



# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### CDXA Luncheons to Resume!

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
N4APR	Ray Weeks	Sec./Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W1AJT	Art Tolda	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor



**Jimmy, Owner/Proprietor of Skyland Family Restaurant, checks to see if any CDXA members are yet in the parking lot.**

The CDXA Wednesday Luncheon will return starting Wednesday June 9, 2021. The lunch will be back at Skyland Restaurant (4544 South Blvd. in Charlotte).

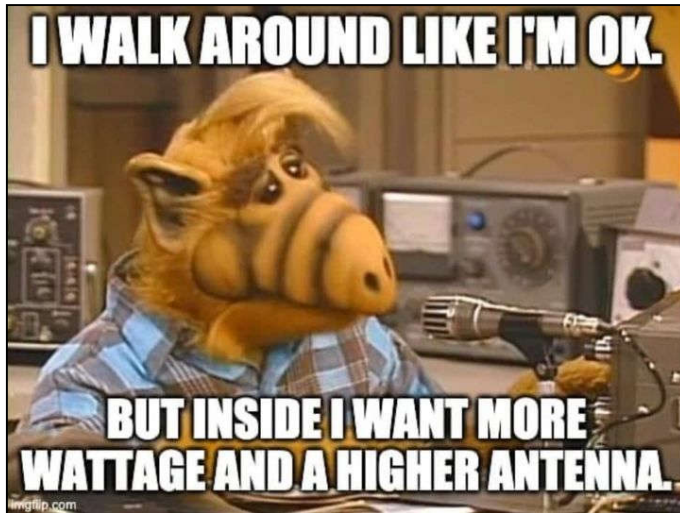
--73 Paul AA4ZZ  
CDXA President

Due to COVID considerations, each member should consider their own health status in making their choice to attend.

---

#### 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
W3GQ (CC Cluster via Telnet)	w3gq.no-ip.com:7373
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



---

### Good Things Take a While . . . . .

Well a new record! I just received a direct QSL reply for a 160m QSO on 20-feb-2010 for which I sent a direct request and also sent a second direct request after a year, since I still hadn't received a reply. QSL arrived today after more than 10 years—postal stamp says it was sent on 8-Apr-2021, so I guess my QSO partner just now got around to it. I've received buro cards faster than that, but at least I finally received a reply.

--73's Bob Burton, N4PQX

### The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association  
Copyright 2021

Published bimonthly 6 times per year.

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:

Ray Weeks., N4APR  
3017 Cutchin Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28210

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [rweeks1@carolina.rr.com](mailto:rweeks1@carolina.rr.com).

### Remember the "Russian Woodpecker"?

Those hams who have been on the air for more than a few years will remember hearing the rat-tat-tat of what became known as the "Russian Woodpecker". It was annoying, and even the best noise blankers would not eliminate it. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) chose brute force to meet its desired ends of protecting itself from missile attacks.

The "woodpecker" was finally identified as an "over the horizon" radar used during the cold war to keep a watch out for aircraft or InterContinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) approaching Soviet Union airspace. Remember, this was before widespread deployment of satellite technology was the norm, so radar was the mode of choice. Yet the radar technology chosen by the USSR was widely disruptive to radio signals the world over. Despite complaints submitted by many countries, the signals continued. It was only with the warming of the Cold War that the signals finally ceased.

Bill Fisher (W4GRW) sent along a link to an Internet article about the Woodpecker. The link is:

<https://hackaday.com/2021/05/11/the-russian-woodpecker-official-bird-of-the-cold-war-nests-in-giant-antenna/>

There is an informative video embedded in the article. I recommend you take a few minutes to view it to get a "drones-eye" view of the immensity of the antenna structure itself. The narrator also explains how the technology was supposed to work. The effectiveness of the Woodpecker in fulfilling its role has both supporters and naysayers.

### Welcome New Member

As summer approaches we welcome **Rick Wize (KO4PRL)** as a new CDXA member. Rick is fairly new to ham radio and has been reading voraciously and asking questions to get his arms around our broad-scoped hobby. Recently retired, he now has the time to dedicate to find out about those parts of our hobby which interest him most. Rick lives in Mooresville and is close enough to about a half dozen members that he can probably ask his questions face-to-face. Hopefully, we'll see him soon at Skyland Restaurant now that our regular weekly Wednesday luncheons are resuming. There, most questions can be readily answered for anyone!



