



ADXA Quarterly

ADXA Minutes



The first quarter meeting of the ADXA was held at home of Earl and Sharon Smith. Those that signed the sign in sheet include Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Paul Wolf, AA5PW, Bruce Plantz, K9OZ, Landon McCord, AF5OD, Roger Gray, N5QS, Dawn Gray, N5QT, David Norris, K5UZ, Jonathan Setcer N5QJ, J. Ferguson, N5KLE, Robert Lovett, KE5FNA, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Earl Smith, N5ZM, and Frank Fahrlander,

N7FF. Guests included Sharon Smith. The meeting was called to order by the President, W5ZN at 1:40 PM.

W5ZN asked N5RN to read the minutes. N7FF made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed in the newsletter. N5ZM seconded. The motion carried.

N5RN gave a Treasurer's update. N5ZM made motion to accept. K5UZ seconded

and the motion carried.

W5ZN reviewed with the members the criteria for ADXA DXpedition support. First it must be in top 50 needed. We have received several requests for support recently but the only one that met our first criteria is VK9CK. E-board made a recommendation to support this effort. A motion was made to support. The motion

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Upcoming Dates

The next meeting for ADXA is:

June 18 2015 —at Smoking in Style BBQ in Hot Springs.

This meeting will

begin at 12:30. If you have cards that you would like to have checked, please let Earl N5ZM know. You should plan on arriving early around

11:00.

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Items of Interest

[Club Meeting June 18, 2016 @ 12:30](#) — "Smokin in Style BBQ", 2278 Albert Pike Rd. in Hot Springs, AR. See Directions to next meeting on page 8

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carried.

DX Forums at Arkansas hamfest

There are two hamfest that we might want to look at both Russellville and Fort Smith. At the Russellville hamfest there were about 40 people. There is interest but there is a need to help these new DXers.

Webpage

W5VY is updating the webpage. Pat is working to update the table with the member statistics and to present it in a more meaningful way. Send any updates to the webpage to Pat at his gmail address. Pat would appreciate any feedback you have to offer.

Membership recruitment

W5ZN asked the ARRL for a DXCC list of hams in AR. It shows that there are a good number of hams that are on the DXCC rolls that aren't members of ADXA. Most of these hams are in the northwest part of the state. W5ZN will send an email to these hams making them aware of ADXA

ADXA Annual meeting

For this year's annual meeting we should try an expanded format with 3 or 4 presentations as part of the meeting.

It is agreed that it is going to take a couple of years to build the club up but it is an effort that we must make.

Other notes

Twitter is a good resource for DXinfo.

A15P Awards

Mixed—N5ZM

CW—K5UR

SSB—N5RN

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM. N7FF gave a presentation on his LED cube.



Words of Wisdom From the President Joel Harrison—W5ZN

I recently posted, on our ADXA reflector, a question as to whether DX was DEAD? Over the past two months posts and comments about DX, DXpeditions and operations have declined significantly or have been literally non-existent. That could leave one to assume a significant decline in DX interest has occurred.

Quite the opposite!

DX is alive and well, DX is all over the bands although how we each choose to pursue it depends on our personal interest and needs related to our DXCC or DX Challenge pursuit. For those who have achieved Honor Roll level or a significant level in the DX Challenge pursuit interest is focused primarily on the very rare ones that are activated by high profile DXpeditions. For a number of simple reasons, these occur mostly during our winter months. During this time it is summer, or as best as “summer” gets in Antarctica, thus allowing safer travel to many rare areas. Our winter also provides a time for radio amateurs afflicted with “winter sickness” to make an escape to a south pacific our Indian Ocean location and activate a much needed entity. All of the big DX contests occur in the winter months and that prompts a lot of travel to DX locations as well.

Once we approach spring with warmer weather (and the southern hemisphere turns toward winter and gets really bad) our focus moves away from chasing the rare ones and toward antenna projects or maintenance, equipment upgrades or maintenance and other operating interests. It is a natural progression for the old DX dogs on the Honor Roll.

