

CDXA Newsletter

November, 1997

Click on the links below to view the corresponding sections of the Newsletter:

- [Editorial](#)
 - [Christmas Dinner](#)
 - [Presidential Ponderings](#)
 - [DX Advisory Committee News](#)
 - [Tidbits](#)
 - [For Sale](#)
 - [THE BACK PAGE](#)
-

Editorial

This will be, we hope, the last issue of The Pileup mailed to the complete membership of the CDXA. We hope many of you will begin to read the newsletter on the World Wide Web. We have a "dummy" page for your review; here's the URL to use: <http://www.mindspring.com/~antman/cdx/index.htm>.

We need and want your reactions. It's been another labor of love—this time with help from Anthony Proctor, who is our web guide at Corporate Media Services. The CDXA page currently resides on or within Anthony's own homepage. Depending on club reactions, the page will wither and die, or expand and move.

Those of you who know something of the Internet and its workings are urged (nay, told flat out) to let me know that from now on you'll be reading these pages electronically. We hope at least 30-40 members can read the newsletter this way; the savings will be significant. Our regular publishing schedule continues—the newsletter goes to press as close to the 10th of the month as humanly possible. The current issue will remain active on the homepage for that month. Then it will go into the archives, also there on the homepage.

Please, take some time to react to the site. Tell me things you have seen elsewhere on the Web (perhaps on other club's homepages) you'd like for us to include, or things you'd like us to change. Be critical (also be rational, the site is still under construction, after all) and yet be specific and honest. Again, none of this makes any difference unless the membership shows an interest. The CDXA deserves to be a bigger and better club. We should be more like some of our other radio brethren. We hope this is a step in that direction.

A special note: the last two issues of this newsletter were printed incorrectly by our printer. The article on fasteners runs here in its entirety. I regret the error.

[--K4ZA](#)

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

Christmas Dinner

The annual CDXA Christmas Dinner will be at The Branding Iron in Rock Hill, SC (3040 Cherry Road) on Wednesday, December 17, 1997. Reception (cash bar) at 6:00PM and dinner (\$12.50 plus tax & tip) at 7:00PM. Dinner choices are prime rib or grilled chicken. Please RSVP with dinner choice to W4WN, Cliff Wagoner via PacketCluster, or telephone (704.598.5373) or e-mail (pmqd44a@prodigy.com).

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

Presidential Ponderings

It's hard to believe that 1997 is almost behind us. Time obviously goes by faster as we get older.

Plans have now been set for the annual CDXA Christmas Party, where the one major business activity of the entire year takes place—the election of officers. I've certainly been honored to serve as President this year, and have been blessed to have such diligent and competent individuals working in critical leadership positions. I'd like to thank the two other elected officers, Vice-President and special events chairman Cliff Wagoner, W4WN, and Secretary-Treasurer Gary Dixon, K4MQG, for their efforts on behalf of the club. We also need to express our appreciation to the "non-elected" individuals who provide functions and services that continue to make CDXA a strong and viable organization—Don Daso, K4ZA, editor of The Pileup, along with Roger Burt, N4ZC, and Joe Simpkins, K4MD, our PacketCluster SYSOPs.

For 1998, the following slate of officers is being offered for your consideration: as President, Joe Simpkins, K4MD; as Vice President, Cliff Wagoner, W4WN; and as Secretary-Treasurer, Gary Dixon, K4MQG. We appreciate these individuals stepping forward and agreeing to serve if elected. Additional nominations will be entertained at the Christmas Party/Election on December 17, at the Branding Iron Restaurant in Rock Hill. Please plan to attend and enjoy this evening of camaraderie.

1997 was a good year for many of us, and CDXA certainly had some good accomplishments and memorable activities. I particularly remember our club booth at the Charlotte Hamfest, the DX hospitality evening at Valentino's, the each-and-every Wednesday luncheons at Shoneys, the receipt of our club call—W4DXA, the swell BBQ at K4BVQ's QTH, the tremendous score at N4ZC's station during October's CQWW, The Pileup appearing on a regular basis, our reliable packet network, and the continuing operation of a QSL Bureau that represents the "best of the best." We have good reason to be proud of these accomplishments, for they all represent the efforts of individuals in this club who "made, and continue to make, it happen." We all need to recognize these individuals, and be proud of their efforts.

