

# The ADXA Quarterly

## ADXA Minutes



The second Quarter meeting of the Arkansas DX Association was held at home Rod's Pizza in Hot Springs, Arkansas on June 16, 2012. Those in attendance: Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Bill Harper, K9IW, Jerry Fay, WU1U, Pat Patterson, W5VY, Ollie Gade, W5GO, Frank Fahrlander, N7FF, Jim Barron, WB5AAA, Earl Smith, N5ZM, Jimmy Ballew, N5ZIV, and Dave Jacques, K5DV. Guests included Paul Wolf, KF5PGS and Sharon Smith.

The meeting was called to order by President K9IW, Bill at 1:05 PM.

Bill introduced Paul Wolf, KF5PGS.

### Health and Welfare

Frank Kollatt— Gall Bladder surgery yesterday.

Pat Patterson—thanked

the club for the plant sent on the passing of his wife.

Bill Harper—Chemo is done. Next Scan is in July.

Earl Smith—Prostate cancer. Treatment begins next week. Caught early and it is small.

### Old Business

K5DV motioned that the minutes be accepted as presented in the newsletter. WB5AAA seconded and the motion carried.

N5RN gave Treasurer's report. WB5AAA motioned that the report be accepted. K5DV seconded motion carried.

There was little interest in the roster. N5RN to send out an active roster list to the group.

Webpage—Pat to work on getting page updated.

NH8S—Club voted to support this operation with W5VY making the motion and K5DV as the second.

The GPS coordinates for the next meeting will be on the map.

### New Business

N5ZM and W5VY gave a report on HamCom in Dallas. Navassa has been held up because of Fish and Wildlife. Animals that don't belong on the island have been removed. There seems to be some concern about human trafficking. It may happen in 2013 but most likely in 2014.

Our own N5ZM was honored once again with the DX Hog award.

K5DV moved to adjourn, N5ZM seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:19 PM.

## Upcoming Dates

The next meetings for the ADXA are as follows:

**September 15, 2012**  
- Spillway near Hot Springs, AR.

**December 1, 2012** - Little Rock. Location to

be determined.

All meetings begin at 1:00 but food and drinks are served beginning around 12:00.

If you have cards that you would like to have checked, please contact

Earl at n5zm at adxa dot org. You should plan on arriving early around 11:00 to give Earl enough time to check cards and then grab a bite to eat.

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### Special points of interest:

- Club Meeting September 15, 2012 Spillway near Hot Springs, AR.

## Words of Wisdom From the President

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Well, another quarter has flown by and I haven't been on the radio very much. I started a new regimen of chemo a couple of weeks ago. Hopefully this one will be more effective. I did manage to work a few new ones on RTTY and a few band countries thanks to an app I found for the iPhone (it also works on the iPad). You can tell it what you need on various bands, modes, etc. and it'll alert

you when something is spotted that you need. I'm very impressed with how well it works. You can upload your log and it will figure out what you need or you can do it manually country by country. The name of the app is DX Hunter You can look at the manual online. Go to <http://www.michiv.de/dxhunter/>. He is very responsive to email questions. No, I don't get a commission

I hope to see everyone at Blakely next week. Thanks to W5GO for setting it up and to K5DV & WB6AXD for taking care of lunch for us.

73 de Bill K9IW



## Card Checking

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If you have cards that you want checked, please bring them to the meeting. Earl would appreciate you arriving early so that

he can take care of your cards and still be able to enjoy the fellowship before the meeting starts.



## WAZ 40 Meters RTTY—N5ZM

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In case you haven't seen or heard (now how unlikely is that), Earl, N5ZM, was presented with the CQ's #1 WAZ 40 Meter

RTTY award recently. Congratulations Earl!



# So, Why Alaska?

Rick Harris, AI5P

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## So, Why Alaska?

With so many interesting places to go, I had several questions as to why I chose Alaska - after all, it's not really considered "DX."

This should answer that question. I had heard a lot about the beautiful state of Alaska with all its natural beauty and interesting places to visit. I had technically been to Alaska - one morning at 3 a.m. at the Anchorage airport in 1980 on the way to Korea. Not really seeing anything... even all the shops were closed! So the main reason was to see the beautiful sights and give out the four Judicial Districts of Alaska to the county hunters. There are no "counties" in the traditional sense in Alaska, so both CQ Magazine and the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club (MARAC) use the four Judicial Districts as criteria for their worked all counties award.