So where does that leave our newer members still working toward that first 100 level or a 200 mark or beyond? Summer is a prime time to catch some new ones, or a new one on a specific band because the pileups aren't as fierce and you can pick up a lot of experience during this time. And PLEASE don't feel you're all out there alone in the DX wilderness. As an ADXA member you are on our ADXA reflector and have access to all of the “Old Dogs” with years of experience that can assist and provide Elmer mentoring for you with any question you may have regarding the DX world.....operating techniques, antennas, equipment or a related problem you may be struggling to resolve. Maybe you just want to report on some DX activity you've been working. The ADXA reflector is there for you and for that purpose!

During the migration to summer, sporadic E propagation becomes active and 50 MHz comes alive. Remember that 6 Meter DX contacts count toward your DX Challenge numbers and you can earn a 6 Meter DXCC. I'll bet that HF radio you're using has 6 meters on it. If so, and you've never been on 6 meters, I'm guessing you are "assuming" you can't erect an effective antenna. Six meters is a very interesting band that doesn't require a lot of effort. You can erect a very small three element Yagi about 20 to 30 feet high and be quite amazed at what you can work. As a minimum this summer you should be able to work at least two DXCC countries, USA and Canada, and most likely XE plus there will be a number of Caribbean stations on. This could easily add up to 6 countries to your DX Challenge totals! Contact me if you need additional info about 6 meters. That is one of the sessions that I teach at Contest University in Dayton each year.

How are we doing as an organization so far in 2016? Membership renewals have been strong, a good bit of info and DX interest has been shared on the reflector, we had a very excellent first quarter meeting in March (Thanks Earl & Sharon!!!) and we are continuing to work on a number of areas to continue to revitalize the ADXA. These include updating the website, an ongoing work that Pat, W5VY is spearheading and we continue to discuss. Initializing a membership recruitment drive and planning for an ADXA Technical Conference. These are all items we will update you on and discuss at the June 18 meeting in Hot Springs.

We also have a request from our ARRL Delta Division Director (and ADXA Member) Dave K5UZ to review and discuss a resolution pertaining to remote operation and the DXCC program.

This meeting is an important one and I want to encourage each of you to attend. Frank, N7FF will also be presenting a video program on the K1N Navassa Island DXpendition.

So for now, get on the air, get on some antenna work, get on some equipment or shack upgrades but most importantly, GET ON !!!!

73 Joel W5ZN
ADXA President

Vacation in the ABC Islands

Rick Harris—AI5P

Part III - Aruba

On August 31, I departed Curacao for Aruba. This again was a short flight - about 30 minutes. I picked up my rental car and headed for the small cottage I had rented. The real estate agent had left me a GPS at the car rental to use. Surprise! For some reason the car company had removed the power adapter in the car. After a few phone calls, I met the agent at the cottage.

Aruba is only 18 miles north of Venezuela with a land area of about 75 square miles with a population of about 108,000. I thought it was larger for some reason - it's actually the smallest of the ABC islands. Like the other ABC islands, it was originally occupied by Indians from South America. It was acquired by the Dutch from the Spanish in 1636. It was briefly controlled by the British from 1799-1802 and 1804-1816 during the Napoleonic wars, but was returned to the Dutch. It is a generally a flat island with white sandy beaches on the western and southern coasts. In 1986 Aruba officially became a country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The island's economy is dominated by tourism, aloe exports and oil refining.

I tried to find the local PTT to pick up my license. I had the street address but even with a map and asking directions I was having no luck. The capital, Oranjestad, isn't that big but I just couldn't find it. Just by chance I stopped at another store to ask for help when I noticed a 3 element beam on the house next door. I knocked on the door and found out it belonged to "D.J." - P43DJ. I explained my problem and he kindly offered to drive over to the office with me following. The lady who issued the licenses was off that day but would be back the following morning. The office, which was off the main streets, was easy to find if you knew where it was! Only about 5 minutes from the airport in fact.

