

The Carolina DX  
Association

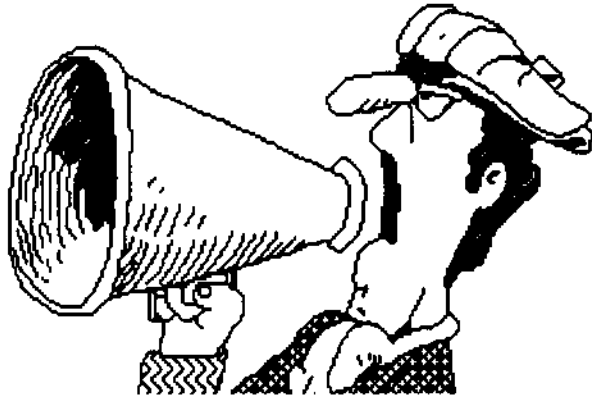
# The Pileup

Carolina DX Association



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1993

BILL TAYLOR - KD4IL - EDITOR



## THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS



Our Club treasurer with his "basket" out for donations!

Hey Ya'll! Don't ya just love this part of the world! Good friends, active ham community, and lots of great DX! Hey to all the visitors to Shelby too! Ya'll come back now, Ya hear! Seriously, we do appreciate our visiting ham friends coming over to the Carolinas.

Several items of newsworthy note...Our very first Life Member has been named (see separate article), The next CDXA get together (October 9th at KI4TZ's home on Lake Wylie), CDXA's new voice repeater (and thus new digipeater) coming soon, and an outreach to a sister club in a economically depressed DX area.

The Wednesday luncheons continue to draw a growing number of the Charlotte area hams. We meet every Wednesday at the Shoney's Restaurant at 440 Independence Ave at noon for dutch treat eats and plenty of talk about anything you choose. Please come when you can. The back meeting room is the place. This is the Shoney's across from Midtown Square Mall. Last week we all had strawberry pie to celebrate WA4PLR's induction into the CDXA Life Member status. What a special day for all of us and Pete!

CDXA Social!!! October 9th at KI4TZ's QTH. Bring your lawn chair and a friend. Oh yes, sure the wives are welcome too! HiHi We will have a tent so come rain or shine with a great appetite!! Joe even hints that his tower will be up by then.

The new lcom repeater will soon be on the air. We are going to try to put it on the air at K4MQG's QTH. That should be much quieter insofar as powerline noise, thus more sensitive. The current site and equipment will be used to help folks digipeat into KD4IL's PacketCluster node. So when the smoke clears (oops! There really should be NO smoke), we should have a measurably improved system. Keep an ear on 147.18 for all the excitement!

I picked up the idea of having a Sister Club from the DX Forum Dinner at the Huntsville Hamfest. The idea is to share our old callbooks, wire antennas, technical info, etc. with those Hams who are less fortunate in DX areas. It is a way we can help our friends abroad in a fairly painless way as a group. What do you think? Like the idea? Hate it? Want to take a leadership role in bringing this idea to reality? Let me know!

We always appreciate your good ideas! Thanks! See you in the Pileup! har har hardeehar.

Joe WD4R



# Fall "Pig OUT"

The annual CDXA fall picnic is being held on October 8 at the home of KI4TZ, Joe Barkley. The arrival time is after 4:00pm and the eating time is 6:00pm. Those of you who have attended past "Pig outs" are aware of the great fellowship and eats that will be available. The cost will be \$5.00 per person. Please contact AD4R, AA4SC or KI4TZ if you will be attending. The directions to Joe's place are as follows:

From I-77, Take Westinghouse Blvd. west. Follow Westinghouse until it dead-ends into Shopton Road West. Take a left on to Shopton road and then take a right at Wildlife road(about 1.5 miles). Follow Wildlife to Hatfield Rd and take a left on Hatfield. Joe's house is the 2nd drive on right.



