



March 1994
Charlotte Hamfest issue

Carolina DX Association

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

WD4R Joe Simpkins	President
AA4SC Rick Porter	Vice-President
W4UNP Bill Jennings	Secretary-Treasurer
WZ3Q Don Daso	Editor
AG4L Bruce Gragg	Net Manager

The President's Column

Welcome to our March issue. This issue of *The Pileup* focuses on the Charlotte hamfest--one of the premiere ham radio events in our area. Please free free to drop by the CDXA booth at the hamfest and say "hey" while having your DX QSLs checked at the ARRL booth next to ours.

Many of our members are also members of the Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Club and are deeply involved in making the Charlotte hamfest a success. Enjoy the forums, visit the dealer displays, and, wheel and deal in the flea market for those swell bargains you can't live without.

All CDXA members (and their partners) should plan to come to our Saturday night party at Valentino's--just out Independence from the hamfest site.

For all you locals, do try and join us at our informal luncheons each Wednesday at Shoney's. The restaurant is right across the street from Independence Mall, next to Wendy's. We meet at noon, in the back room. It's a great way to catch up with members, enjoy some good food and ham radio conversation.

Another reminder--1994 dues are due. PacketCluster users pay \$30.00 and non-Packet users pay \$15.00 yearly. Check your mailing label. If it is high-lighted in yellow, you have not yet sent in your 1994 dues. This March *Pileup* will be the last issue you receive without payment. Send dues to W4UNP--Bill Jennings, 630 Whitepine Drive, Catawba SC 29704, or pay at the hamfest.

Hope to see you at the hamfest.

73 de Joe WD4R

CDXA MEETING

Saturday evening, March 12th, 1994 at Valentino's Restaurant

3014 East Independence Boulevard

(leave the hamfest, head East & the restaurant is on your right immediately...)

6:30-8:00 PM

cocktail & Italian hors d'oeuvres buffet

\$5.00/person with cash bar

Carolina DX Association PacketCluster

KD4IL 145.09
N4ZC 144.93

CDXA Net on Boone repeater--147.36 • Wednesday 8:30 local AG4L NCS

WZ3Q NOTES

As many of you know, I returned to Charlotte last fall because of my wife's teaching position and her desire to be closer to her family (she's that rarity--a Charlotte native). Many of you also know I work in film and television, and have heard stories of the trials and tribulations of freelancing here in the Charlotte market-place. This week, I received one of those mafia offers (too good to refuse) from the video unit of Lowe's Companies, Inc. in North Wilkesboro.

Naturally, this means moving. Naturally, this means losing touch with many of you, at least for a while. Naturally, I am elated, and disappointed, too. Fortunately, the opportunity to build a contest station should present itself at long last....

I plan to continue editing *The Pileup*. I plan to continue being involved as much as possible in CDXA activities. Just bear with me as we go through the machinations of moving.

This issue of *The Pileup* contains a limited amount of advertising--all from ham radio related vendors. Please support them if possible and mention their ad in *The Pileup*.

This issue also contains three member profiles. This continues to be the part of the newsletter generating the most feedback. As your editor, I'll continue trying to include material like this, but will also be calling on many of you for support--I need more feedback, I need your help in providing me with raw material to actually edit (I need replies from those of you I sent the CDXA questionnaires to!), etcetera. This newsletter can be good, or better than it currently is, with just a bit more input from the field.

About those profiles--someone asked how I determined who was included. It's simple, really, I write about what I know. And everyone who has been profiled so far has responded to a detailed questionnaire mailed out in January. Right now, no more replies are on file, so I'll be calling on some of you. I always intended to include Gary and Roger in this special hamfest issue. Roger is a Forum speaker, and Gary's long-time club involvement (the focus of my Editorial), make them logical choices for inclusion this month. And I want to include a profile of a member who is "outside of Charlotte" whenever possible. After all, this is not the Charlotte DX Club--we cover and include the Carolinas--hence Uncle Henry's profile.

On a sadder note, I will be selling items from WA4BEC's station at the Charlotte hamfest. Please look over the items; it's a good time to pick up some station accessories at excellent prices, and help out Ad's wife.

