



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

2007 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up "A Big Improvement Over Last Year"

By Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA's effort in this year's ARRL DX contest showed a big improvement from last year. In 2006 we had 21 logs with a total claimed score of 3.2 million points. This year we have 32 logs with a total claimed score of 8.9 million points. Last year we placed 18th out of the 39 clubs in the Medium category. In 2005 we placed 14th in the same category. Hopefully this year's efforts will improve our position above that of both 2006 and 2005.

W4VHF	Ted Goldthorpe	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	Cluster Mgr.- North Area
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

CDXA members competed among themselves for first place prizes in seven categories. Each received a certificate, a CDXA hat, and a CDXA patch. The winners were:

Top Combined Score: **N2TU, Lou**, 1,077,651 points.

Top DXpedition Score: **KH6/AA4V, Steve**, 762,750 points

Top Phone Score: **W4WTB, Todd**, 511,056 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: **W4WNT, Bill**, 32,574 points

Top CW Score: **W3OA, Dick**, 515,016 points

Top CW, low power, Score: **WA4DOU, Roy**, 418,320 points

Top Multi-Op Score: **W3GQ, Paul and W3ZL, Cliff**, 2,251,248 points

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a certificate, a CDXA hat, and a CDXA patch. **W3ZL, Cliff** was the only winner in this category.

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA hat and a CDXA patch. There were five winners in this category:

AD4IE, Paul **K8YC, John** **KZ2I, Steve** **N4AA, Carl** **N4UH, Henry**

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"	
K4MD (AR-Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
Echolink Interconnect to CDXA Rptr.	Login to K4DXA -R	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

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Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CXA patch. There were five winners in this category:

IN3QBR, Mauro KI4TZ, Joe
N1GC, Gary N4BH, Pat
W7DO, Gary

This is the last intraclub competition for this contest season. Now is a good time to start improving your station for next season. Look for another article on CDXA's Field Day plans in this issue of the Pileup if you've still got some competitive juices flowing in your system.

Island Gazetteer on Web

Have you ever wondered what one of those interesting islands you just worked looks like? Well, wonder no more. Gary Dixon, K4MQG, sent along the address of a neat website which has both satellite images and a short description of the geography of many of the isles and islets of the world. It is a very worthwhile bookmark to place in your browser. Who knows, you may be planning a DXpedition to one of them in the future!!

The URL is: <http://www.oceandots.com>

Thank you for the information, Gary.

Welcome New Members!!

The first quarter of the year is the time when our roster "churns" somewhat. There are always a few who move on to other activities, and there is always an influx of folks who find out about CDXA at the Charlotte Hamfest and join us. Our membership now resides at almost 160 members, and we've been joined by the following ten new members (listed in alphabetical order):

KI4MF Harold Aaron of Arapahoe, NC
K4SV Dave Anderson of Tryon, NC
W6QO Jack Bernath of Newton, NC
KI4UBG Bruce Cardwell of Statesville, NC
W9IXX Philip Florig of Columbus, NC
WA3GNW Bruce Gibson of Charleston, SC
W6NWS Larry Knain of Raleigh, NC (returns)
N4TL Thomas Lewis of Raleigh, NC
W4FHI Reagan Rowe of Longboat Key, FL
K2LS Larry Strasser of Greensboro, NC

To each of you, a hearty welcome to the Carolina DX Association. We hope to see a lot more of you in the coming months.

DXCC Cards Checked at Hamfest

Gary Dixon (K4MQG) reports the following statistics regarding QSL card checking at the 2007 Charlotte Hamfest:

“. . . . There were 32 DXCC applications with a total of 1673 cards, 1 VUCC application, 2 WAS applications, and 1 CQ WAZ CW application.

Last year there were 17 DXCC applications and 1669 cards. The actual number of cards checked this year was 5 more than last year, but the number of applications almost doubled. So, even with the lagging sunspot activity, folks are still chasing DX.

This year we had the pleasure of having Bill Moore (NC1L), ARRL DXCC Branch Manager, here as well as Bill McDowell, K4CIA, from the Raleigh area helping with the card checking. With their assistance, all applications were finished on Saturday permitting all people to take their cards home with them and giving the checkers time to experience the exhibits at the Hamfest. Thanks to all who promptly submitted their cards on Saturday.”