### **Lynn Lamb, W4NL (SK)**

ARRL Life Member Lynn Lamb, W4NL, of Maryville, Tennessee, died on May 10 following a lengthy illness. He was 83. Lynn co-founded the SEDCO/W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention in 2005 along with his wife, Rosie (KA4S) and George Dominick (W4UW).

Licensed in 1954, Lamb retired from a career with the US Department of Defense (US Navy and Air Force). He was a founding member of the National Capitol DX Association (NCDXA) and belonged to Potomac Valley Radio Club, the International DX Association, Carolina DX Association and other amateur radio organizations.

Lynn is survived by his wife, Rosie (KA4S), with whom he shared a life for over 63 years. He was a member of the CQ DX Hall of Fame and the University of Tennessee Amateur Radio Club Hall of Fame. He proudly earned 339/371 in the DXCC standings.

Lynn describes himself on his QRZ.COM page thusly:

“ . . . . Interests ... volunteer work, leading classes/gatherings in Ham Radio, DXing, contesting, CW, digital modes, QRP, & antennas.

Love CW, and always will, but work digital a lot these days. A stroke forced my CW to keyboard (and still learning). Thanks to Joe Taylor and FT-8 along with his team, I'm really enjoying getting on the air more.”

Forever learning and continuing the challenge of DXing, several years back Lynn decided to earn DXCC using QRP which he did successfully--over 200 entities on almost all HF bands!

Many long-time CDXA members will recall that Lynn was one of the modern “Overmountain Men” from Tennessee which came to be known as “the Tennessee Eight” when making the annual trip to attend the Charlotte Hamfest in the early 2000s. Many CDXA members returned the favor by being regular attendees to “SEDCO” in the infant days of that conference. Those virtues of fellowship and friendship were a byword of Lynn’s life.

Lynn is surely being missed by many.



## And the Groans came rolling in. . . .

The call for material for the newsletter in the last issue did not fall upon deaf ears. Secretary Ray Weeks answered the call with the following puns—a few of these may have been in the Pileup a long time back. If so, you'll still groan.

I'm a big fan of whiteboards. I find them quite remarkable.

Yesterday, a clown held the door open for me. Such a nice jester.

I was going to make myself a belt made out of watches, but then I realized it would be a waist of time.

I'm only friends with 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know Y.

The past, the present, and the future walk into a bar... It was a tense moment.

Police were called to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Q: Why did the tomato blush?

A: Because it saw the salad dressing.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Q: What do you do when life gives you melons?

A: See a doctor, because you're probably dyslexic.

---

## Why Does CDXA Need Your 6-digit Grid Square?

By John Scott, K8YC

Within the past six months, someone submitting a membership application to CDXA asked, "Why do I need to submit my 6-digit grid square on the application?" This article will explain why it is needed, and will provide you with the URL of an online application that will compute your grid square by merely making a few mouse clicks. The origin of grid squares is explored first just so you know how they are constructed and why they came into existence.

### Origin of Grid Squares

Almost all radio contests have some factor in scoring that rewards distance of the contact and geographic dispersal of contacts. Sometimes it is as simple as rewarding more points for each contact which is on a different continent. To add even more reward options for work-

ing a wide range of countries, some contests provide one country multiplier point for the first time you work a different country on a particular band. In worldwide contests, a zone multiplier point may also be given for the first time you work a country in a particular CQ or ITU zone. At contest end, one's score is determined by adding all the zone multiplier points for all bands to all the country multiplier points for all bands and then *multiplying* that sum by the sum of all the points earned for the basic contacts. This *multiplier effect* is what gives rise to scores in the millions of points for the big multi-band, multi-operator stations with large antenna arrays which work many countries in many zones on all permitted bands in the biggest contests.