Do take time during the hamfest to look me up and give me some feedback about *The Pileup*.

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EDITORIAL

Radio clubs, by definition, represent a further concentration of what's already a special interest hobby. By definition, such clubs are usually devoted to furthering some facet within our hobby. If you're not already a member of a radio club, consider finding and joining one. The advantages far outweigh any disadvantages. The advantages can be unique and wide-ranging. For instance:

- **CAMARADERIE** Whether you call it "bonding" or "socializing" or just simply "friendship," this has to be the most common and popular benefit of club membership. Direct personal interactions, based on radio interests, can create some of the strongest friendships you'll ever have. Motivation and desire just naturally seem to grow from such friendships. It might be a stretch (it's a 19th-century idea) but contributing to something larger than yourself--like a club--seems to inspire people in special ways.
- **TECHNICAL HELP** No matter how large or small your question or problem, statistics and probability immediately stack up in your favor as a club member. Questions, technical issues, experience with a particular rig, antenna, or whatever--odds are someone within your club can provide the answer you're looking for or otherwise help you.
- **HISTORY** Nothing helps you acquire a sense of history faster (or more easily) than being part of a group which includes older, more experienced men and women. It's another 19th-century idea, borrowed from Henry Adams this time, but I don't care what hobby (or activity) it is, you'll learn things from the older, more experienced folks, if you take the time to ask.
- **SOLIDARITY** There's strength in numbers, and in this day and age, that can be a good thing. There are numerous examples, ranging from contest efforts to putting on a hamfest to something as serious as facing zoning restrictions within your community.
- **IDENTITY** Closely aligned with these is identity. (Indeed, it's part of each above-listed advantage.) A rhetorical question: Will wearing a rubber duckie on a pith helmet get you more attention on the streets of your hometown or at the Dayton Hamvention? We'll probably have to wait for the results from an independent testing agency on that question, but hopefully you see the point. As hams, we need to think about our image. Are we the bad guy down the street with the ugly eyesore messing up the stereo? Or are we the person who saved a life using his or her radio set to communicate? (Indeed, do we communicate--use, or merely play--with our radios?)

This issue is a central point in recruiting new members to your club. Nearly everyone (there will always be some who seek YOU out...) will have to be told (or even convinced) about the advantages to joining. You'll have to impress potential members that your club is not a clique. You'll have to show them the advantages of membership. Once the mystery or question of joining is answered, they'll become active, participating members.

For this process to succeed, though, each member must make his or her presence, his or her area of knowledge or expertise, question or problem, KNOWN. This means the club must have a vehicle--an avenue of communication--available to members. Usually, this means a newsletter, a net or repeater, regular meetings (weekly, monthly, whatever) or some other way to access club members. And each member must USE this avenue. Doing so will provide the identity, create the solidarity, provide the sense of history, allow the technical issues to be answered or solved, and quite naturally, will produce the camaraderie so popular throughout ham radio, especially in clubs.

--WZ3Q

THE BEGINNINGS OF THE CDXA

It was a dark and stormy night...and while no shots rang out, N4ZC did exclaim, "Hey Don, take a look at this!" while waving a piece of paper in front of me. What Roger handed me (filed under I think "chaos" there in the ZC historical archives) was a document detailing the first meeting of what became known as the CDXA, written by Henry Elwell, N4UH. With some corrections made to names and callsigns, here are those first minutes.

The Carolina DX Club
19 July 1981

The individuals listed herein met at the home of Roger J. Burt, N4ZC for the purpose of determining whether a DX club was to be formed in the Carolinas. Action was taken to formally initiate a club and its name is to be The Carolina DX Club. These are the minutes of the first official meeting of the Club. There had been two previous attempts to start such a club which was known as the Metroliner DX Club. However, no formal organization evolved, nor were any officers elected. The name "Metroliner DX Club" was considered inappropriate for a club representing a much wider area.

Officers were elected as follows:

President	N4ZC	Roger Burt
Activities Manager	N5TR	Peter Nance
Newsletter	W4NPY	Martin Lafferty
Secretary	N4UH	Henry Elwell
Treasurer	WA4ZMM	Paul Deyo

It was decided there will be no initiation fee; annual dues will be \$10.00. New applicants will be advised as to the need for financing the club repeater, and that other users of it contribute \$25.00; the new applicant would determine his desire in that matter.

