the lyrics of that old Woodie Guthrie song popped into my head as I sat down to write this, since I'm not really going anywhere. However, I will be leaving the responsibilities of Contest Manager behind at the end of the year. We'll be electing a new Contest Manager at the Holiday Party. I'll miss being Contest Manager, even if I'm not exactly a great tester. Because of my somewhat unpredictable health, it's time to step back and let someone else take over. Best of luck to whomever is elected to take my place. I promise to help for at least a little while ...say for a few days.

Thanks to everybody for putting up with me, and for participating in all our contests and year-long events, and a special thanks to our "Contest Manager Emeritus", Dick, W3OA, for helping me out a lot. See you all in the pileups.

John, NV4A

Six Meter Challenge

John Forbus, NV4A

The clock is ticking down on our 6 Meter Challenge, with less than two months to go. Somehow I think there should be some of you out there who have some 6 meter contacts but haven't jumped in yet. Anyway, here are the numbers through October:

Call	Category	Grids
W3GQ	High	311
K5EK	High	303
W3OA	Low	278
K7BV	High	179
KZ2I	Low	141
NV4A	High	20
W4WNT	Low	7

Ten and Twenty Years Ago

Material for this "look back" has been extracted from the archives of the Pileup, available to all on the CDXA website.

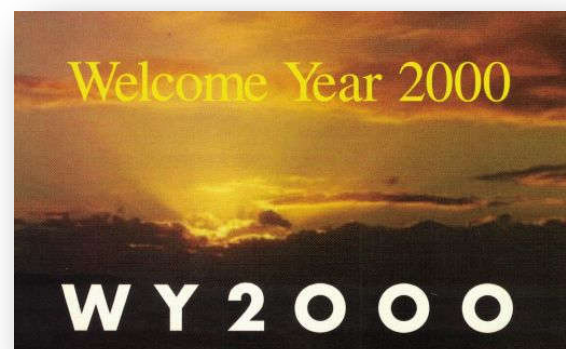
Ten Years Ago

Anxious DXers were disappointed to learn that the plane scheduled to take the team to Wake Island had mechanical difficulties which was to take several days to remedy. . . . the ROVING REPORTER wandered over to Trento, Italy to interview our Italian member, Fabrizio ("Brix") Vedovelli. The November 2009 issue of the Pileup reported that CDXA had taken 1st Place in its class in the 2009 Field Day completed in June. Roger Burt (N4ZC, now SK) was showing his DXing prowess by leading the DX King contest with 269 entities and all 40 zones going into the home stretch of the 2009 CQ Marathon.

Twenty Years Ago

In the October 1999 edition of the Pileup, Roger Burt gave us a rundown on how to interpret data available from WWV and in the same issue Don Daso, K4ZA provided a look at loops for low band use. Roger continued his WWV tutorial in the November 1999 issue. In the December issue Editor Don Daso remembered Jean Shepherd who passed away in October¹. As the world awaited with baited breath for the arrival of the 21st century and all the potential computer problems it was supposed to produce, CDXA was steadily moving along to select its Band Captains for our Welcome Year 2000 Special Event. Ted Goldthorpe was up to his usual creative best in attaining the callsign WY2000 to "welcome in year 2000". For the month of January 2000, CDXA produced thousands of QSOs using WY2000. The club continued to receive requests for our QSL card for that event for at least 10 years. An image of the "Welcome Year 2000" QSL card is shown below.

¹ In 2019, your editor fondly recalls when he lived in New Jersey listening to Jean Shepherd in 1966 spinning his yarns on New York's WOR radio station in the evenings .



The Back Page

Don't forget to make your reservations for the **Annual Holiday Party** to be held on December 7, 2019. Details can be found on the CDXA website and on Page 1.

Annual dues for CDXA are payable by December 31. At present our treasurer's office is unfilled. Keep an eye on the CDXA website for information on how to remit your dues.

The Pileup will have a different publishing schedule in 2020. Details are on Page 2.

October's results for the **DX King** competition are in. See Page 2.

Long-time CDXA Member Frank Dowd, K4BVQ, is now a silent key. Gary Dixon and Joe Simpkins share one of their last visits with Frank shortly before he passed. See Page 3.

Contest manager Forbus, sets the stage for the CQWW CW contest which begins at 0000Z on November 23. (Yes, that's 7:00PM local time on Friday, November 22.) See Page 4.

Make note of the submission schedule for the **2019 CQ Marathon** in early 2020. Your entry in CQ Marathon is required to be entered in the DX King raffle. See Page 5.

The 2019 CDXA Six Meter Challenge competition is nearing a close. Results through the end of October can be found on Page 5.

John Forbus will be stepping down at the end of the year as **Contest Manager**. The nominating committee is also looking to find a replacement for the late Cliff Wagoner treasurer's position. We need a "few good men (or women)" to step forward to guide our club in 2020.

Looking back 10 years and 20 years in CDXA's history is always fun. Do you recall the "fear" of what was going to happen on the first day of the new century in 2000? Many feared the "wheels were going to fall off the world". Not CDXA!! We were preparing to Welcome Year 2000. See Page 5.