



The ADXA Quarterly

ADXA Minutes



The fourth quarter meeting for 2012 of the Arkansas DX Association was held at Corky's BBQ in North Little Rock, Arkansas on December 1, 2012. Those in attendance: Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Paul Wolf, AA5PW, Ollie Gade, W5GO, Ken Blevins, K5ALQ, Jimmy Ballew, N5ZIV, Jim Barron, WB5AAA, Jay Bromley, W5JAY, Mike Cooper, W5MDC, Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, Frank Farhrlander, N7FF, Jerry Fay, WU1U, Bill Harper, K9IW, Earl Smith, N5ZM, Roger Gray, N5QS, Dawn Gray, N5QT, David Norris, K5UZ, and Dave Jacques, K5DV. Guests included Kathy Bromley, WQ5T, and Bonnie Fratesi.

he meeting was called to order by President K9IW, Bill at 12:45 PM. Guests were recognized.

Health and Welfare

Everyone is doing fine.

Old Business

K5DV motioned that the minutes be accepted as present-

ed. WB5AAA seconded and the motion carried.

N5RN gave Treasurer's report. WB5AAA motioned that the report be accepted. N5ZM seconded and the motion carried.

Webpage—Pat to work on getting page updated.

New Business

K5OVC still has a Force 12 4BA for sale. Contact K5DV. K5DV reminded everyone that dues are due.

W5RZ presented a list for officers:
N7FF—President,
WB5AAA—Vice President,
N5RN—Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations were received from floor. Motion made by K5DV to accept list by acclamation. WU1U seconded. The nominations were approved as our new officers.

Motion to have club pay dues for N5RN. N5RN appreciated the offer but declined.

Meeting locations were decid-

ed.

W5GO asked about support of the Heard Island DXpedition. After some discussion it was decided that ADXA would not support. Individual support was encouraged.

K5UZ talked about the state of LOTW. The issues and fixes. IT support at League was lost. K5UZ believes LOTW needs to be funded separately. LOTW continues to be very popular. A victim of its own success. W5JAY expressed his concern about the apparently lack of urgency in fixing LOTW problems

WB5AAA moved to adjourn, K5DV seconded, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

N7FF played a video on the STOR DxPediton

Upcoming Dates

The next meetings for the ADXA are as follows:

March 16, 2013—Home of N5ZM

June, 2013—TBD

September, 2013—Spillway

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 March 16, 2013 Home of N5ZM

Words of Wisdom From the President

My DX-ing has been on the back burner over the last few months. I've discovered both Geocaching and Genealogy. These G's have been taking me away from the radio. They both involve discovery and challenge. I think that is why I became interested seriously in DX – the discovery and the challenge of it.

In an attempt to get others hooked on HF operation, contesting and DX, I invited the members of the HSV ARC over to my house to operate in the ARRL DX SSB contest. Like most clubs, most members use UHF/VHF only. My “open house” emphasized fun and exploration. It provided an opportunity to see these things first hand. Everyone worked at least 1 DX station and we worked 30 or so countries in the process. I'm not sure I made any contesting or DX converts but I think the ones who participated did discover some things and they saw the challenges of pileups and finding DX stations to call.

Some of the interesting comments I received, however, is that it was hard to understand what the stations were saying, they were talking too fast and you had to be quick to make a call. Some of that was because it was a contest but some of it

is part of our DX-ing experience. Perhaps we learn to listen better and eventually tune our ears as well as our radios. We also act quickly in making calls and delivering exchanges – in the name of efficiency.

One question I always get from someone new to DX-ing is “What do you talk about when you work a DX station?” I usually say (half embarrassed, actually) that we don't really talk to them. I explain that because there are so many people calling the station, each just wanting to get the station in their log, we use very short, scripted and not all useful exchanges. Efficiency is fine. We all appreciate it. It gets more QSOs in the Dxpedition log per unit time. As a result, more of us get to log that rare one.

Answering such questions for the new folks at the open house and hearing what one of them said made me think hard about what some of us are missing in our DX-ing experience.