Discussion followed regarding "members" and "associates" but no decision was reached. N4ZC will originate a constitution to be presented at the next meeting for discussion and action.

It was noted that the repeater is covered by N4ZC's home owner's insurance for damage due to the elements. It was decided that the next meeting will be at Rick Porter's QTH, on 10 October 1981.

A tour of the N4ZC antenna farm and shack followed. Meeting adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted, N4UH, Secretary

Attendance at the 19 July meeting of The Carolina DX Club

HP1XRG Jim	WA1AUL Jim	N4AXT Hugh	WA4VCC Ted
K4MQG Gary	K4CEB Larry	K2SD Scott	N4ZC Roger
W6NWS Larry	AA4R Bill	AA4S Ron	N4UH Henry
AA4SC Rick	W4NPY Martin	AA4CQ Wayne	N5TR Pete
WA4ZMM Paul			

This is certainly an interesting document. Most of these "charter" members remain the more active members of CDXA today. Most of them have now worked everything, built bigger stations, expanded their activities into WARC-band DXing or VHF/UHF, contesting or some other aspect of the hobby. HP1XRG is now KF4HK; WA1AUL is now KD4ST; N5TR lives in Texas.

NOTES

The ARRL International DX Test at N4ZC 40M single band

- 2247 Arrive at ZC's QTH. Unload food, sleeping bag, etcetera.
- 2257 Bring up computer, load CT. Fire up TS-850. Turn 4-el KLM around to 45 degrees. Hook up the keying circuit to the computer and Grandmaster keyer. Load all memories.
- 2310 Discover there's no cable running from keyer to rig. Begin search through ZC's basement--to no avail. (No wonder Rog likes the built-in keyer in the 850!) But I refuse to operate a contest with the paddle turned around backwards--like Rog does. Rewiring the paddle seems my only option, until I find a short stereo jumper cable under a box of kindling by the woodstove. To this day, I don't know what prompted me to lift it up and look underneath there. A few minutes work and I have the needed cable.
- 2340 Everything works!
- 2345 Check the band. Europeans are not real strong, but most of the East coast is already on the band, tuning up, calling CQ DX, etcetera. Everyone is loud. I have obviously lost the opportunity to "find a frequency and hold it" prior to the contest-- a necessity for high rates anywhere, but especially true on the low bands.
- 2350 I call a couple of CQing Europeans and get immediate answers--first through the pile of 3-5 stations calling. Oh well...K3ZO doesn't believe in the frequency holding idea anyhow, I tell myself, so I can settle for search-and-pounce technique at the beginning of the contest.
- 0000 Here we go...GØWQM goes in the log first and I start tuning up the band.
- 0109 62 QSOs and 24 countries in several passes up and down the band. Then I find a hole and start CQing at 7039. Not my idea of a prime 40M frequency but it works. Slowly.
- 0300 80 more QSOs and I remind myself to check South. I switch in the 2-el Cushcraft (stuck South) and immediately work KP2, YV, KP4, PJ8, VP5, LU and while tuning, find a slot at 7014 and begin CQing. ISØ calls. Slow going still, but I feel better.
- 0630 112 more QSOs and 13 more multipliers. I turn the KLM West and find AH8F, alone and loud. I begin to alternate CQing on my frequency on VFO A while searching on VFO B. This takes some getting used to--I usually use a remote VFO. I work VK, ZL, FO, KH6 and my first JA, and find GD, V2 and CU mults off the back of the beam. A 3rd antenna--or having the 2-el rotatable--would help here, when the band is open to multiple directions.
- 0916 Everything slips into slow motion. Rate, multipliers, my ability to concentrate.
- 1027 I discover VS6BG. His 400 watts are only S2-3 but I make the exchange and continue CQing and searching on both VFOs. At 1037, VS6WO calls in; his 100 watts are a solid S9. I manage to hang on and work ZF, PZ, JD1 and KC6, but by 1300 I have my head on my arms on the desk and awake to realize I am not tuning or punching the memory button or anything else. Indeed, I fall asleep shortly after realizing this...and stand up after the sunrise opening and decide to lay down. I end the first night with 322 QSOs and 74 multipliers.
- 1820 I snap awake on my foamslab bed, curled in the sleeping bag. Amazingly stiff and with a serious headache. I know I must have had a great time last night. By 1900, aspirin and food have restored my ability to concentrate. Again, the East coast is CQing in force (along with the big multi-multi stations). But no one is really working anything yet. I begin notes for this article, reviewing my log.
- 2115 I find a hole at 7012 and begin to CQ. At 2132, I work GØOPB and away we go again. The first hour is 52 QSOs; the second is 60, and A71CW calls in. And so it goes until 0230, when the rate dries up. I check the CA/SA path and quickly find V3, TI, HH, and VP2E. My rate hovers at 30/hour, but I also work ZB2, SV, 5Z, UC, LY, GM, and P4 by 0800. Then the rate goes up to 50 again and brings in HP, CE, V4, 8P, a YB, A3, HI, FM and FG with scattered JA and Pacific Qs. Signals are strong and solid at sunrise. If only more people worked cw....I think to myself as I head off to sleep again.
- Somehow, I'm more rested on Sunday. I'm tuning by 2000. Conditions continue to sound good. I listen to former arch-rival N2RM, then push a memory button and listen to W3LPL. I'm pleased (and surprised) to hear 2-3 Europeans calling LPL who they apparently don't hear. By 2040, I am S&P'ing my way up the band--working 23 stations. I find a hole between K3ZO and N2RM at the bottom of the band. I settle in, figuring their loud signals will attract stations who will work them, tune off, then hear and work me. As sunset deepens, the rate climbs to 50 and the idea seems to work. I hold here, working GU, CT and SV9, finishing with 804 QSOs and 99 countries.

