



ADXA Minutes



The third quarter meeting of the ADXA was held at Spillway Pavilion. Those that signed the sign in sheet include Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Paul Wolf, AA5PW, Roger Gray, N5QS, Dawn Gray, N5QT, Landon McCord, AF5OD, Ollie Gade, W5GO, J. Ferguson, N5LKE, Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, Bruce Plantz, K9OZ, Jim Barron, WB5AAA, Pat Patterson, W5VY, Jimmy Ballew, N5ZIV, Dave Jacques, K5DV, Libby Jacques,

WB6AXD, Frank Fahlander, N7FF, and Earl Smith, N5ZM. Guests included Ford Ferguson, Caroline Ferguson, Melissa Schaefer, N5HX, John Piette, K9UNY, Michelle Ballew, Tyler Ballew, and Matt Ballew. The meeting was called to order by the President, N7FF at 12:55 PM.

W5VY has been updating the ADXA webpage. K5DV and WB6AXD are #1 Honor Roll.

Health and Welfare

Jack Hampton is in hospital after passing out in his yard. Jean Gade is doing better. Madge Kollatt is having knee surgery.

New Business

The 3rd quarter ADXA meeting has conflicted with the LR hamfest for years. There was discussion about the history of why we picked the weekend we did and why we have kept it

(Continued on page 2)

Upcoming Dates

The next meeting for ADXA is:

December 5 2015 —Old Chicago Pizza. 4305 Warden Road, North Little Rock, AR 72116

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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Items of Interest

[Club Meeting December 5, 2015](#) — Old Chicago Pizza. 4305 Warden Road, North Little Rock, AR 72116

this way for years. After some discussion, N5QS made a motion that we “Move the ADXA 3rd Quarter meeting to the Little Rock hamfest or to an area close to the hamfest at the discretion of the Officers”. W5VY seconded and the motion passed.

Report for our Delta Division Director Dave Norris, K5UZ.

Membership in the ARRL was up for 2014. The ARRL sent out plaques to host stations for their participation in the Centennial. They are nice little plaques.

The DXAC is debating how to handle a mobile DXCC award.

Bill Moore is still recovering from his accident. He won't be replaced at the ARRL. His responsibilities will be spread out among those there. Patton will make the call on anything that comes up.

Sumner to retire soon. Cramer is likely to retire soon. Kay Craigie may leave soon as well.

ARRL dues to increase next year after many years of staying constant.

Remote station discussion. Remote stations are treated the same. Pay for use and remote home stations are treated exactly the same. A questions was asked if the ARRL is leading the change on how remote stations are handled or is it a worldwide effort. It is an award issue. The FCC doesn't care one way or the other.

The membership recognized the efforts of Dave and Libby Jacques for taking care of the eats and cooking for this meeting.

As for the election of officer. The following nominations were made:

President: Joel Harrison
Frank Fahrlander

Vice President: Ken Blevins
Pat Patterson

Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Wolf

The election of officers will be at the December meeting.

DX Requests

We received two requests for support:

- Juan de Nova—March 2016.
- Willis Island—November 2015
- After some discussion both will receive support from ADXA.

Closing remarks

Next meeting details will be taken care of by Bruce and Frank. It will most likely be in Little Rock. The program could include an ARRL official and/or the K1N video.

N5ZM made the motion to adjourn. K5UZ seconded the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

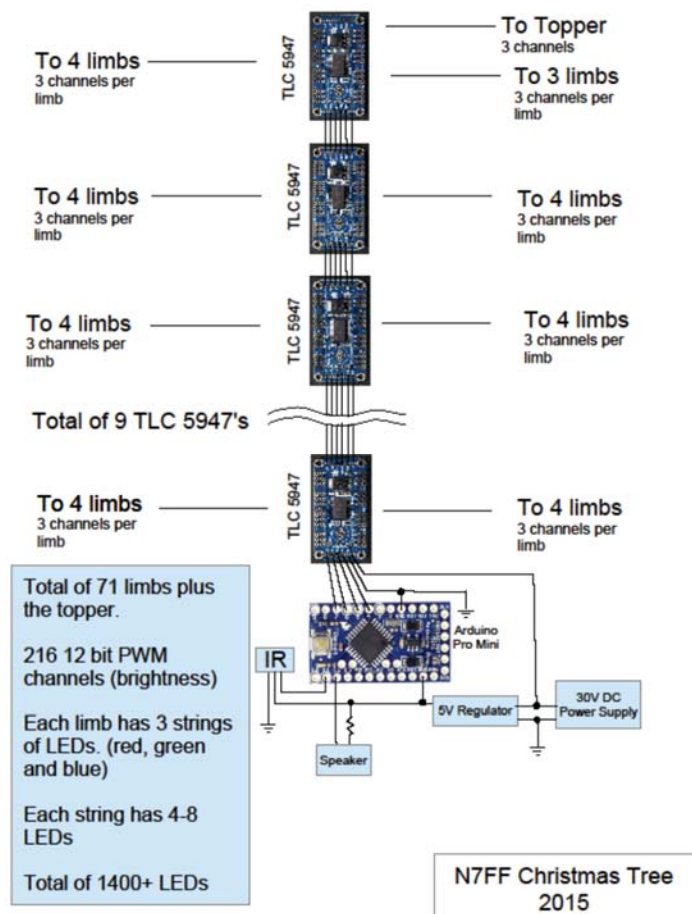
Words of Wisdom From the President Frank Fahrlander—N7FF