Have you ever heard of the QsoNet Virtual Ionosphere? Hams all over the world use the internet and a virtual radio to meet other hams and have real conversations. One of the fellows who came to my “open house” is an avid user of QsoNet

and I could tell, he wasn't impressed with our short non-conversational exchanges. He really enjoys “talking with Yoshi in Japan”. He gets to do it often. Come to think of it, I'd like doing that too. I just don't feel it is right to hold on to the DX station when others are calling. Many old timers are able to form friendships with DX stations. They hold conversations with them on the air and at conventions. It is that aspect of DX-ing that just isn't easy to do. It seems a loss to me.

One thing I have done occasionally that helps me add to my DX-ing experience is to send an email to the DX station I just worked and tell him thanks for the QSO. I often attach an audio clip of his signal as I heard it during the QSO. Sometimes this message stimulates a short email exchange that allows me to better know that person.

Perhaps, someday, there might be a “DX contest” or “DX event” that encourages conversation? I hope so.

But until then, 599 TU,

Frank, N7FF

Operating on the High Seas!

Rick Harris, AI5P

Operating on the High Seas!

Back in the summer of 2012, I happened to get a copy of an advertisement for "Ham Radio Cruise 2" organized by Debbie Rumfield (N5DSR), a professional travel agent, and her husband Lance (WD5X).

They organized and led their first "Ham Cruise" in 2011, which turned out to be very successful.

After a few phone calls and e-mails, I was intrigued enough to sign up. I had never been on a cruise before and the opportunity to operate maritime mobile was a great incentive.

As I found out later, getting permission from the cruise line (Carnival) and the ship's captain was a long and involved process. Fortunately, Debbie had the experience from the first trip but it still took months to cross the "t's" and dot the "i's." All the equipment would be provided - all I took was my headphones and Benali key.

Since the ship is registered in Panama, those going had to procure a HP license. This was done through the ARRL with the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP). Panama, along with the U.S. and eight other countries, use this permit for reciprocal operating permission. This would allow us to operate /mm in international waters. Originally, it was believed HP0 was correct for maritime mobile use, but this was later corrected to just HP. However, since several of the days would be in Bahamian waters, a C6A license would be required if you wanted to operate there. After submitting the necessary paperwork, I eventually got both the HP/AI5P permit and the AI5P/C6A license.

The ship was the Carnival Magic and was scheduled to depart Galveston on Feb 10 for Key West, Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas, and return to Galveston Feb 17. I flew to Houston and spent the night of Feb 9 in Galveston. Just by chance this was the night of the Galveston Mardi Gras parade so this was also a new experience!

The group totaled 55 including hams, family and friends. I only knew one beforehand - Walt, K1DFO, from the county hunters. There were new hams and those licensed 50 years or more, DXers as well as 80 meter ragchewers! It was great to meet such a variety of folks - I became close with several and certainly enjoyed

meeting them all.

Lance and his two sons, Timmy (W5TMR) and Danny (WA5DTR), had coordinated with the ship's engineers beforehand to jointly install the antennas, coax and associated wiring on the Lido deck (#10). One station was on the port side and one on the starboard. The radios used were Kenwood TS-480HX's with screwdriver antennas mounted off the stern railing. I had never seen this radio - rated at 200 watts, it requires two power supplies! The hook-up wiring was fabricated beforehand. I usually ran it at 100 watts. Several times Lance or one of the boys had to sort out a transmitter issue but overall a very interesting and reliable rig.

As I boarded the ship, I was more than impressed how Carnival had everything so organized. I could only imagine the logistics of shipping off around 4000 folks every 7 days (per ship!). We boarded around 10 in the morning and departed around 4 p.m. Originally, I had to pay for a cabin with two berths but, a couple of weeks before departure, Debbie called me to see if I would share the room. Since this saved me \$ 600, I was happy too—and enjoyed the company of Ted, W4DUF, who came along but didn't operate. As a matter of fact, I'm pretty sure a number of the hams didn't operate but just enjoyed going on the cruise.