My final score fell short of my goal of 1000/100, but should be competitive. Clearly, conditions are declining rapidly. It's very noticeable when you're not active on the bands every day. Thanks Rog!

--WZ3Q

Editor's Note

Someone asked me why I only include the "big guns" of the club in these profiles. I was a little non-plussed. I don't really think we need to apologize for the success of any of our members. Indeed, we need to promote ourselves more, and do some "ham community" out-reaching. In other words, the CDXA, if it is to grow and continue to function as a viable club organization, must be concerned with training, distributing information and knowledge about itself (and hence its individual members, including stories of their achievements), and working as a group to generate interest and activity. We need things like contesting, a bit more involvement with something like the QSL bureau, a bit more of the intra-club competition, a bit more in the way of these profiles. I've had five people tell they were surprised by K4CEB's 2M story. I assume that means I'm on the right track in writing about it. I have yet to ask a member anything about his or her past or opinions on some ham radio topic and have them refuse to answer. They might not answer the questionnaire at all (until I call and just say we're going to do that interview now..), but everyone has been open and more-than-willing to share stuff. We just need more of it, in every possible way. The newsletter will benefit, and thus the club itself will benefit and grow.

MEMBER PROFILE

Henry Elwell N4UH

Henry's 74, and licensed since 1936, when he received W2JKH. He got W2MB in 1965 and N4UH in 1977. Henry is a retired electrical engineer, having worked for the Bendix Corporation, in Teterboro, NJ in development of aerospace electronic instrumentation and as a manager of the reliability/maintainability department.

Henry says it's too difficult singling out a particular ham radio experience. It suffices to say Henry's an active DXer who has been known to contest a bit, too. He has 6BDXCC, with Honor Roll of 353/325; he has 112 on 160. He feels hamming creates friendships both locally and throughout the world, while keeping his mind active exploring the continually-changing technology.

Henry is an accomplished ham radio author, having had articles published in *CQ*, *Communications Quarterly*, *Ham Radio*, and *73*. His first article in *CQ* in 1954 was excerpted in the French radio magazine, *RADIO REF*, and he's been going strong ever since. He published the first article on amateur frequency synthesizer construction, also in *CQ* in 1959. Many of you may remember his two-part article in *Ham Radio* during 1985--describing the design and construction of his rhombic.

