

THE QCWACKER

QCWA Piedmont NC Chapter #126

March 2026

Next Meeting: The next Piedmont Chapter 126 meeting will be held, **in person**, on Saturday, March 21, 2026 at the Best Food Cafeteria in Siler City, NC. Our meeting room will be in the Steakhouse. Go into the Cafeteria Gift shop and take an immediate right opposite the cash register. Wearing your Ham badge is encouraged.

Directions: The Best Food Cafeteria is at 220 East 11th Street, Siler City, NC, telephone number is 919-742-2475 and located on Highway 64 about 1.9 miles West of the intersection with Highway 421, and right across the street from Marsh Auto Parts.

When: Plan to arrive at 11:30 AM to socialize, dinner at 12Noon, business and program at about 12:45 PM. Board members are requested to arrive at 11 AM. ALL members and guests are welcome!

Program: By Bob Pantazes, W2ARP “A DXpedition with no people at the site”, a video by Otis, NP4G the Leader of the Desecheo Island DXpedition. Door Prizes.

Tidbits: AF1E and NC4EW’s wife successfully recovering from knee surgery. AB4OZ continues to improve after back surgery. Marv Hoffman, WA4NC was reelected the ARRL NC Section Manager again. Our Saturday morning net continues running well thanks to

our regular NC Stations. N4RF is enjoying his new K4 Elecraft HF Station. WB4DCM continues to have trouble keeping his HF antennas up. He and several chapter members enjoyed operating in the SC and NC QSO Parties. I hope to see several of you at the Charlotte/Concord Hamfest and RARSfest coming up. W2GHK reports construction on her enclosed porch/sun room is complete and welcome addition to her home enjoyment. K4RGN is experimenting with outside TV antennas. K4ZVK enjoyed an eyeball visit from NC4JP. W4WLW is very active with the SWAN Radio Group. K3OS visited chapter member W8WZ in New Orleans a few months ago. N4TL has been wrestling with getting an HQ 110 vintage receiver back in shape. W4AG reports four dogs were present at a holiday dinner. KB4BR mentioned the Polar Plung in Wilmington over the holidays. NC4JP has been experimenting with all things 160 Meters. It was great to have Terry, W4TLM from Candys, NC and Ron, K4ML from Waynesville, NC join us on the net. W2IKN tells about their heated home for their cat. N4RF, N4TL, W4AG and others continue to successfully chase DX.

Joe, AK1E passes along some interesting information..

Taming the DMR Codeplug: Introducing dzcb-simple

By Joe Spears, AF1E

If you've ever programmed a DMR radio, you know the challenge: juggling talkgroups, zones, channels, and color codes until your eyes cross. For those of us running Anytone 878 or 890 radios, I've published a tool on GitHub that takes much of the pain out of the process.

dzcb-simple (DMR Zone Channel Builder - Simplified) is a Python program that reads the popular K7ABD CSV format — the same plain-text spreadsheet format many regional DMR networks provide — and automatically generates the four CSV files you need to import into your Anytone CPS: Channel, TalkGroups, Zone, and ScanList.

The workflow is straightforward. You maintain your repeaters, talkgroups, analog channels, and simplex channels in simple spreadsheet files. When you're ready to update your radio, you run one command and dzcb-simple does the heavy lifting, generating import-ready files for either the 878UVii, the 890, or both simultaneously.

A few features worth highlighting: the tool supports flexible zone sorting — alphabetical, repeaters-first, or analog-first — so your radio's zone list is organized the way you think about it. It also handles APRS configuration on analog channels, which is handy for those running APRS on 144.390.

dzcb-simple is a simplified fork of the excellent original *dzcb* project by Masen Furer (K7ABD). I stripped out the network-fetching features and other radio formats to create something easier to maintain and understand, focused specifically on local K7ABD files and Anytone radios.

The project is free and open source (MIT license) and available at <https://github.com/AF1E/dzcb-simple>. If you're running an Anytone 878 or 890 and managing your codeplug by hand, give it a try — you'll spend less time in the CPS and more time on the air.

73, Joe AF1E

The next major Hamfests in the area are:
Charlotte/Concord Hamfest March 6/7, 2026; CCAWA Conference March 25, 27, 28; Raleigh Hamfest April 4 and the Winston Salem Springfest April 25.

Your chapter dues go to Sue Meyer Parks, W2GHK. Local dues are \$7 a year. National membership can be handled on the national website.

Chapter 126 Weekly Net: About 3.853 MHz, 8:45AM each Saturday morning.

The Piedmont Chapter

26Website: <http://www.qsl.net/qcwa126/>

The National QCWA Website: <http://www.qcwa.org/>

Chapter 126 Member Reflector Input:

QCWA-Chapter126@googlegroups.com

See you on March 21 and tell a friend!

Chuck, K4HF