I can't say that I looked forward to this column this quarter because I haven't been the DXer I used to be. Do you guys ever get involved in other things to the point where you don't even turn on the radio or DX cluster for months.

I'm sorry to say it but that is exactly what has happened at this QTH. Since late July, I have been solely dedicating my spare time to reconstructing our Christmas tree. What? You say. Yeah, I stripped the 1200 incandescent bulbs from our 2007 vintage GE pre-lit tree and have been relighting it with over 1400 LEDs driven by an Arduino and 9 TI TLC5947 LED drivers. The program is now about 1800 lines of code. I've programmed about 30 different lighting patterns and have ideas for more. I included code to allow me to control the tree with an old Magnavox CD player IR remote control. The project has involved a lot of my time and I am happy to say that I have about 80% of the lighting done and working pretty well. I really needed to get this done by Christmas 2015! When completed, I will have about 400 person hours of effort into it besides the \$500 in parts!

73,

Frank



Vacation in the ABC Islands

Rick Harris—AI5P

Vacation in the ABC Islands

Where is that, you might ask. Well, that's one of the several titles with which the islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao have been identified. With the October, 2010, changes to the DXCC list, I decided that it would be nice to try to fit them in all in one trip.

After several weeks on research, all was set. I departed Albuquerque on August 15th flying to Houston and then on United Airlines' weekly non-stop flight to Bonaire. I was met at the airport by Steve, PJ4DX, and Charl Peters, owner of the rental property. Upon Steve's recommendations, I had rented the other half of his duplex for my stay. Although I had not met Steve in person before, we had communicated over the years. He was in Iran (EP2SL) in 1978–79 while I was there (EP2DX) in 1969–71. He was the last amateur on the air during the Iranian revolution. Steve and his wife Eva were certainly great hosts and their assistance was invaluable to making my visit memorable.

Bonaire lies 50 miles off the coast of South America with a land area of about 112 square miles and a population of 18,000. Its semi-arid climate is conducive to a variety of cacti and other desert plants. Originally inhabited by the Caquetio Indians from Venezuela, it has been occupied by the Spanish, Dutch and English. The island was awarded to the Netherlands by the Anglo-Dutch Treaty of 1814. In 2010, Bonaire, along with Sint Eustatius and Saba, became a special municipality of the Netherlands whose collective name is the Caribbean Netherlands. Its economy is primarily based on tourism, industrial salt production, oil storage and trans-shipment.

Steve "loaned" me his antenna system. That consists of a five band Spiderbeam at 32 ft (10–20m), two quarterwave phased verticals with elevated radials for 40m, and a full-sized quarterwave vertical for 80m. I was using my trusty Icom IC-706MKII which has served me faithfully over my many trips.

I had fun using DXSummit to post my operating spots for the first time and it was a big factor in getting the Q's. Conditions weren't the best, although I found out later that the PJ4 conditions were the best of the lot.

In between sight-seeing and photography, I managed to work 1782 contacts with 585 (33%) on SSB and 1197 (67%) on CW. Stations were worked on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. The largest total was on 17 meters (990 Q's). Since Steve doesn't work CW, no 30 meter antenna was available. Interesting stations worked included: 9M2CNC, A45XR, A65BR, KH2L, SV9COL, AH6DY, FM1HN, CY0/VA1AXC, A61QQ, TF3DC, CP6/DF9GR, E51DWC, 9K2NO, HC8/G8OFQ, 4L5LL, ZD7FT, A92GE, TA5FA, AL7KC, J62DX and TK5AE.