On June 2, I flew to Juneau via Los Angeles and Seattle. Juneau is the capital of Alaska but can only be reached by air or boat. There are only about 50 miles of road network in and around the city of 31,000. Juneau is in the First Judicial District. For the trip I took along my Icom 706MKIIG and ham stick mobile antennas. I also carried a dipole for portable use but never used it.

I had beautiful weather while I was there. Little did I know what weather changes were in store. Juneau is a popular cruise ship stop and can actually have five ships harbored at the same time. It's quite a sight to see all the tourists descend on the small downtown area. I did see the Alaska State Capitol, the 1884 St. Nicholas Orthodox Church (Russian Orthodox), Governor's House, Alaska State Museum, Mount Roberts Tramway (where I saw my first

Alaskan bald eagles), the Last Chance Gold Mining Museum, the Shrine of St. Therese and the magnificent Mendenhall Glacier. I also saw my first black bears while driving north of the city.

After three days, I stored the radio equipment and took the 6 hour ferry ride up the inland passage to the 1898 gold rush town of Skagway. This is quite the "tourist trap" but great fun. It's also a popular cruise ship stop because of the famous White Pass and Yukon Route Railroad. It was designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1994. I spent three nights here and took two rides on the railroad - one to Carcross, Yukon Territory - a diesel-electric engine and one to Fraser Meadows, British Columbia - a steam trip. This was my long-wished for opportunity to see this amazingly built railroad (Photo #1)! Skagway is the home of the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. I had the chance to meet several of the local residents - only about 900 with about 200 braving the winter! If you want to see a movie screen, that's a 110 mile trip (one-way) to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory! The last day the weather began to turn and by the time I was on the ferry back to Juneau I had picked up a pretty bad cold.

The last two days in Juneau were pretty miserable. Besides the cold, the weather was nasty with rain and wind. I learned that in May it had rained every day but one. Juneau recorded their lowest "high" temperature in May on record and had their fourth highest recorded monthly rainfall. So I wasn't the only one sick of the rain. I did manage to do some more radio work but conditions continued to be marginal. So for the First Judicial District, the number of contacts were 44 on SSB and 133 on CW.

Flying to Anchorage, the largest city in Alaska ( 291,000 ), I arrived feeling pretty bad and holed up in the hotel more than I normally would have in a new place. I stayed downtown to be close to the Alaskan Railroad Depot. I did manage to visit a few shops and saw the beautiful Anchorage Museum. Anchorage is in the Third Judicial District and I only ran it a couple of times - from the hotel's outdoor parking lot. Not too effective, but I wasn't up to driving around finding a good spot. Total number of contacts were 2 on SSB and 6 on CW.

I rode the Alaskan Railroad down to the town of Whittier to take the cruise of Prince William Sound. What an experience! Bald Eagles, a humpback whale, sea otters, sea lions, various birds and the magnificent glaciers (Photo #2). One of the highlights of the trip!

The next day I travelled by bus up to Denali National Park and Preserve. I knew this would be one of the best adventures of the trip. Three days around the park allowed me to take a "backcountry" adventure as well as an one hour flying tour around Mt. McKinley (better known in Alaska as Denali). You can't take private cars past the park entrance so all the "sightseeing" for wildlife is done on buses. And you can't get off the bus except at visitor's centers - so taking good pictures is a mostly a matter of luck. I did get to see (mostly at a distance) brown bears (grizzlies), caribou, moose, dall sheep, birds and ducks. Of course, the scenery is spectacular! I believe it was said that Mt. McKinley is covered about 70 percent of the time but I was lucky and got to see it completely clear a couple of times. The winds and weather are quite variable here - clear one minute, clouded in the next. At 20,320 feet, Mt. McKinley is the

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highest mountain in North America (Photo #3) and many people attempt to climb it in season - April, May and June. It is quite dangerous - four Japanese climbers had died the day before I flew up to the mountain. I had beautiful weather while I was there and was quite fortunate to enjoy many of the natural sights of the park.

Back on the bus to Anchorage and then a flight to Fairbanks (31,000) - in the Fourth Judicial District. Fairbanks was a surprise to me with all the tourist things to do. Fortunately, I had gotten over my cold and was feeling much better. There is a world-class private automobile collection - the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum ([www.fountainheadmuseum.com](http://www.fountainheadmuseum.com)), the Museum of the North at the University of Alaska, the sternwheeler Riverboat "Discovery" tour to include an Athabaskan Indian village, Pioneer Park, and the Gold Dredge 8 tour—quite the "tourist trap" also but I found some actual gold while panning (I think everyone did - "salted" dirt to encourage buying other gold jewelry!). And just a few miles away is a mandatory stop at the Santa Claus House in North Pole, Alaska! I loved it - visiting Santa and his actual reindeer! Of course, just a few more goodies for the trip home. Actually, I made good use of the Post Office's flat rate mailing boxes several times to send my purchases home! By the way, one neat feature of Alaskan Airlines is that within Alaska, you can have three bags checked - at no cost!