73s, Gary, K4MQG

The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of 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.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

Changes in DXCC Field Checking

We know nobody likes to part with their treasured QSL cards. Changes recently instituted by ARRL will reduce the angst that comes over us when we are separated from our QSL cards. Below is the announcement from Bill Moore (NC1L) of ARRL:

The 10-year rule is now removed. Card checkers can now check cards for current entities, dating back to November 15, 1945. Card checkers must still have 160 meter cards and cards for deleted entities checked at ARRL Headquarters.

In addition, DXCC card checkers may, if willing, check applications for:

- o Worked All States Award (WAS) (See www.arrl.org/awards/was), and
- o VHF/UHF Century Club Award (VUCC) (See www.arrl.org/awards/vucc).

K4ZA Anthology Available

Don Daso, K4ZA, has written a lot of material over the past 20 years. Besides being editor of *The Pileup* for a number of years, he's written material on numerous ham radio topics for the PVRC newsletter, for various amateur radio publications, and given a lot of presentations. Don has collected much of this material and put it on a CD in Microsoft Word format. Wit, wisdom, tech-talk, tower and antenna notes, and more will keep you interested and occupied. Shipping begins May 1st, and the cost is \$20, postpaid. Contact Don for details.

Betting on the Scarborough "Come" Line

Rather than waiting for the Scarborough Reef DXpedition to be over before lending support, CDXA members as individuals, CDXA as a club, and a few generous matching donors decided to put their money on the "come" line. For many, Scarborough Reef is the only thing standing between them and being #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll. As a result of generous giving, CDXA sent a check in the amount of \$4,170 to the Scarborough Reef DXpedition team. We hope to see the CDXA logo proudly take its place on the QSL card, and we wish everyone the best possible propagation conditions when the QSOs are about to begin.

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, is a member of the Scarborough team, and he tells us he'll be listening for all of us!!!

Scarborough Propagation Predictions

By Bill Tippett, W4ZV

For short path, it appears the only band opening that will result in signals above the ambient noise floor is 20 meters:

<u>Time</u>	<u>SNR</u>
1330-1430	30
1430-1530	33
1530-1 630	34

500 Hz of bandwidth will give a signal 3 to 7 dB above the noise floor and 2000 Hz of bandwidth will give a signal only zero to 1 dB above the noise floor!

As an interesting aside, I checked my BS7H QSL from 1995 and my QSO was on 20 meters at 1446 on 15 April, so the above predictions appear to be in the "ballpark". As I recall they were very weak to my 4 element monobander up 50 feet. However, they were barefoot, and we were in a slightly higher part of the solar cycle (solar flux of 80 to 90 in April 1995).

An Old Friend is Still Around

By Paul Ponak, AD4IE

I came back from overseas in the Army in 1972 and bought a Hammarlund HQ-200 receiver so I could continue my shortwave listening hobby. I traded it in when I bought a more modern radio from Universal Radio in 1989. The Hammarlund was still in good condition, and I don't remember how much I got in trade.

At the Charlotte Hamfest I saw an HQ-200 on the flea market table where the fellow specializes in boat anchors. The tape around the original box that it was sitting looked familiar. When I looked at the box, it still had my old shipping tags from when my company moved me down here from Virginia. Quite a surprise seeing my old radio after all these years.



Lands' End Apparel Order Update

Dick Williams, W3OA

An article in last month's *Pileup* described the process for ordering Lands' End apparel with the CDXA logo from the web site at <http://ces.landsend.com/CDXA>. The article mentioned that using the web site was attractive at this time because Lands' End had a special offer, valid until May 4th, which removed the minimum order quantity for items with logos. Lands' End has informed me that this offer has now been extended until the end of July. This is a great opportunity to buy that special piece of CDXA paraphernalia without concern about minimum order quantities.

CDXAers "Sprint" to Finish

In the September 2005 issue of the *Pileup*, we introduced you to **Collin Webb**, age 10, who had just passed his Amateur Radio license examination. Collin's proud father, Roger Webb (W4MW), was one happy parent that his son chose to enjoy his dad's hobby. In the November, 2005 issue, we learned that Collin had a very respectable showing while participating in his first VHF Sprint contest—barely getting beaten out by a "big gun" VHF contester. Soon after that, he took the callsign of his Grandfather, W4AAH, to realize his long held dream.

Now move along to the Fall 2006 Six Meter Sprint, when Collin, now W4AAH, was again atop the Blue Ridge Mountains near Boone. He's a fast learner, because in 2006, Collin took **first place in the six meter fixed station sprint category**. Below is a picture of him turning Qs during the contest.