The next morning I showed up early and had to go thru the procedures to get the license. First I had to take some paperwork over to a bank and pay for the license. The cost was a big surprise - \$ 140! I had never paid that much for a license before. The P40PX license was good for 30 days and I also got a P4/AI5P license which was good for one year. Then back to the PTT to verify payment and pick up the license. Now I could finally get on the air!

The first problem for radio operations was the antenna. There was plenty of space - acres in fact - but no support possibilities. Plenty of cacti but I sure didn't want to deal with that. I ended up going to a hardware store and buying some PVC for a mast of about 10 feet. I secured this to a small wooden feed trough for wild donkeys (yes, true!) near the cottage. I threw a line over the roof of the cottage so the antenna could be strung between the mast and the roof. Not very high but enough to get on the air.

I made a total of 1193 contacts. I only operated on 30, 20, and 17 meters. 1103 were on CW (92%) and 90 on SSB (8%). I made an additional 5 contacts as P4/AI5P. Interesting stations worked included: CT7/RC2A, 9K2NO, A45XR, KH2L, AH6DY, SV2/RW3AL, VK7CW, W5/E72AW, and ZS1C. I actually worked ZS1LS and ZL2AGY back to back on 30m. I work very few African and Oceania stations on my trips to the Caribbean.

Aruba's wildly sculpted landscape is replete with rocky deserts, cactus clusters, secluded coves, blue vistas, and the trademark divi-divi tree. I enjoyed exploring all over the island. Visits included Fort Zoutman, the Willem III Tower, Alto Vista Chapel, the Butterfly Farm, the California lighthouse, and the Arikok National Park. The park encompasses 20 percent of Aruba's land and includes two caves with Caquetios Indian petroglyphs and fruit bats! The famous Natural Bridge, which I've seen featured on several QSLs, unfortunately collapsed in 2005.

Vacation in the ABC Islands Rick Harris—AI5P (continued)

I was surprised to learn that gold was discovered in Aruba in 1824 and mined extensively, ultimately producing more than 3 million pounds. Eventually the industry became unprofitable and all refining ceased in 1916. Remains of gold smelters made for some interesting exploring!

I could see why Aruba is so popular with Americans. Lots of brand-name big hotels, familiar fast food franchises, English spoken, U.S. dollar in common use, lots of nightlife, casinos, and really beautiful beaches. If I was asked to describe Aruba, I would say a small Las Vegas with great beaches! I did see the home and antenna of P49MR. Right on the spectacular, powdery white sand beach. I never did spot the P49V contest station. On September 8th, I ended the ABC adventure. Flying back through Miami and DFW, I arrived back in Albuquerque after an exciting 25-day trip!



Beach



Lots of cacti



Antenna set-up P40PX



Former site of the "Natural Bridge"