Conditions improved while I was in Fairbanks and I had a couple of good openings on both 20 and 17 meters. Total number of contacts were 26 on SSB and 154 on CW.

From Fairbanks, I flew to my final stop. Since I was young, I had

looked at the U.S. map many times wondering about Barrow, Alaska. Barrow, population 4,200, the northernmost settlement in the United States and one of the largest Eskimo communities - what would it be like?

Flying via Prudhoe Bay, home of the largest oil field in North America and starting point of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (an interesting looking place from the air!), I arrived on June 21st. I have to admit there's not much to do or see here. I did enjoy visiting the Inupiaq (Eskimo) Heritage Center and seeing the Will Rogers/Wiley Post Memorial - commemorating the 1935 crash that killed the American humorist and the famous pilot. It's amazing to see the Arctic ice pack just right there.... I learned there is another type of type A hobbyist visiting here filling out his/her "life list" - the bird watcher! I met several from Sweden and Norway. They were easily recognizable with their extreme outdoor clothing, large binoculars, and very expensive looking cameras and tripods! I had hoped to see a polar bear out on the three hour tour but no luck.... although they had seen one the day before visiting the whale bone "remains" out on Point Barrow. You need a special vehicle and permission to go out there - and tires at 12 psi to get through the terrain.

I was lucky in that the local villages were having the festivities to divy up the whale meat taken from the kills in April. The native people have two whaling seasons with quotas for whales to be taken. This past season the quota was 23 and they had actually taken 17. To see how they do it as explained in the Inupiaq Museum was quite fascinating!

Barrow is in the 2d Judicial District and, along with Hawaii's Kalawao, is probably the hardest contact to

make to earn the worked all counties award. There is one local car rental (not a national brand) and one gas station in Barrow. I was fortunate to have a couple of good openings (remember you're only about 1300 miles from the North Pole) on 20 and 17 meters again. Total contacts were 53 on SSB and 266 on CW. The total number of contacts for the trip were 125 on SSB and 559 on CW for a grand total of 684 - all mobile. I even managed to work N5ZM, K5UR, and W5GO. I have to credit Earl, N5ZM, for being a big help in assisting me by spotting the operation on both the county hunting and DX clusters!

So my trip ended with a flight back on the night of June 24th arriving in Albuquerque on June 25th. It was everything and more I had heard about visiting Alaska. Highly recommended to anyone. But it is expensive. A normal motel/hotel room (nothing special) is \$120-180 a night, gas was around \$ 4.40 a gallon (except in Barrow where the final shock was filling up the Ford 500, about 3/4 empty, for \$ 85.35 at \$ 5.90 a gallon), the one hour flight for Mt. McKinley sightseeing (along with seven others) was \$ 350 each, and a cheeseburger and tea in Barrow was \$ 16 hi..... But, as they say, the trip of a lifetime!

The highlight of the trip, radio-wise, was fulfilling a 40 year effort to transmit from all the counties in the United States - 3077. My first mobile SSB contact was from Monmouth County, NJ, on August 8, 1972, and the first mobile CW contact was from Washington County, MD, on August 26, 1990. There were about 660 counties I had run before on SSB that I had to go back through to run on CW.

My final SSB and CW contacts were on June 21, 2012, from the 2d Judicial District of Alaska. You can see from the picture that I am cele-



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brating this accomplishment with a special banner I brought along to Alaska (Photo #4)!

I was awarded the MARAC "Run All Counties" Award # 14 with endorsement #1 for both 2XCW and 2XSSB contacts at the annual MARAC Convention in Vancouver, Washington, in July 2012. This accomplishment is definitely one of my amateur radio "highlights!"