There are four resident hams on the island: Steve, PJ4DX; Peter, PJ4NX; Hans, PJ4LS; and Dave, PJ4VHF. One day Steve and I drove up to the contest station PJ4G which is located high on a ridge on the north-

Vacation in the ABC Islands

Rick Harris—AI5P (continued)

west side of the island. Wow, you can say it's quite a set-up. By chance, Hans, PJ4LS, was there doing some work and I got to meet him and get a tour of the property. It's owned by Noah, K2NG.

With my rental car, I drove over most of the island. The far northern part, the Washington Slagbaai National Park, requires a high clearance vehicle so I didn't travel there. This 5,500-hectare (13,591 acres) park is located on the northernmost tip of the island and is known for its stunning landscape and birdlife (over 200 species).

I watched as a number of folks were enjoying themselves either diving or snorkeling in the beautiful clear blue waters. Most visitors come to the island for these experiences as Bonaire is known as the "Diver's Paradise." There are 89 official dive sites, all within protected waters, hosting an amazing variety of marine life.

Bonaire is also famous for its flamingo population. They are drawn to the brackish waters of the island's lagoons which harbors the shrimp upon which they feed. It is home to one of only four nesting grounds for the Caribbean flamingo. My QSL card will feature them.

Ever wonder where all that salt used on roads comes from during the winter months? Certainly some of it comes from Bonaire. Originally the natural salt pans were used to collect salt for the Dutch herring fishery industry. Today much of Bonaire's southern half is been made into a giant system of ponds which evaporates seawater to produce salt – about 400,000 tons yearly of industrial grade (not for human consumption) salt. It's shipped all over the world and used for chemical production, water conditioning and highway de-icing, among other things.

With no traffic lights, the island was fun to explore and a lot of photography was done along with amateur radio activity. It was a great experience!

Next – Off to Curacao!



Trans-World Radio Relay Station



Flamingos



Salt Works



PJ4G contest station



Cacti fence



PJ4DX Spider beam

It's all DX

W5RZ—Dennis Schaefer

It's All DX

For a couple of years, I have been working with the Essex DX Group in England on QRP EME efforts. QRP is generally considered to be 5 watts or less, but for EME, it's not quite as well defined. Most people would consider 100 watts output or less to be QRP for EME. The Essex club, MX0CNS, is trying to get locals involved in working DX via the moon with low power. They have been successful with very small setups, including a single yagi on 2 meters and 432 Mhz. Their maximum power is 40 watts, and they have gone lower to show that British Foundation license holders can do EME with their 10 watt power limit. We correspond regularly via Facebook and e-mail about antenna designs, upcoming events, etc.

I have done some EME on 2 meters, but local noise from plasma TVs and other electrical devices is frustrating. The Essex group concentrates on 432 Mhz and I decided to give it a try in the 2015 ARRL EME contest. The noise level is much better on 432. I use an array of two Cushcraft 24 element antennas (from K5UR), and an amplifier that will put out 100 watts maximum. I had tried this setup before, but couldn't hear anyone. Bill, N6PIG, has a network analyzer and was kind enough to adjust the pre-amp in my amplifier. It also helped when I figured out that Doppler shift can put signals over a Kilo-hertz away from where you expect them.

This is all done "Field Day style"

with the two antennas on a tripod and azimuth and elevation changes are completely manual. A compass and protractor used to be the method of finding the moon when it's cloudy, but now there is an iPhone app. Just point the phone and it shows you the correct az and el.

I tested the antennas a couple of days before the contest and worked



WA4NJP, UA3PTW, and OK1KIR, so I knew the system was working. The contest was two days, October 31 thru November 1, GMT time. Because our club supported a local festival on Saturday, I only got to operate 2 or 3 hours. I worked HB9Q and DL7APV, so I was happy with those results. I considered working five stations in a few days with 80 watts a success. After the

contest, I took the antenna array down, having had enough EME fun for awhile. Then I got an e-mail from Zdenek, OK1DFC, who needs Arkansas for his WAS award. I have a smaller antenna, a single 22 element antenna, so I decided to try that. The contact was made immediately, so even the smaller antenna was adequate.

All of these stations I worked are very large, with antennas ranging from 16 yagis to a 40 foot dish. With my one or two antennas, I would not be able to work a "normal" EME station with 4 antennas. However, it is lots of fun to work the big stations – any EME contact feels like an accomplishment! I think I now have 5 DXCC countries on 432 Mhz. It's a long way to 100, but anything is possible.

The software used is called WSJT and it is free. The mode used is JT65B. You will hear another kind of JT65 signals on HF, usually around frequencies like 14.076, 7.076, etc.