Henry's current station includes TS-520 and 850 transceivers. He uses two linears, a Heath SB-1000 and a homebrew 4-1000. He has a TH-7 at 60 feet, a TH-6 at 50 feet, a Lazy U for 160 (see *Communications Quarterly* in 1992), an extended double zepp for 40, and that rhombic. (We probably all have dreamed about rhombics, after reading about W6AM, right?) Henry's is 277 ft on a leg at 70 feet.

Henry was reluctant to talk about pet peeves or things that bother him in the hobby. He said he just gets excited being on the air. But he doesn't care for those stations calling during contests using only "the last two letters..."

Watch for Henry on the PacketCluster or at a CDXA function. Or look up some of those ham radio publications. I'm sure you'll agree they're articles that have made a difference.

MEMBER PROFILE

Gary Dixon K4MQG

Gary's 52, licensed in 1957 at KN4MQG. He has also operated as N4RW, JY8MQ, and K4MQG, portable C6A, FS, DL, 5B4, VP9 and VS6. He's worked as a Telecommunications Manager for Hoechst Celanese for 20 years. Gary got into DXing one day (literally) after getting his Novice ticket, when OA4AU answered his 6:30 AM CQ on 15. Naturally, Gary called his Elmer, W4THH to check if he should answer; he thought the OA might be on the "banned list." The reply was a little brusque, Gary said. He worked that OA, and continues DXing to this day.

Gary singled out his two week, all-expenses-paid trip to Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein, JY1, back in 1979 as a highlight. (*A-hem!*) The trip included a palace Mercedes with driver for the duration of the trip, and Gary was allowed to operate from the cockpit of the Jordanian 747 as JY8MQ/aero mobile for the trip over and back.

He also told a story about running daily phone patches for about two months from a station in Papua, New Guinea, relaying medical research information back and forth to a medical team based in Pittsburgh. These relays helped solve a medical problem which was causing native children to die at birth. Gary says he's had lots of exciting and exceptional DX QSOs, but helping someone, in a very real way, utilizing our hobby, is simply hard to beat.

As part of those exciting DX contacts, Gary holds Honor Roll #1, with 361 countries worked and confirmed. He enjoys 80/75 the most, with 318 worked and confirmed. He has over 300 countries on all other bands, except 12 and 30, where he has over 250 each.

Gary's current set-up includes a TS-850 and FT-102, along with a Ten-Tec Titan and a homebrew amp (4-400s), which WA4BEC nicknamed "The Kelvinator" about 15 years back. Gary has a PRO-57A, a 2-el Cushcraft 40, a Create 2-el beam for 75, and various slopers for 80M cw on his antenna farm. Of course, the CDXA repeater is now located at the K4MQG QTH, too.

By now, many of you know of Gary's most significant operating award or accomplishment, at least in terms of wall-paper--although I agree, an award is pretty insignificant compared to saving lives. But Gary holds the first USA 5B-WAZ award, #2 in the world. This was accomplished while living up in Charlotte on a postage stamp sized lot without beams on 80 or 40. Using slopers, Gary worked all zones in 18 months--operating an old Heath SB-102. (*This is obviously why Gary's got that silver-gray hair!*) Check out the write-up in December, 1980, CQ. He also managed the W4 QSL bureau for eight years. He's been the Roanoke Division DXAC representative since 1991, and QSL manager for over a dozen DX stations and expeditions. And VP of INDEXA for 10 years.

Gary said his pet peeve about DX centers around net operation, where everyone says "please copy" before saying anything. "They either hear it, or they don't," is how he feels things should be. Simple and direct, since pleading or asking for help won't make the QSO happen.

Most of Gary's family are hams, the majority of his friends are hams, and it's been a big part of his life for 37 years. Traveling and meeting those he has worked or talked with, or having them come to this country and stay at his home remain special, unique moments. The hobby continues to make the world seem a special place--bringing people together.

And that sums up Gary, I think. He remains the quintessential Southern gentleman of the CDXA--simply quiet, courteous, and reserved, but with lots of knowledge and information he's always willing to share.

