



The Carolina DX Association



The Pileup



CDXA Christmas party November 21

Carolina DX Association



OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1992

BILL TAYLOR - KD4IL - EDITOR

CONNECTION PROBLEMS

Copy of message. From: N4ZC To: LOCAL Date: 10-Aug-1992 2228Z

When I first got on the DX packet cluster I would get disconnected from time to time. I would ask "why did KD4IL disconnect me?" There are so many things that could cause this problem that you can't say "why did he disconnect me?" Yes, it could be the node computer or your computer/dumb terminal but more often it will be one of the following problems.

Most of the radios we use for the cluster are radios that were set up for FM operation. These radios use response filters and audio levels intended for microphones and speakers. More often than not, this leads to incorrect deviation, distortion, noise, and hum on the audio. Deviation limiters distort frequency response and further reduce the performance of your system.

Try to find someone with an FM deviation meter. Set the transmit audio level of the transceiver and TNC to about 3-4 Khz. **DO NOT EXCEED 4 Khz** The first place to make this adjustment is the pot listed in your TNC manual as the transmit audio. In most cases this should be the only adjustment needed. Packet works much better at 3-4 Khz deviation. Most FM radios are set for 5+ Khz deviation. They may also have some clipping which can add distortion to your transmitted signal.

Our ears can handle some distortion without any real problem but a TNC must have a distortion free signal to properly decode each packet of information. If any part of a packet has distortion the whole packet is rejected.

Your receiver audio level can also be part of your problem. Most transceiver to TNC audio level settings are optimum with the receiver volume set near a 9 or 10 o'clock position. You may need to try some other settings to get a proper decode of packets. You should have a steady DCD led when a packet signal is present. The DCD light should not flicker when a packet signal is present. Too much audio can also be a problem. Too much audio may cause clamping to occur inside the TNC and no data will be decoded or displayed.

DO NOT set the squelch too tight or some packet signals could be lost. Open the squelch until you hear noise, then turn it back on to the point where all noise is gone - no further.

Packets can also be lost due to intermod. This is more

of a problem during morning and afternoon drive time when people are on the road to and from work. They key up all the repeaters to kill time talking on the way to work and increase the chance of intermod.

While most radio communications call for the lowest power needed for the path, the packet cluster is another matter. Packet radio is NOT a weak signal mode of communications. It takes a high signal to noise transmission to make sure each packet of information is decoded properly. Use the highest antenna you have along with the high power setting of your rig. It is important for each user of the cluster to hear all the other users, if possible. This will prevent collisions of packets at the cluster node by stations that step on stations they can't hear. Stations in one extreme of my area don't hear some stations in the opposite extreme of the area.

I see some stations disconnected during periods of high activity. When there are many stations connected and there are a good number of DX spots, ANN one liners, and people trying to read DX Bulletins and other files the weaker guys can get lost in all the traffic. The node doesn't hear their acknowledgment packet in all the QRM and they retry out.

Another problem that is rare but does pop from time to time is equipment problems from one of the local users. I have seen local users transmitters locked up on the air with a steady signal. Watch for a steady signal, noise, or others using the frequency with another form of modulation.

TNC parameters are another possible problem. You may need to experiment with the values. Try starting with the following values. Check 0 If this gives you a silent disconnect and that is a problem for you, set check to 200 or more.

DWAIT 130

FRACK 3-8 weaker stations could use up to 15

MAXFRAME 4

PERSIST ON

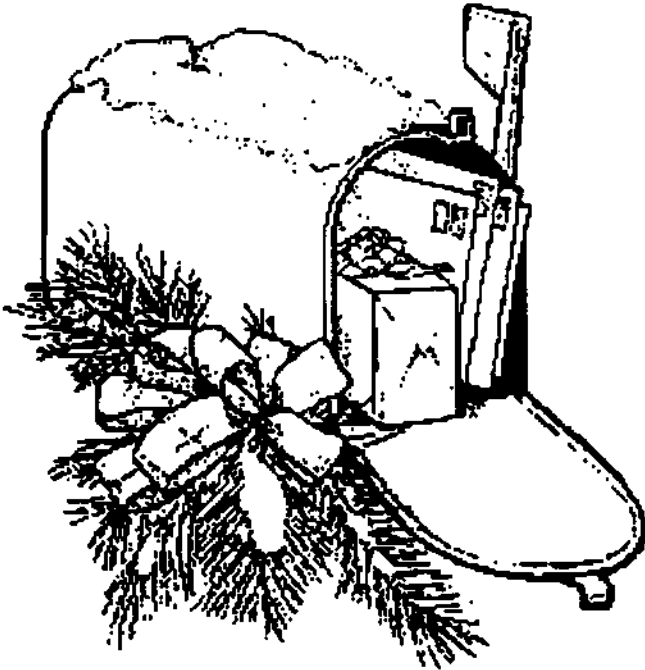
RESPTIME 10-15

RETRY 15

TXDELAY 30-40 you may need more if you use outboard amp.

As you can see there are many things that can cause disconnect problems. A big signal with correct deviation and no distortion is the answer to most problems.