But, VHF/UHF contacts generally do not reach distances so readily found in HF contacts. To have a reasonable way of rewarding multiplier points for "distance" in these contests, some sort of overlay to a smaller geographical area was needed. In April 1980 a VHF working group met in Maidenhead, England to consider a number of proposals to create such an overlay. The result is what is known as the Maidenhead Locator System. The Maidenhead system divides the entire Earth into a series of divisions that are 20 degrees wide in longitude and 10 degrees high in latitude. These divisions are called *fields* and are coded with two upper case letters A through R (18 letters), representing Longitude in the first position and Latitude in the second position. Each *field*, in turn, is divided into 10 longitude parts and 10 latitude parts which are designated by the numbers 0 through 9, respectively, for the longitude portion and latitude portion of the *field*—100 in all. Each one of these smaller parts of a *field* is called a *square* or *grid square*—even though it is really a **rectangle** 2 degrees wide by 1 degree high!! HI HI The letters in the *field* lettering start their sequence at the South Pole at 180 West Longitude and increase going eastward and northward. Likewise numbers for the *squares* start their numbering at the southwest corner of a field and increase in magnitude going eastward and northward. This locator scheme puts Charlotte, NC in grid square EM95 and Greensboro, NC in FM06. The resulting four character sequence is the "grid square" that forms the basis for position reporting in VHF/UHF contests as well as in FT8 and JT65 usage.

The Maidenhead Locator System did not stop with the definition of a location represented by a 4 character code. It divided the *square* into 24 x 24 *subsquares* designated by lower case letters "a" to "x", thus making a 6 character code tightening defined areas even more. (It even goes further than that to define *extended squares* that divide the *subsquares* into 10 x 10 numbered grids, but, I've never seen them used.) Needless to say, a 6-digit grid square designation lets us parse the world into

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

some pretty small pieces! My 6-digit grid square is EM950m and I estimate it is about 2 miles high and 3-1/2 miles wide. (Remember, lines of longitude all converge at the poles, so the width of a grid square gets narrower as one moves northward.) If you'd like to know everything about the Maidenhead Locator System see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maidenhead\\_Locator\\_System](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maidenhead_Locator_System)

### Why does CDXA need your grid square?

You may never wish to be a contester, but don't say that unless you've tried it! One of our Founding Members, Roger Burt (N4ZC, SK) perhaps had the best reason for a DXer to be interested in contesting, and that reason was, "... you can earn DXCC in a single weekend in the CQ Worldwide DX contest." What more reason do you need to try contesting? (See Art Tolda's article on contesting beginning on this page.)

The discussion in the previous section explains why grid squares came into being for VHF/UHF contests. So, why does CDXA want your 6-digit grid square as a member who may not be a VHF/UHF contester? Well, our hope is that someday you may wish to try HF contesting, and of course, you'll submit your score as a member of CDXA!

ARRL Contest Rules allow interclub competition by aggregating the scores of all qualified members who live within 175 miles (282 kilometers) of the "center" of the club. You probably didn't know this, but the club's Contest Manager can define the "center" of the club in terms of a longitude and latitude so that the greatest number of members likely to enter the contests is within a circle of 175 miles radius from the chosen "center". The Manager then periodically provides the ARRL with a list of all members on the roster along with their 6-digit grid square and the chosen "center" of the club. Via some geometric calculations, the ARRL can confirm who on our roster qualifies as being within the club's defined circle. And that, dear fellow member, is why we ask you to provide your 6-digit grid square.

### How do I compute my grid square?

The contest manager has a lot to do. Computing each member's grid square would not be a fun task, so we ask that you provide it to the club. Unless you change your QTH, you'll only need to do it once. Below is a link to a website that will allow you to locate your QTH on a world map by zooming in close enough to see your actual location. Once that simple task is completed, you just copy your 6-digit grid square to a handy piece of paper. Here is the link that enables you to do just that:

<https://www.karhukoti.com/Maidenhead-Grid-Square-Locator>

If you are reading this and need to add or update your 6-digit grid square, then from the vClubRoom (Virtual Club Room) tab on the CDXA website, click on the "Profile Update" selection and enter your grid square in the appropriate box. See you in the next contest???!!!

## Notes, on Contest Procedure

By Art Tolda, W1AJT

There are certain helpful and considerate practices which make for more complete and satisfactory enjoyment of the various contests. Primarily, operators should strive to make the event pleasant for everyone with whom he comes in contact with.