But as you constantly read in The Pileup, there are many more things the club (and individuals) could

be doing, and they all require individual effort. Preparing articles for the newsletter, working on a club web page, bringing guests to our meetings, participating in contests (either as individuals or a team), helping others with antenna or technical projects, checking up on those who are ill, selling raffle tickets, setting up demonstration stations, helping at the hamfest, working on the packet system, arranging programs, manning a club booth, operating at Discovery Place, talking at other radio club meetings, sorting QSL cards, soliciting new members for CDXA.... The list goes on Each and every one of us can contribute to this club and its activities. I hope, in 1998, that each of you will consider expanding your individual contributions to the CDXA. And thanks again for allowing me to serve as your President in 1997!

73 and good DX de AA4R

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

DX Advisory Committee News

The DXCC 2000 Committee's Interim Report and recommendations will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors in January, 1998. Parts of this report are outlined below. If accepted, these recommendations will go into effect in 1998, but will not be applied retroactively. Countries could be withdrawn from the list in the future using the deletion criteria . New countries could also come about using the new criteria, so it appears that DXers could have some interesting and exciting changes in the near future.

(A): DXCC COUNTRIES LIST CRITERIA

Point 1, Government

For a country to be on the DXCC list, by reason of Government, it must meet one of the three listed requirements:

1. Be a Member State of the United Nations
2. Be a member of the International Amateur Radio Union
3. Have an official ITU-assigned callsign allotment

Point 2, Separation by Water

1. The 225 mile requirement is replaced with 350 kilometers
2. The 500 mile requirement is replaced with 800 kilometers
3. Paragraph 2(d) is changed so that "minimum-size" is defined: Must consist of two points separated by not less than 100 meters of connected land above the high tide mark, as demonstrated on a chart of sufficient scale. For the purpose of this award any island less than this size shall not be considered in the application of the water separation rules.

Note: Measurements will be conducted in kilometers and rounded off as close to the existing distance as practical.

Eg.: 800 KM = 497.2 Miles or 2.8 mile reduction; 350 KM = 217.52 miles or 7.48 mile reduction;

100 KM = 62.15 miles or 12.85 mile reduction. The 10,000 square foot area was replaced with the 100 meter straight line. This will make it easier to determine minimum size.

Point 3, Separation by another DXCC Country

1. The 75 mile requirement is replaced with 100 kilometers

Point 4, Ineligible Areas

1. No changes proposed

(B): DXCC AWARD STRUCTURE

The new DXCC structure can be divided into two major categories: The Mode Award and The Band Award. More on this next month.

(C): DXAC Studies Three Countries For Deletion or Withdrawal

1. Southern Sudan (ST0) for possible deletion
2. Kure Island (KH7K) for possible deletion or withdrawal
3. Fernando de Noronha (PY0F) for possible deletion or withdrawal

The DXAC's recommendations will also be delivered to the Membership Service Committee in January, 1998.

--K4MQG

DXAC Representative

Roanoke Division

[**Back to the Top of the Newsletter**](#)

Tidbits

Trivia

The origin of the term, "hot dip galvanizing," has absolutely nothing to do with protecting metal from corrosion. The name comes from Italian physiologist, Luigi Galvani, who identified the effects of electrical current on the nervous system of dead frogs (you may recall this from 8th-grade biology class). In the early years of electrical studies, zinc was the most widely-used metal in producing galvanic electricity. In 1837, French scientist Sorel patented a process for dipping steel in molten zinc, and provided the name "galvanizing" in honor of Galvani, who died in 1798.

Betcha didn't know...

Al Kahn, K4FW, founder and chairman of the board of Ten-Tec, was one of the two founders of the Electro-Voice Corporation in the 20's. E-V was named by none other than Knute Rockne ("The Gipper"). Al had set up a microphone and speaker system on the practice football fields of Notre Dame in 1927, for Rockne to use in directing the Irish practices. Rockne called the set-up his "electric voice." The name stuck.

Al was also instrumental in the founding of Heathkit following World War II. Heath was located some 25 miles away from the E-V factories in Michigan, and Al provided a traincar full of war surplus electronic parts that evolved into Heath's first electronic kit project—an oscilloscope. The rest, of course, was history....