MEMBER PROFILE

Roger Burt N4ZC

Roger is 56, and was first licensed in 1954 as WN8URO, in Pontiac, MI. Within four months, Rog dropped the N, upgrading to General. After high school, Rog went to sea with the US Coast Guard, ending up in Puerto Rico, where he became DX for the first time, as KP4A00. The contest bug bit Rog in KP4, where he managed #2 in the world in ARRL cw, and a #4 in the world in CQWW cw. He was on the winning world high ARRL multi-multi phone team of VP2A and the CQWW multi-multi cw team of KP4EAG, while stationed there, too. Roger retired from the CG as a Chief Warrant Officer in 1978 and settled in Stanley, NC with his wife Joyce and son Lloyd. After retiring, Rog concentrated on the CQ WW multi-single phone category. In six years of competition, his station always made the Top Ten, placing from second to fifth during those years.

You know that old expression about ships and seeing the world? Rog has managed to take it to heart, having operated from VP5, KH4, KH6, KH7, the first Desecheo operation, along with less exotic spots like VE, VO, HI, KG4, KP2, V2, VP9, 6Y5, DL, ES, G, GD, I, LA, LY, OH, ON, SM and T7. Some of these European trips have been recent, and we have enjoyed Rog's comments and presentations--always laced with solid notes on the country and its people.

On the operating side, Rog has not only won contest awards, but he's made DXCC from five call areas. He's worked 5BDXCC as W4SYL, as W5UDK, and as N4ZC, including doing that again last year during the CDXA intra-club contest. He holds the Honor Roll #1 award, of course, but mentions the special bond he feels toward the Lithuanians he helped during their attempted government's takeover during 1991. Rog served as a net control station on their emergency net during this crisis. He remains the only American honored with the Lithuanian Freedom Medal.

Clubs have always played a large part in Roger's ham radio career. He was instrumental in the creation of the New England area's Yankee Clipper Contest Club, along with K1ZM. Indeed, Rog was one of the earliest driving forces in the creation of the CDXA.

The ZC station itself seems pretty simple--a TS-850 and a shiny new AL-1200. There are assorted 2M rigs and computer screens scattered about--evidence of Roger's role as a node for our PacketCluster system. Every once in a while, you can glimpse a strange map scrolling across one of those screens, which Rog will explain to you represents the footprint of the Russian RS-12 satellite, which has caught his attention of late. The footprint is small; the access window times are short; activity levels are low. Yet, Roger managed to work what is undoubtedly the first ever DXCC on RS-12 this past year. His current total is 106 countries worked. Don't miss this Forum at the Charlotte hamfest, where Rog will explain just how he managed to accomplish this goal.

Having said the station is simple doesn't mean the hardware outside is simple. (His totals prove this isn't the case.) Rog has a pretty good antenna system (although some stuff now needs repair) utilizing five towers. He has a 4-el KLM for 40 on 132 feet of Rohn 45. On 120 feet of Rohn 25 is a 6-el 10M yagi, another 6-el is fixed on EU at 45 feet, with a 3-el fixed on SA at 35 feet. On top of this tower at 130 feet is the G7 PacketCluster antenna; the 160M inverted vee hangs here at 110 feet, too. The 20M tower is 110 feet of Rohn 25 with a 4-el W2PV yagi at the top and a similar one at 47 feet fixed on EU. The 15M tower is Rohn 25 again, with a 6-el KLM at 100 feet, another fixed on EU at 40 feet, and a 3-el yagi fixed on SA at 65 feet. Storing the WZ3Q 75 foot tower vertically means Rog can also utilize Don's 2-el 40M and 4-el 20M yagis as multiplier or spare antennas. Everything is fed with 3/4-hardline, scrounged from the local CATV. Rigged on ropes between the towers are 4-el log periodic yagis for 80 & 75M; there are 3 of them, fixed on EU, SA, and the Pacific.

Roger also runs the W4 QSL bureau, does a twice-weekly "big bands" music radio show at WSGE, and manages to stay current on Star-Trek, too. In between, you'll often find him and WZ3Q talking about antennas or contesting or movies or the great mysteries of life.



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The Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association