The Magic was launched in 2011. She has 17 decks, length of 1,004 feet, beam of 122 feet and a gross tonnage of 130,000. She has a cruising speed of 22.5 knots with a capacity of 4,720 passengers and 1,367 crew. Very impressive, indeed!

The first stop was Key West. I had always wanted to visit this 7 square mile island. It has a population of around 25,000. So when the cruise ships arrive, you can imagine the crowds! Tourism is the rule here. I spent several hours walking around visiting the Flagler Railroad Museum, the Ernest Hemingway Home and Museum, Harry S. Truman's Little White House, and Mel Fisher's Maritime Museum. I also made it a point to visit the Southernmost Point in the Continental U.S. - since I had visited the most Southernmost point in the U.S. in Hawaii in 2011. I was completely fatigued by the time I got back to the ship.

The second stop was Freeport, Grand Bahama Island. This is the only place I took an "organized" shore excursion - a

three-hour sail on the three-masted barque Alexander von Humboldt. This ship was originally built in 1906 and at full sail has 25 sails. It was a beautiful day and a pleasure to have the opportunity to sail on such a historical and colorful ship.

The final port call was Nassau, New Providence Island. I walked around the immediate port area taking photos of the interesting pastel colored buildings and looking for "bargains." Of course, tourism in the Bahamas is the main business so there were lots of folks trying to sell you a variety of items. Fortunately, I was able to keep my spending to something reasonable. I did manage to find a very interesting "Pirate" museum/exhibit which was worth the visit.

Those wanting to work the radios just sort of shared the opportunity with no fixed operating times. I was up on deck early (like 5 a.m.) to catch the sunrise openings several days. Other days I just operated when one of the other ops finished and no one else wanted to operate. I tried to let the newer hams operate so they would gain confidence and have fun. There were several CW ops as well as a couple of guys who were into digital modes. But most folks stuck to SSB. I ended with 801 Q's - 618 (77%) on CW and 183 (23%) on SSB.

Two ADXA members were worked.

It was interesting to see folks ask about what we were doing - we were sitting at a dining table near the stern of the ship. Several hams not in the group stopped by as well as some former hams. I met one very interesting gentleman who had been a B-17 radio operator in WWII. I gave him a lot of info on the hobby and, who knows, maybe he will take the plunge!

The seven days went by quickly with all to do on the ship, the port calls, and the radio activities. Not to mention the outstanding chow! Before I knew it we were back in Galveston. After a flight from Houston, I was back the same day in Albuquerque. It was quite an adventure!

For those who might be interested, Debbie is going to try to arrange another trip in January, 2014.

Look for her ad in CQ or QST classified.