In 1965, Al came to Tennessee to open two Electro-Voice plants, one in Sevierville, (home of Ten-Tec) and one in Newport, some 20 miles away. To this day, the Sevierville E-V plant is located directly across the street from Ten-Tec. Al always had an interest in manufacturing amateur radio gear. He's also always been a fanatical CW op (he's on 40 CW each day, an interesting twist to a microphone manufacturer's story), and in 1968 sold his interest in Electro-Voice, bought 15 acres of land across the street, put up our building, where he and co-founder (and still president) Jack Burchfield, K4JU (a former E-V employee) began doing tool and die work and building QRP ham gear. Twenty-nine years later, Ten-Tec remains 100% owned by current and former employees and their families.

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

FOR SALE

Wilson DB-43, 10/15M duo-band beam antenna. 4 elements on 15M & 3 elements on 10M, on an 18-foot boom, using 2 feedlines. Pick up in Charlotte area.	\$175.
Mosley PRO-67-C, 7 bands 40-10M, including all WARC bands. 3 elements each on 40-12M, 4 elements on 10M. All with one feedline. 3-inch diameter, 24-foot boom. This antenna is still in original shipping crate—never opened. Currently selling for \$1587, including freight. Pick up in Charlotte area.	\$950.

Contact Bill, AA4R 704-892-4081 or via packet at N4ZC

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

The Back Page

I've been debating including the following for several months. I've held back (because it's not really my kind of humor), but I've heard two comments the newsletter's stuffy & boring, so here goes nothing, as Mel Brooks probably thought on at least one occasion....

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN HAM RADIO TERMS

4 Billion BC- Earth is a swirling ball of gaseous flames. Propagation is extremely poor.

1 Billion BC - First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.

500 Million BC - Second patch of dry land appears. First DX-pedition (invented by a guy named "Gus"), credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.

400 Million BC - Flowering plants and grasses evolve. TELREX invents first beam antenna, but sales are slow because of lack of suitable structures.

300 Million BC - First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and re-named a telephone pole. TELREX sells first beam antenna.

200 Million BC - Second beam sold by TELREX. Installer falls from top of pole. First safety belt sold.

100 Million BC - First mountain appears. Repeater invented.

50 Million BC - It is decided by WARC that "seek you" is too cumbersome to send on CW, so abbreviation "CQ" is adopted.

4 Million BC - Humans replace swine-like creatures as dominant species. The name "Ham Operator" hangs on, however.

3 Million BC - Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile Net formed on 14.313 MHz .

2 Million BC to 800 AD - Nothing much happens for a long time—life "as we know it" comes into existence.

900 AD - Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first "big gun" DXer.

1790 AD - Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.

1961 AD - Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator appointed.

1997 AD - Amateur Radio humor sinks to a new low

Been dreaming about antennas, sunspots, DX, or some combination of the above? Consider the contest scores submitted by KT3Y--using ONLY wire antennas.

Dear Don:

Here's the current station configuration:

- two IC-765 fully inter-switched with AL-1200/AL-82 amps.
- **Antennas:**
- 160: loaded delta loop, top at 90 feet, bottom about 6 feet high
- 80: NW/SE dipole, phased dipoles NE/SW
- 40: 3-element wire beam; N/S, E/W dipoles
- 20: 5-element wire beams for EU & JA; stacked dipoles N/S. E/W
- 15: 5-element wire beam for EU; 3 lazy-H's
- 10: 3 lazy-H's

I use the lazy H's on 15/10. All antennas are mounted between trees, with an average height about 70 feet. I use three two-wire Beverages for receiving in six directions on the low bands. The phased dipoles for 80 are new and worked well in the WPX and WAE, so I'm hoping my 80M scores will improve. All antennas are fed with ladder line to ground mounted tuners in mail boxes. I've used link coupled and L-network designs with colled current input coax chokes. Their efficiencies are equivalent, but the L-networks are easier to build, do not require a metal mail box and appear to have better bandpass characteristics.

73 Phil KT3Y

An important point to remember is that Phil is a superb operator. Yet he has choices--he's able to select different antennas--even if they're only wires. Don't let circumstances dictate YOUR operating skills and abilities!

[Back to the Top of the Newsletter](#)

[Back to the Main Archive Page](#)

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