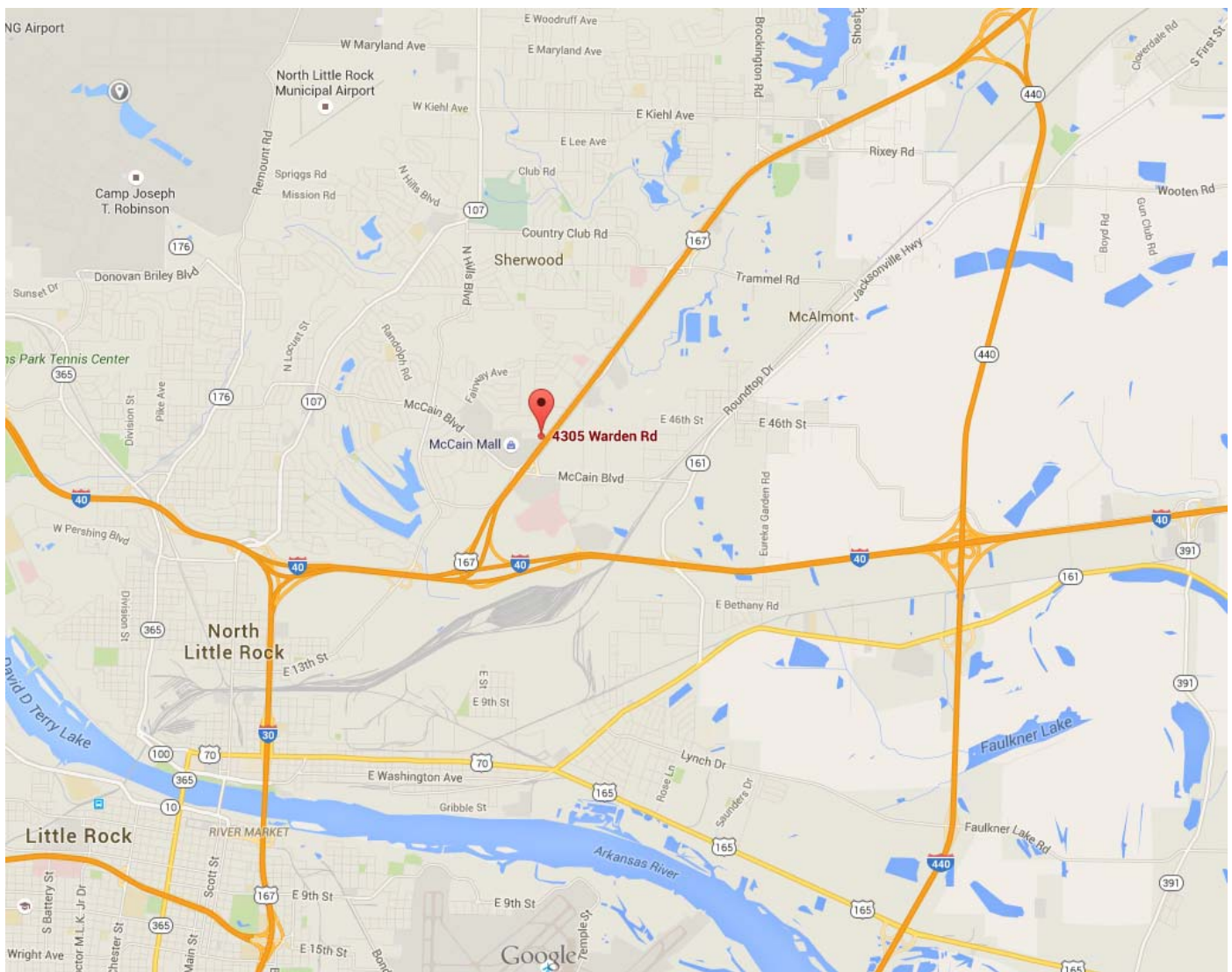
If you want to try it, all you need is a multi-mode rig that covers the 432 Mhz band. An IC-706, FT-857, etc, should be all you need. You don't need an external amplifier - just the bare rig will get you started.

73,
Dennis, W5RZ

Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—September 19, 2015

**Old Chicago Pizza
4305 Warden Road
North Little Rock, AR 72116
GPS: 34.7941933 –92.2225069**

[Google map link](#)



ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

BUSINESS NAME

President: Frank Fahrlander, N7FF
Vice President: Ken Blevins, K5ALQ
Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Wolf, N5RN

Club Mailing Address:

E Glenn Wolf Jr
210 S Estates Cove
White Hall, AR 71602



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:

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