Operating on the High Seas! Rick Harris, AI5P



Carnival Magic, Freeport, Bahamas

HP/AI5P/mm Gulf of Mexico

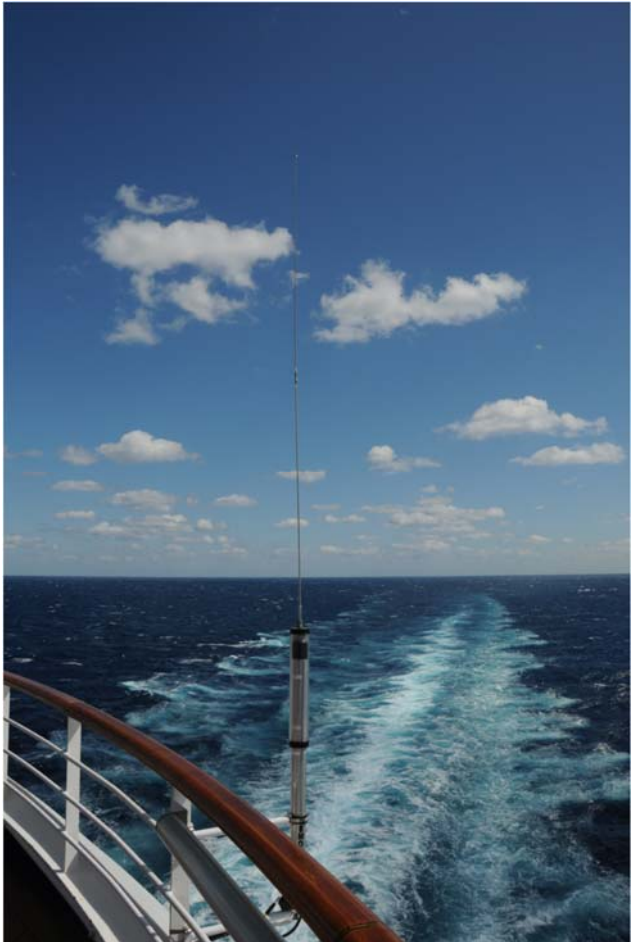


Operating on the High Seas! Rick Harris, AI5P



Carnival Magic, Freeport, Bahamas

Screwdriver antenna, Lido deck stern railing



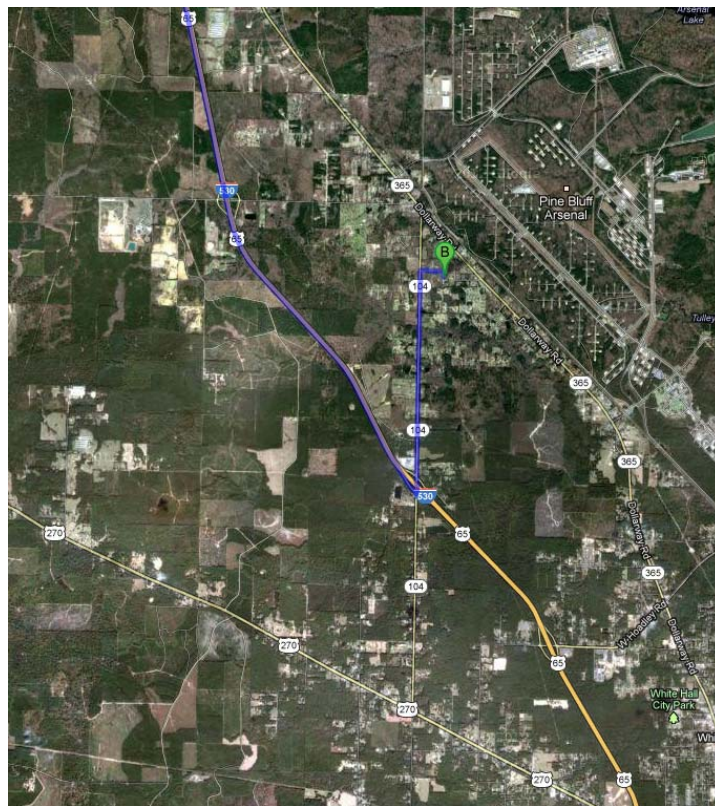
Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—March 16, 2013

N5ZM's QTH

4323 Oakhaven Dr,
White Hall, AR 71602

GPS Coordinates

34° 20.17404' N 92° 08.15136 W
34.336234 N 92.135856



Directions

From Little Rock—take I530 South to Exit 30, turn left on US 104, travel to Wagon Trace (on your right), make a right on Wagon Trace, travel until you reach Oakhaven. Destination is at intersection of Wagon Trace and Oakhaven.

From Hot Springs—take US270 to the US 104 exit, make a left onto US 104, cross under 530 continue to Wagon Trace (on your right), make a right on Wagon Trace, travel until you reach Oakhaven. Destination is at intersection of Wagon Trace and Oakhaven.



ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

ADXA

President: Frank Fahrlander, N7FF
Vice President: Jim Barrow, WB5AAA
Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Wolf, N5RN

Mailing Address
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*Promoting DX and DXing in
Arkansas*

We're on the web
www.adxa.org

CALL: _____

LICENSE CLASS: _____

APPLICATION: NEW RENEWAL

NAME: _____

PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

DXCC MEMBER? _____

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**

Dues can also be accepted via PayPal:

**Using your PayPal account send your dues payment to
n5rn@adxa.org**

**Make sure you select the personal tab and identify this payment as a gift
or there will be a surcharge.**

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

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210 S Estates CV
White Hall, AR 71602 -8216