73, Rick KL7/AI5P/Mobile



Photo 1—Train



Photo 2—Glacier



Photo 3—Mount McKinley



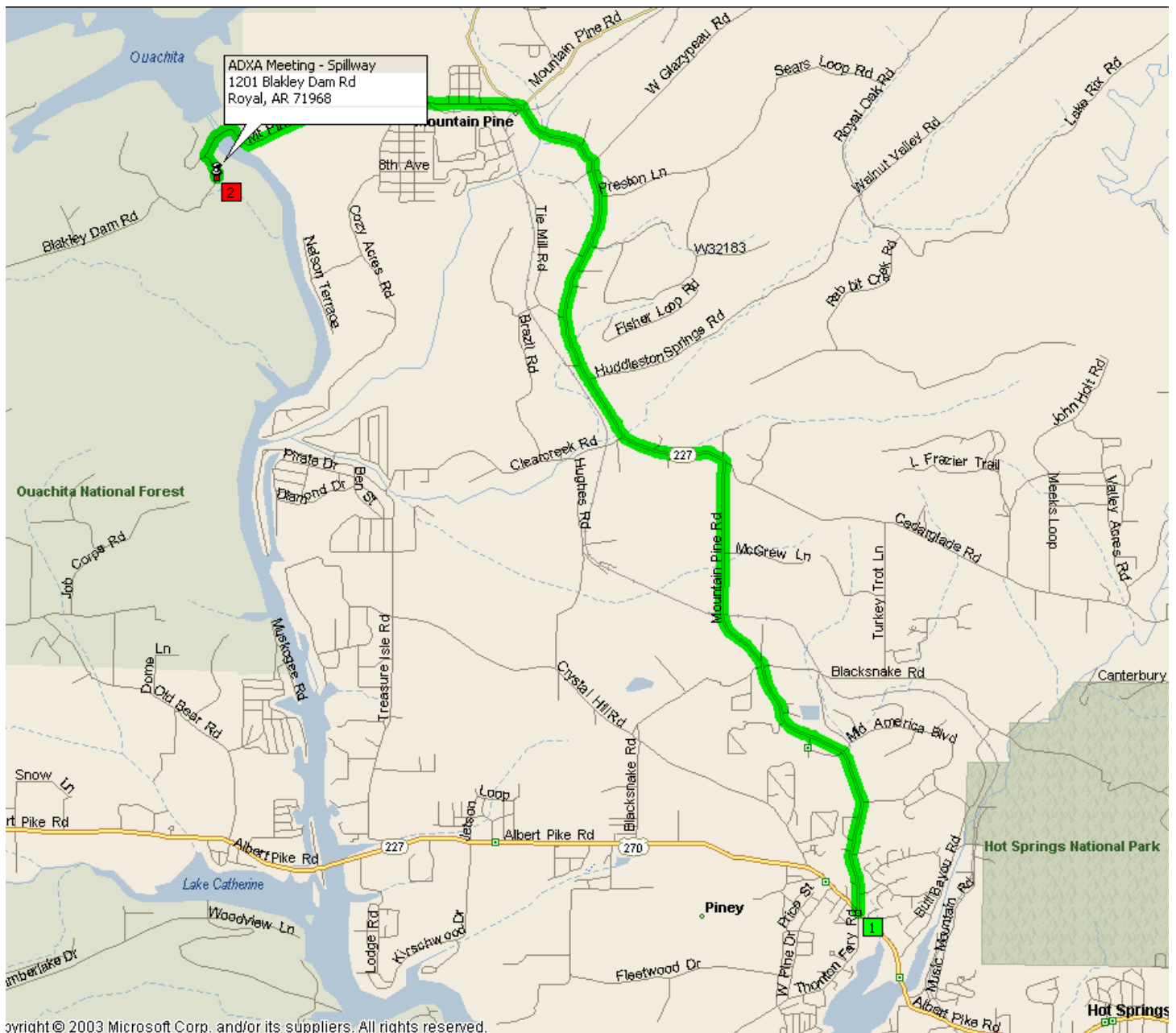
Photo 4—AI5P with banner

# Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—September 15, 2012

## 1201 Blakely Dam Road Royal, AR Proceed to the Spillway Pavilion (not Avery)

GPS Coordinates:

34° 34.216' N 93° 12.871' W





## ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

#### ADXA

President: Bill Harper, K9IW  
Vice President: Frank Fahrlander, N7FF  
Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Wolf, N5RN

Mailing Address  
210 S Estates Cove  
White Hall, AR 71602

Phone: 870.692.3846  
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[www.adxa.org](http://www.adxa.org)

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LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATION:  NEW  RENEWAL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_.

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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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ARRL MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES: \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S CALL \_\_\_\_\_

#### **ARRL MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED**

(ADXA IS A 100% ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB)

VOTING MEMBERS MUST HOLD DXCC

VALID INTEREST IN DX REQUIRED FOR ASSOCIATE (NON-VOTING)  
MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY DUES **\$25.00**, Family membership **\$35.00**

#### **MAIL APPLICATION TO:**

E Glenn Wolf, Jr., N5RN  
210 S Estates CV  
White Hall, AR 71602 -8216