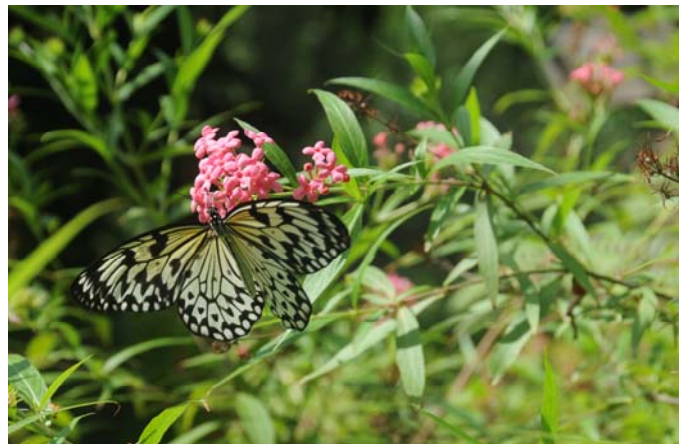
Para-sailing



Cave with fruit bats



Left:
California
lighthouse
—
Right:
Butterfly Farm

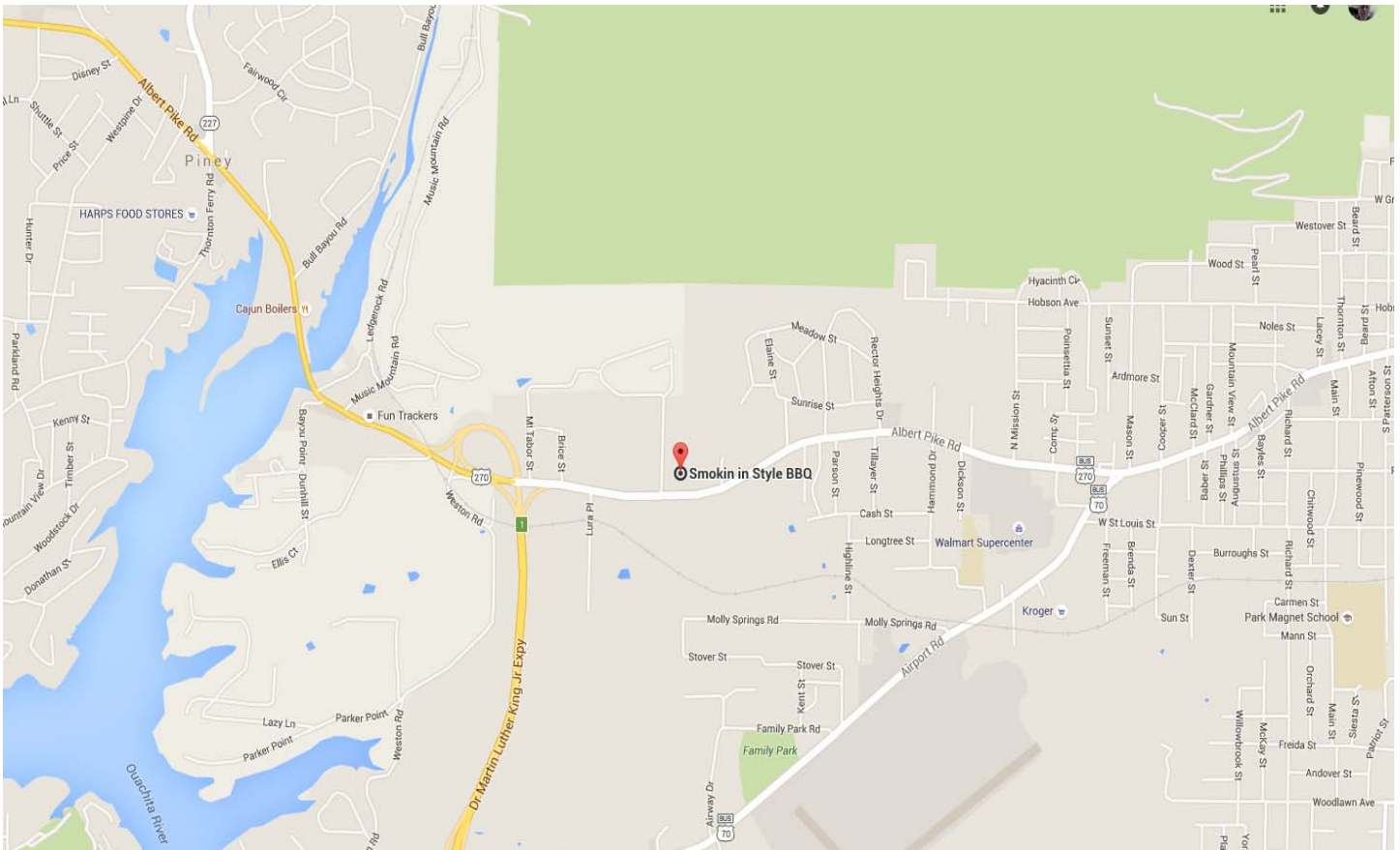


Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—June 18, 2016

Smokin in Style BBQ
2278 Albert Pike Rd
Hot Springs , AR
Phone: (501) 767-9797
GPS: 34.4927352,-93.1746394

Meeting Start time is 12:30 PM

[Google map link](#)




Organization

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