There was another "Sprinter" close by Collin on the same mountain. That was **Bill Fisher, W4GRW**, trying his hand in the 2 meter category. Bill made a fine showing in the two meter division by finishing third in the fixed station category.

How are you two guys going to top that in 2007?



ARRL Field Day – CDXA Gets Serious (Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24)

By Dick Williams, W3OA

It's time to start thinking about Field Day for 2007. In 2004 and 2005 CDXA placed third Country-wide in Class 2E, two transmitters operating on emergency power. Last year we moved up to second place, still Class 2E. This year we are serious about getting a first place finish. Our goal is for W4DXA to beat all the other Class E entries, no matter how many transmitters they are running.

On Saturday, April 7, Ron, AA4S, hosted a meeting at his QTH to plan on how to accomplish our goal. K4DXA (Ken), K4SQR (Jim), N4ZC (Roger), W3OA (Dick), W4GRW (Bill), W4VHF (Ted), and W4WJF (Josh) were also there. Here are the main points of our resulting plan.

Location: QTH of AA4S, South of Shelby, NC.

Class: 4E. We will run three CW stations and one phone station.

CW Stations: One will be in the house primarily running 20 CW but also have 160 capabilities. Two will be in the garage. They will cover 80, 40, 15, and 10 CW.

(These stations will use Ron's very impressive antenna installation. This includes 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter monobanders (four elements on 40, five on 20, four on 15, five on 10); H double bays for 20, 15, and 10; and inverted Vs for 160, 80 and 40.)

Phone Station: This will be in a RV (see accompanying plea for help) on the front lawn and will operate all bands, 80 through 10.

(There will be two twenty-meter antennas, a 4-square and a three-element monobander. This will give us some flexibility in reducing interstation interference between the CW and phone stations. We'll also have an H double bay for 15 and inverted Vs for 80 and 40.)

Work Days: We will have two work days. On June 16, the Saturday before Field Day, we will set up antennas and test for interstation interference. On June 22, the Friday before Field Day, we will complete the set up.

We need operators - If you are interested in joining our winning operation, please contact me at

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w3oa@roadrunner.com or (704) 658-0915. Let me know when you can be available and your preferred operating mode(s).



AA4S makes a point at the Field Day planning meeting. Pictured are (left to right) W4GRW, W4WJF, AA4S, N4ZC, K4SQR, K4DXA, and W3OA.



No, they aren't pallbearers. They're moving the shipping container that holds CDXA's portable, collapsible, 33-foot tower. This tower will hold the 20-meter monobander for the phone station.

To the right, clockwise from top left are glimpses of Ron's fine antenna farm. (Top left) A "fire tower" at 120 feet is convenient to work on all antennas, including H-double bays hung from the tower. (Top right) About 500 feet out this corridor is the terminating resistor for this excellent Beverage antenna. (Bottom) The "fire tower" and two other towers put a whole lot of radiating aluminum up where it can do the most good!

RV Needed for Field Day

CDXA needs a RV to house the Field Day phone station. We would like to have it from Friday, June 22, until Sunday, June 24. The ideal vehicle will have a 120-volt generator and be air-conditioned but we could do without these. We can arrange for pickup within a reasonable distance of Shelby if that is the owner's preference.

Please contact Dick Williams, w3oa@roadrunner.com, (704) 658-0915, if you have a trailer, camper, or motor home we can use.



Ten and Twenty Years Ago.

(Extracted from the archives of the Pileup maintained on the CDXA website.)

Ten Years Ago...

Bill Parris was President of CDXA, Cliff Wagoner was VP, Gary Dixon was Sec.-Treasurer and Don Daso was Editor. . . . the Internet was just cranking up and people were finding websites about ham radio (!). . . . Roger Burt was the Cluster Guru and was instructing folks how to properly read and reply to messages on the PacketCluster. . . . W4IX provided a nice discussion for Pileup readers on yagi design using software such as Yagi Optimizer (YO) and compared that design to earlier trial and error designing.

Twenty Years Ago...

Gary Dixon was President of CDXA, Bill Jennings the Sec./Treasurer, Roger Burt the Net Manager, and Scott Douglass the Editor. . . . the newsletter had an article how to properly “tailgate”, but warned it must be done well or not at all. . . . definitions of all kinds of radio “guns” offered a bit of levity. . . . FT8WA was active on Crozet and making many happy. . . . the recently completed DXpedition to Revillagigedo (XF4DX) had netted 15,000 QSOs.