## The Carolina DX Association

August 18, 1993

Mr. Clare W. "Pete" Eldridge, WA4PLB  
226 Pinewood Lane  
Buck Hill, NC 28726


Dear Pete:

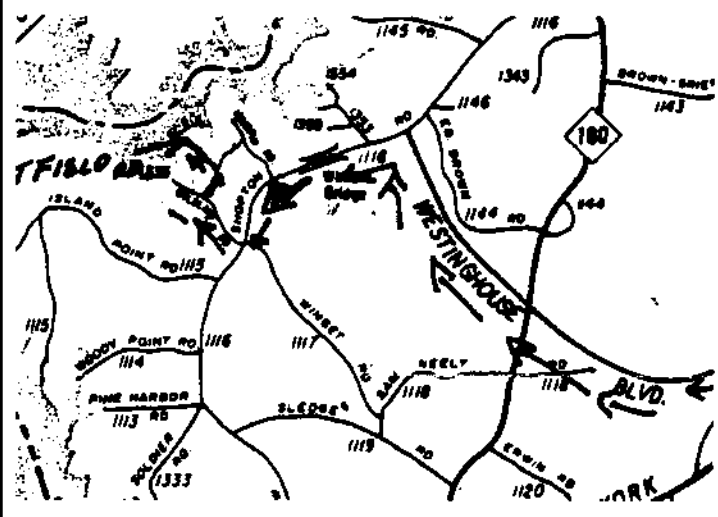
Congratulations! The Executive Committee of the Carolina DX Association has voted to establish in your honor the Life Member class of membership in CDXA, and in recognition of your celebrating 20 years of life, we want you to be the first member so designated.

Along with this Letter of Designation you will receive the love and admiration of your fellow members of CDXA to be expressed consistently over time. Your achievements in our hobby and your spirit of experimenting with leading edge technology is a tribute to your leadership over these many years.

You may now enjoy of all CDXA repeaters and receive the new world famous "Pileup" at no future expense!

Thank you Pete for being a true inspiration to us all.

73,  
  
Joe S. Simpkins, WA4R  
CDXA President



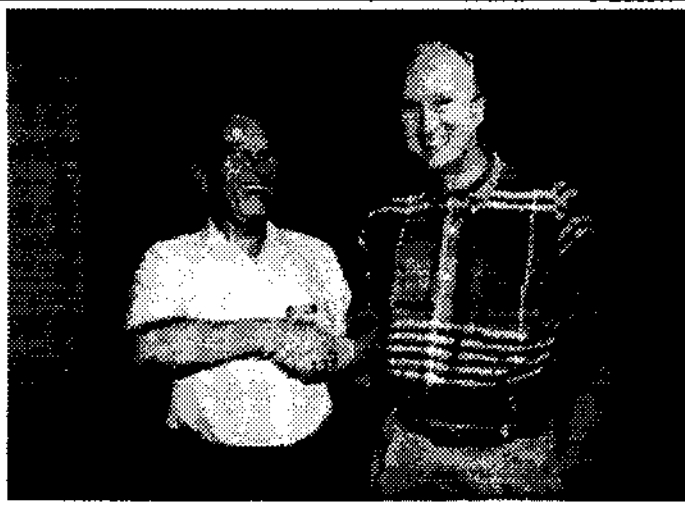
### K4UEE Speaks to CDXA meeting

Bob Allphin, K4UEE, spoke at our last meeting on the large scale operation from Howland Island during late January - early February 1993. Bob was one of a group of about ten operators from around the world. His talk included slides and a video of their multi-station all mode, all band set up which made over 50 thousand contacts.

The video of their departure from the island was especially thrilling as they fought the surf to launch the small Zodiac boats to return to the ship.

Bob, a resident of Marietta, Georgia, holds several world records in DX contests and has also made expeditions to several DX countries including XF4DX, 3A/K4UEE and several Caribbean islands.

W4UNP



W4WMQ

K4UEE



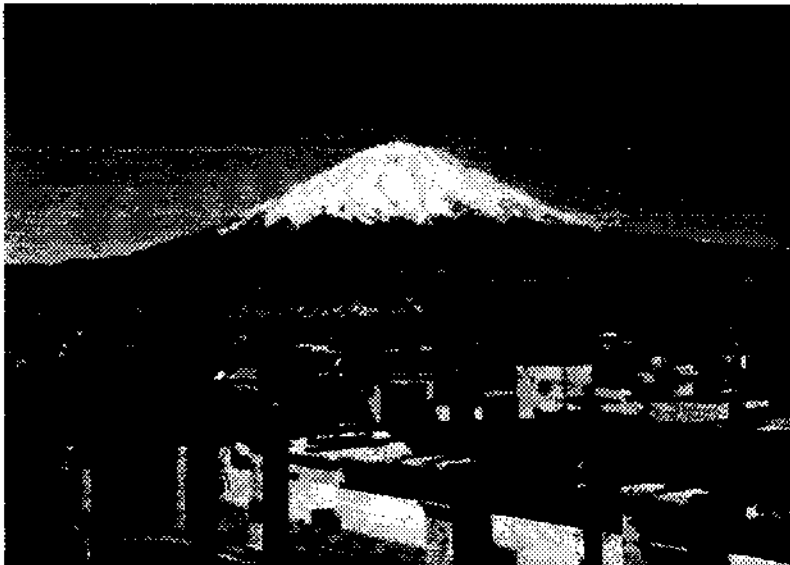
## WA4OBO back on the road to "far-away-places"