CDXA members should participate in contests to fully experience one of the many facets of the amateur radio experience. Low power and simple equipment should not be considered obstacles in any operating event. The operator who hesitates to enter because he feels that he is not able to compete with the elaborate equipment used by some of the other contestants is passing up a fun and challenging part of being a radio amateur. Contesting provides an easy opportunity to test equipment to prove that it is able to perform in the manner it should. While you may not run up one of the highest scores, there is, a certain satisfaction derived in the accomplishment of a creditable performance with limited time or equipment

For a lower powered station or a station with limited antennas it may be more satisfying to "search and pounce" than sending CQ during a contest. However, in the last IARU contest I was operating low power and remote with many visits by "murphy" yet still managed a 10-minute rate of 2.9 Qs/minute and a 60-minute rate of 1.8 Qs/minute. In my case, I have a very effective antenna at the remote station. For a limited station, like mine in NC, it is probably more sensible to listen for signals you can copy well and contact these stations by calling them. You will always find a CQ to answer during every major contest. The exception would be in our state QSO party contests—now you're the sought after station. For old folks like me or those just trying out contesting it is usually much easier to hear a comparatively local station in a QSO party than to try to pick out a potentially weak station answering your CQ from the mass of weak signals and QRM in a DX contest given today's propagation conditions.

Contests seem to bring out hidden faults in a station's character. I think the greatest cause of inaccurate transmitting and receiving during a contest is fatigue. After many hours in the chair it is no disgrace for you to become tired, and naturally your operating may become sloppy as a result or potentially worse, you could harm your equipment. You can do yourself a world of good by resting as soon as you become over-strained and tired. A lay-off for a short period, while both your body and mind are relaxing, provides a complete change from hard operating, and enables you to re-enter the fray freshened and alert. It is surprising how fast the body

(Continued on page 6)

*(Continued from page 5)*

can recuperate, so that you do not have to worry about the few points missed. You should enter the contest with an idea of enjoying yourself, rather than to just run up a lot of points in a hurry. Leisurely operating makes for greater enjoyment especially for those of us getting on in years.

No matter what the results of your endeavor, send your log to the sponsors of the contest. Most contest sponsors make the keeping of records as easy as possible. Today's powerful contest logging programs like N1MM, N3FJP, WinTest, etc make logging almost automatic and they keep track of many performance aspects. Those statistics enable us to focus on areas for improvement. The checks between stations for the purpose of verification are reduced to a minimum and neat orderly reports are generated. Even if you do not want to be entered in the contest results formally, as a contestant, you should send in the efforts of your activity (Check Logs) so that the stations you worked can receive the credit due them. Also, it doesn't hurt to have your call published in the results thereby bringing your call to the attention of other amateurs which helps identify your signal on the air. It classifies yours with established and recognized stations in the almost universal

"Super Check Partial" file which almost every contester uses.

Finally, there is the matter of QSLing. It should be accepted as a part of operating—a particular card may not mean anything to you, but yours may be the one card that the other fellow is awaiting. In any event, one should always have the decency and courtesy to return the compliment of a card which is sent to him first. Even an "old-timer" may need your card to complete his file for some certificate or award.

During the various contests throughout the year, let's strive to get the most enjoyment for ourselves by operating sensibly with satisfactory relaxation times—I am sure your XYL and family will appreciate it. Most important is to have fun yourself and enable others to have fun also. Additionally, with the CDXA Frequent Contester Program you could actually win a prize just for enjoying yourself!

It has been proven time and again that operating ability is a tremendously more important factor than the equipment itself.

--o--O--o--

---

## What's inside . . . . .

Wednesday **luncheon's at Skyland Family Restaurant** resume on June 9, 2021!!! (See the FRONT PAGE NEWS.)

It's been a long while since we've heard the **Russian Woodpecker**. Read about it and view an interesting video. Details on Page 2.

Memorial tribute to **Lynn Lamb, W4NL (SK)** on page 3.

**Six-digit Grid Squares and why CDXA wants to know yours!** Most of what you ever wanted to know about the Maidenhead Locator System. See Page 4.

Notes on **Contest Procedures** from CDXA's Contest Manager. See Page 5.