Charlotte Hamfest—2007 Version

In early March, 2007, another rendition of the Charlotte Hamfest came and went. This was about the eleventh consecutive hamfest your editor has attended, and I believe it was one of the best. To many of the members of CDXA, the Charlotte Hamfest is FAR more than roaming the flea market, making those needed purchases, and looking at the new gear being shown by the vendors.

For as far back as my history goes, a representative of ARRL has been present to check QSL cards. It is always enjoyable to meet staff from ARRL. Then, we also get a chance to chat with Rich Moseson (W2VU), editor of CQ Magazine, to get his views of what’s going on around the country in Amateur Radio. Depending on the year, we get to see representatives from Yaesu, Kenwood, Icom, or Ten-Tec. Many folks check in at the CDXA booth—conveniently positioned next to the card checkers at the ARRL booth—to have an “eyeball QSO” with their old friends.



Above, Bill McDowell (K4C1A), Bill Moore (NC1L) of ARRL DXCC Desk, and Gary Dixon pause from card checking to greet friends. Below, Bob Allphin (K4UEE) gives Sam Hawes (K4DGJ), Cliff Wagoner (W3ZL) and Roger Burt (N4ZC) a sneak preview of Bob’s presentation on his recent DXpedition to Lakshadweep Islands.



And, we can’t forget the regular appearance of the gang from Tennessee—affectionately now dubbed “The Tennessee Eight”, although their numbers seem to keep increasing. But, a far greater part of the Hamfest experience is what happens on Saturday evening after the doors to the Merchandise Mart are closed and locked for the day. Each year, CDXA holds a dinner for all that wish to come—especially the out-of-town guests who otherwise might spend their evening in a hotel/motel room. This year, over 80 guests showed up for our Saturday evening soiree held at the Shanghai Restaurant.

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“Rounded up” here are 5 members of the Tennessee 8. Larry (W6UB), Steve (K8EJ), Pat (W4PV), Dave (K4SV), and Don (W4TO). Dave’s really from Tryon, NC, but we always see him with the Tennessee “gang”.

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OMs and XYLs alike attend the dinner which makes for a wonderful evening of fun. Through the efforts of officers and officer’s spouses, we’ve livened up the post-dinner activities with a plethora of door-prizes ranging from goodies for the XYLs, RF connectors, subscriptions to [DX Magazine](#), and even a canister of electrical tie wraps!!! Yes, and an XYL even won the “grand prize” of an FT-857D donated by Denis Motschenbacher, EVP of Yaesu, pictured below.



Who’s happier? Ken or Bev Boyd?????

Because the hamfest comes close on the heels of the ARRL International DX contest, as part of our after-dinner activities we also recognized those who did well for themselves in that contest.

We’ve been lucky to engage a restaurant which dedicates the facility to us without the need for a guaranteed financial commitment. It has helped to ensure the spontaneity of the event, but accommodations are getting tight with the increased popularity of the event. So, when next year rolls around, get your reservations for dinner in early!



Above, back “home” to NC from Sao Tome for good, Charles (S9SS) and Lesley (S9YL) came to Charlotte with their QSL Manager, Jerrie (N4JR). Charles filled out a lot of logs for S9 over the past years. K8YC and W4VHF welcome their return. Below, more of the gang from Tennessee, Scott (W4PA), Lynn (W4NL), and Stan (WD0BGS). Any more around here?



The Back Page

A recap of the **Charlotte Hamfest, 2007 Edition**, begins on Page 6 with lots of pictures.

How did CDXA fare in the **ARRL International DX Contest for 2007**? Wait till the numbers are published, but you can tell who was busy by reading Page 1.

Ten new members recently joined us. Welcome them on Page 2.

CDXA members opened their pocketbooks to support the upcoming **BS7H DXpedition**. See more on Page 3. Bill Tippet (W4ZV) gives us his read on propagation for this DXpedition which will be really important to those striving for #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll.

CDXA pre-teen wins the Fall Six Meter Sprint. Yessirree, it CAN be done. Ask Collin Webb, W4AAH. See Page 4.

Where will you be on **Field Day 2007**? We hope you'll lend a hand for CDXA. Big plans are in the making, and we'll have an antenna farm worthy of an emergency communication station. See Page 5.

The "open period" for Land's End purchases devoid of minimum order requirements has been extended. Now is a good time to buy your embroidered CDXA paraphernalia. See Page 4.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.