PERU, AUGUST OF 1993

Both business and pleasure took my wife, my daughter Meg and me to Peru during the week of August 8 - 15. It is our first trip since July of 1985 to Peru and things are dramatically different now that they were then. During our last visit it was the election of Alan Garcia, the supposed fence sitter, that was to lead the country to recovery from Socialism and the Peruvian form of Communism~. During his tenure of office from 1985 to 1989 the inflation rate rose to a level of 6000 per cent per annum and poverty was wide spread. it is interesting to note that before Mr. Belamunde, the President prior to Mr. Garcia, Peru was a very prosperous country with great hopes and prospects for the future. His alliance with the Soviet Union in his attempt to overthrow Mr. Allende in Chile led to the abrupt downturn of the economy and the position of Peru in the eyes of the world.

Today after 3+ years under the iron fisted rule of Mr. Fujimori, a Japanese immigrant to Peru, there is once again a glimmer of hope in the faces of the average Peruvian. They still are suffering badly, but inflation is steady at about 60 - 75 per cent per year and they are coping with it, although suffering under the tight control of the government. I think that they can see some small ray of light at the end of the tunnel giving them hope that had vanished in the last 12 years of poor leadership. People seem happier and more are working on a steady basis.

As most of your know, I make my living as a textile broker and agent for yarns and fabrics with a bit of consulting now and then. One of my main sources of income is Pima cotton yarn from Textile Piura and alpaca yarns from Inca Tops. Both mills had been after me for more than a year to visit to see what they were doing that was new. In textiles there are new time and few new things to see, but still they insisted and we decide about 3 months ago to visit. To my daughter Meg, Peru has been one of the ~Magical Places~ that ~he felt that some day she should visit, and since June, my wife runs the business our group was fixed and ready to go.



Getting to Peru today is quite simple.. You call Carol Dixon at Seagate Travel and tell her you want to go and as inexpensively as possible, and the job is done quickly, professionally as inexpensive as USAir will let you travel from Charlotte. We flew with USAir to Miami on Sunday afternoon connecting with American Airlines for the non stop flight to Lima, Peru. Our excitement started at the Miami airport when our host for the cotton mill portion of the trip was unable to get on the flight and the counter person with AA were not the least bit compassionate in either English or Spanish. Finally, however with the aid of a supervisor at the counter, a very oversold plane found room for one last passenger, our host Pepe Gonzalez. Needless to say we breathed a huge sigh of relief, for it was Pepe who had the details of the private jet trip to Piura in the north early Monday morning. The trip down was eventful. the path is over Cuba, the Caymans, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador and into Peru. The flight is about 5 hrs and 20 minutes from Miami. The day of the flight was the day that the tropical storm was moving across the northern portion of South America, but we felt none of the effects of the winds or the storm. We landed in Lima at about 2300 hrs on Sunday and were met by our host in Lima and escorted to the hotel after