73 Roger N4ZC



CDXA Christmas Party

The annual CDXA Christmas party will be held at the Branding Iron Restaurant on November 21, 1992 at about 7PM. The Branding Iron is located on highway 21 just across the Catawba River Bridge and is on the left as you drive south. If you plan to attend please see that N4ZC or K4MQG know that you are coming.

There will be elections of new officers at this meeting at this meeting.

K4MQG 1-Nov-1992 2250Z CHATHAM IS. BY ZL1AMO

RON, ZL1AMO, INFORMED ME THAT HE JUST FINALIZED HIS TRIP TO CHATHAM IS. TODAY. HE WILL OPERATE THERE FROM NOV.10-24. HE WILL BE ACTIVE ON THE USUAL DX FREQ.S AND ALSO RTTY. HE SAID THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY RTTY FROM ZM7, CHATHAM SO THIS WILL BE EXCITING FOR THE RTTY BUFFS.

HE WILL BE OPERATING FROM AN OLD BROADCAST RADIO STATION AND WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE OLD TOWERS TO SUPPORT HIS ANTENNAS AND TO POSSIBLY LOAD UP ON THE LOW BANDS.
73'S AND GOOD DX..GARY, K4MQG

KD4IL 1-Nov-1992 0349Z TT8OBO OPERATION NEXT WEEK

Copy of message. From: K4MQG To: ALL Date: 1-Nov-1992 0349Z

KEN, WA4OBO, A MEMBER OF THE CAROLINA DX ASSOCIATION IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART CHARLOTTE, NC ON NOV. 4 FOR 2-3 WEEKS. AFTER A BRIEF STOP IN EUROPE HE WILL ARRIVE IN N'DJAMENA ON NOV.10. KEN WILL BE OPERATING AS TT8OBO AND WILL BE ON THE AIR AS HIS WORK SCHEDULE ALLOWS. HE WILL BE WORKING WITH THE CHAD GOVERNMENT AS AN ADVISOR TO THEIR COTTON AND TEXTILE INDUSTRY.

KEN IS ALLOCATING SEVERAL DAYS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF HIS TRIP FOR NOTHING BUT RADIO AND WILL BE ON 80-10 METERS ON SSB ONLY INC. WARC BANDS. FOR ALL CW BUFFS, KEN IS WORKING TO HAVE TWO OTHER HAMS IN CHAD TO HANDLE THE CW OPERATIONS USING HIS CALL.

KEN WILL HAVE AT LEAST TWO STATIONS FOR HIS USE. ONE IS ALREADY IN PLACE IN CHAD WITH ONE OF THE AMERICANS THERE WHO DOES NOT HAVE A LICENSE TO OPERATE. ADDITIONAL RIGS ARE ALSO BEING CARRIED. WA4UUP HAS FURNISHED HIS KENWOOD 450 AND YAESU IS OFFERING A FT990 TO ASSIST IN THE OPERATION. INDEXA HAS FURNISHED A SB200 AMPLIFIER AND QSL'S BY W4MPY AND INDEXA.

CURRENT PLANS ALSO CALL FOR A RETURN TRIP TO TT8 IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH 1993 AND TIME IS ALSO BEING BUILT INTO THE TRIP FOR PLENTY OF DXING.

QSLs WILL BE VIA THE HOME CALL, WA4OBO, GOOD IN THE CALL BOOKS SINCE 1976.
73'S AND HOPE WE ALL CATCH KEN ON MANY BANDS.
REGARDS, GARY, K4MQG FOR WA4OBO.

1993 CDXA Dues due by January 01

Net Report from N4UH

Here is the quarterly DX Net report that covers the period from July 8 to October 7, a total of 14 weeks. However, there was no record kept for the week of 19 August when the Net was off so all could attend the special CDXA meeting when our Italian friends were present and N4ZC gave his slide presentation of the European trip. There were 35 different calls checking in this period, 3 more than the last.

The average attendance this period was 12.6 check-ins, which compares to 13 the previous period. Having perfect attendance was Gary, WA1EHL. Missing only one secession were, Bruce AG4L, who also graciously substituted as NCS when needed, Knobby, KC4DBY, Roger, N4ZC and John, Wa4KDB. Larry, K4CEB missed two secessions.

All amateurs are invited to check into the CDXA DX Net at 8:30pm local time each Wednesday, on the Boone repeater, 147.36 MHz.
73 -- Henry N4UH NCS

Thanks to K4MSK

CDXA and all the members want to thanks John Williams, K4MSK for the use of his Mountain top above Lake Toxaway for the last 5 years. As some of you know, the TOX digi was the main backbone route for DX traffic into the Atlanta area for this period. Early this year, the backbone route was changed to a 9600 baud 220 MHz circuit and TOX was used as backup. Last month John sold the mountain and CDXA decided to remove all it's equipment from the mountain. The equipment will be reused at CAT (antenna) and at N4ZC's(radio) to increase coverage and power. Again Thanks to John for his support. -- KD4IL Editor

**Carolina DX
Association
PO Box 232
Fort Mill, South Carolina
29716**



First Class Mail

WA4UNZ 92
Ken Boyd
202 Horseshoe Circle
Fort Mill, SC 29715