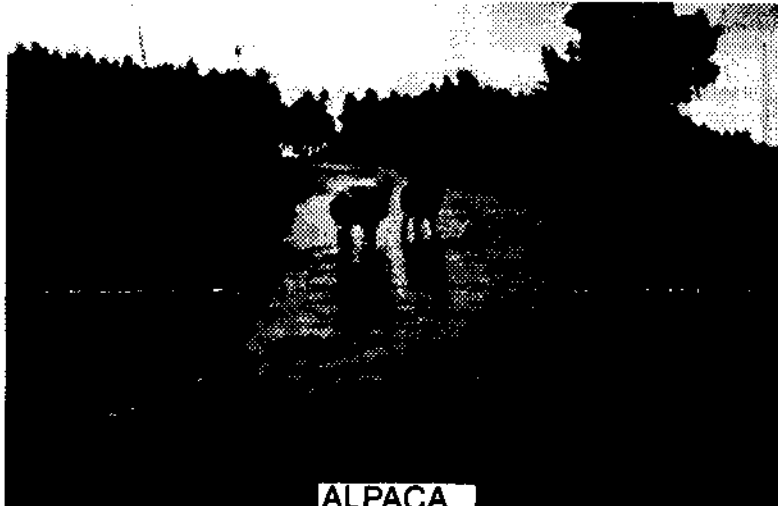
discovering that our bags did not arrive on the plane with us and would not be there until the next day. Fortunately, June, Meg and I had a spare change of clothes in our carry on luggage along with our toilet kits, and no harm was caused by the non appearance of the bags. At the hotel the driver told us to be ready at 0500 hrs for the trip to the airport in the morning. We learned early on that everyone in Peru that is travelling is expected to be up at about 0430 every day to catch whatever conveyance you are booked on for the day! On Monday morning, we boarded the company jet for Piura about 1200 KMS to the north of Lima, very close to the Ecuadorian border. Peru is basically a desert on the coast, with the Andes mountains in the middle and the Amazon rain forest on the east border. Some of the highest mountains in South America are located in Peru between Lake Titicaca in the south and Piura in the north. Lima is constantly covered with shrouds of clouds that we found were caused by the Humboldt currents. It never rains in Lima or long the seacoast until about 750 KMS north of Lima where the currents swing westerly towards the Hawaiian Islands (The path of Kon Tiki 20 years ago or more). From this point, it is clear, and the views of the desert, mountains and ocean are spectacular. The flight takes a bit longer than one hour. On approaching Piura, you can see the irrigation ditches that are used to help in the watering and cultivating of the pima cotton that is grown in this area. This is the finest cotton grown in the world, reaching lengths of nearly 2 inches long. The average for our crop this year was 1 11/16 inches. Most American cotton is about 1 inch long to 1/8 inches. The length and the fineness of the fiber diameter make the cotton from Peru very desirable in shirts, sheets, stockings, tights, and ladies lingerie. We visited the plant, the gins where the cotton is first processed from the fields, and the fields themselves. In Peru the cotton plants are head high while in the USA they are waist high or shorter. All cotton in Peru is hand picked, making a cleaner and less damaged product. After a full day with the mill personnel, it was back to the airport to get back to Lima. We arrived at 1900 hrs and were sent to the hotel with instructions that we would be back at the airport at 0530 for the flight to Cusco(keeping in line with the early rising).

Cusco is situated south and east and high from Lima. We went from sea level in Lima to 12,000 feet in Cusco. For this old man, breathing was not easy for the first several hours, but gradually we all got used to it. Cusco is a very old city founded in the time of the Spanish arrival in Peru. Much of the gold was mined in this vicinity. There are about 1,000,000 persons living in Cusco, mostly of Inca Indian descent as well as mixtures of European and Incan. They are a very pleasant group of people who are geared to the heavy tourist trade that frequents their city. Cusco is the jumping off spot to Machu Picchu, the city of great historical acclaim in the Incan history. It maybe one of the most incredible sights I have ever seen. To imagine the Egyptians building the pyramids on flat land is maybe possible, but to conceive of the construction at the 10,000 foot elevation on sheer cliffs with stones that are 20 - 30 feet tall is mind boggling! Not much is really known other than speculation about the purpose of the city at Machu Picchu, but it is believed to have something to do with not only the religion, but also the plotting of the stars in the southern skies. One of the ancient stones has a perfect drawing of the constellation known as the Southern Cross that dates from the earliest of times known in that area. There are Inca trails all over the surrounding mountains that lead to the city which were thought to be the trails made by the indians coming on pilgrimages to the city. Many tourists hike these trails into Machu Picchu, but not this one. Even at 25 I don't think I would have tried it with or without porters! During our stay in both Cusco and Machu Picchu, we were favored with unseasonable rain storms, not just drizzles, but driving rains. After 30 minutes on the paths of Machu Picchu all of us were soaking wet and continued that way for another 12 hours. The train ride from Cusco to MP takes about 3 hours rising above the 12,000 feet of Cusco to about 13,000 feet and then down 2,000 feet to MP. The train goes back and forth backwards and forwards to climb and go down the mountain into the valley where Machu Picchu is located. You go from high desert conditions to heavy rain forest areas in the valley that is the river that is the head water of the Amazon river. The

bus ride from the train station into the valley is a thrill unto itself! The road was laid out by an engineer that surely was akin to a black snake or at least to a lunatic who had no idea of straight lines! It was an uphill, sidehill then downhill ride of about 30 minutes in the driving rain with no guard rails or lines on the roads. The driver blew the horn a lot. I will describe the day as wet, but well worth the discomfort caused by the rains, to have the opportunity to be in one of the truly "Magic Places" on the face of the earth MACHU PICCHU!

Our trip home was nearly as eventful as the trip getting there. The train left MP about 1630 in the afternoon and after 2 hours enroute to Cusco and the warm, dry hotel, the train broke down conveniently to a station where there must have been 30 mini busses with NASCAR drivers for bus drivers. We got off the train and on to our mini bus for the rest of the high trip back to Cusco. Just a darkness, the clouds, fog or whatever settled on the mountains that we were driving in and our driver merely stuck his head out the window and continued along as though nothing had happened. Finally, we crested the mountain into Cusco and from there on we could see again - no fog. Really a hair raising experience in the cold, wet high Andes!

You guessed it, at 0430 the next morning we were up getting ready to depart for Arequipa, about 30



minutes flying time from Cusco. Once off the ground we were above the clouds, but not above the mountains, After 12 - 15 minutes of flying everyone on the plane jumped up and went to the right side of the plane. A volcano was erupting off our right wing and smoke and ash was everywhere. It had been smoking for days, the pilot said, but finally blew earlier this particular morning. Really an incredible sight in very clear skies with with very impressive mountains on both wing, just under us. We were flying at about 28,000 feet I believe they announced, but it did not seem high enough for me! Arequipa is the

home of the second mill that I was to visit in Peru, Inca Tops. They produce 46% of the world's Alpaca yarn and fabrics. Arequipa is a town that is nearly 100X white in buildings and other construction. All of the buildings are made from white volcanic rock that is quarried nearby in one of the 4 volcanoes that surround the city. On this day they were all snow capped because of the unseasonable rain of the last few days. It was really beautiful. Normally in the winter in Arequipa, at this time, it is very dry, brown and desert like, but because of the unheard of rain everything was clear, clean and beautiful with greenery everywhere. The traditional indians are here along with the general mix of Peruvian/European/Inca mixtures. Arequipa is in the south near the Bolivian and Chilean borders. Lake Titicaca is nearby also. The deepest-t gorge on land in the world is within driving distance from Arequipa. After the mill tour and visit to the weaving plant and sweater mill, we did the tourist things that had to be done and were not disappointed. Arequipa is a reasonably modern city with malls and nice roads and about 2,000,000 population. With the new government, this city has not prospered as they had hoped it would, and as a result there is a new crime element that prevails causing much grief to the average man on the street.

After much entertainment in the night life of Arequipa, you guessed it again. At 0430 back on our feet and to the airport for the flight to Lima for a full day of business before our trip back to the USA.

Peru Has many airlines like we used to know as Piedmont that are feeders to the countryside from Lima, the main port of the country both by air and water. Lima is a huge city of 7,000,000, many of whom have fled here from the jungles and the mountains to escape the Shining Path terrorist group that has plagued Peru for 20 years. At this moment with their big leader under the jail, they are a bit quieter than in the past. However, the week before we arrive, they took credit for the bombing of the gate to the American Embassy in Lima. The damage was still there, and business as usual was going on in the Embassy. I might add that the Embassy told me to change hotels because where I was staying was "too high Profile". I think they even would have said not to come had I asked before I went. In my travels, I find that the American Embassy personnel speak the party line and don't make waves and generally don't help Americans in country!

Our flight home was uneventful except the plane was oversold by about 100 seats and it is a miracle that we got on the plane! We were in line at the AA counter 2 hrs & 40 minutes before flight time, but when we got to the counter we were told that since we were not there 1 hour before flight time~ our seats were sold. Only 2 persons got on the plane after us. We were really lucky to make that one! We arrived in Miami at 0640 and flew on to Charlotte on USAir at 0940 arriving at 1100 hours on Sunday one week after we departed, tired but glad we went.

Not one word has been said about ham radio in Peru. It is wide open, In Piura they have 2 meter repeaters that are used not only for amateur, but also business in place of cellular phone systems. Many people have the small ICOM, Yaesu, and Kenwood transceivers instead for phones and use the phone patches on the repeaters for everything! Beams of every description, primarily big yagis, cover the tops of buildings in every city for both business and amateur use. On our hotel was one of the biggest log periodic antennas I have ever seen. The hotel manager said it belonged to one of the permanent residents for his communications worldwide. I never could find out who he was or if I could use his radio.

I still have my trip to Senegal, Mali, & Benin to report on in these pages. If I can just stay home long enough to get them done!

73,

Ken Winston WA40BO, TT80BO, & soon to be TY80BO



MACHU PICCHU



AREQVIPA

