



## ADXA Minutes



The second quarter meeting of the ADXA was held at Smoking in Style in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Those that signed the sign in sheet included Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Paul Wolf, AA5PW, Frank Fahrlander, N7FF, Earl Smith, N5ZM, Dave Jacques, K5DV, Frank Kollatt, W5BPT, Roger Gray, N5QS, Dawn Gray, N5QT, Landon McCord, AF5OD, Ken Blevins, K5ALQ, Jack Hampton, N5KG, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Pat Patterson, W5VY,

and Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ. Guest included Sharon Smith, Madge Kollatt, W5EFA, Mark Barnhard, KD5AIV, Diane Meador, KD5QNN, and Kim Harrison.

The meeting was called to order by the President, W5ZN at 12:26 PM.

Since there were some new faces at the meeting we went around the room and introduced ourselves to the group. Joel recognized Dennis and his Honor Roll

status and his article in QST.

W5ZN asked N5RN to read the minutes. N5ZM made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed in the newsletter. K5DV seconded. The motion carried.

N5RN gave a Treasurer's update. N7FF made motion to accept. K5DV seconded and the motion carried.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Note

As many of you know we lost a long time ADXA member recently, Ollie Gade, W5GO. Ollie's

equipment will be going to Harding University. A dedication ceremony is planned but that date has not

been announced.

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#### Items of Interest

[Club Meeting September 17 2016 @ 12:00](#) — Catholic High School, 2278 6300 Father Tribou St, in Little Rock, AR. See Directions to next meeting on page 10.

## **Old Business**

ADXA website—we should see some updates on our webpage very soon. The site be hosted by QTH.com with KE9FOX, Scott, developing the site. On line dues payment is one addition that we should see.

New members—we will begin an email recruitment campaign after the new website is online. There are a lot of hams that may not know about ADXA. 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

Technical Seminar—There was some discussion about a technical seminar. Maybe bring in a DXpedition leader and have them speak to the group. The March 2017 meeting looks to be the best fit right now.

## **New Business**

Nothing from the executive board.

ADXA Resolution related to remote operation—There was some discussion about the ADXA resolution related to remote operation. Some of the points mentioned in this discussion were:

- We need a voice on the unethical use of remote stations
- Use of same remote seems to be acceptable by the majority of folks. Bouncing from remote to remote seems to be a problem
- DXCC is not competitive but a personal goal.
- DXCC Challenge “sounds” competitive.
- There are no FCC rules to prevent it.
- DXAC finds it hard to make rules they can't enforce
- DXAC doesn't think it is ethical.
- ARRL needs to take action on this

N5ZM made motion to accept the resolution. N5QS seconded. The motion carried. The resolution will be forwarded as appropriate. *Editors note: The resolution will appear after the meeting minutes in the newsletter.*

Next meeting—There was some discussion about the next ADXA meeting. It was ultimately decided to hold our next meeting at the CAREN hamfest. ADXA will setup some videos and have a couple of technical conferences and hold a brief ADXA business meeting.

## **Other items**

N5QS mentioned that LED lights are causing serious RF issues. It seems to be brand related.

N5RN will update the roster and mail out.

K5DV reports that K5OVC's surgery went well. Lenny can receive calls.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM. Navassa video was shown.

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## ADXA Resolution

Whereas the Arkansas DX Association is a 100% ARRL member affiliated club; and

Whereas remote controlled operation of amateur radio stations is becoming commonplace, even in the commercial market place; and

Whereas this technology provides benefits to radio amateurs in antenna restricted locations but also provides significant opportunity for unethical behavior in pursuing ARRL operating awards; and

Whereas the ARRL DXCC Award and the ARRL DX Challenge Award are the most sought after competitive achievement awards in amateur radio worldwide; and

Whereas the ARRL DX Advisory Committee has provided considerable input on this issue with recommendations that have so far not been acted upon; therefore

**IT IS RESOLVED** that the Arkansas DX Association hereby expresses its dissatisfaction and concern over the practice of propagation shopping through remote controlled amateur radio networks via the internet for the sole purpose of gaining an unfair propagational and geographical advantage for accumulating DXCC band entity totals.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED** that we consider this practice to be unethical and not in keeping with the spirit of the DXCC program or amateur radio. We urge the ARRL Board of Directors to take immediate action to remedy this destructive situation that not only applies to the DXCC award program but also to the WAS and VUCC programs as well.

### **RATIONALE:**

Over the past year or so the use of remote stations, including commercial remote services (e.g. RHR) has increased significantly. We have no disagreement with the use of a remote station to increase the operating pleasure of radio amateurs, however when that use is applied to utilizing several different remote sites across the country to provide an unethical advantage over others in the same geographical area for award achievement an unfair situation occurs. The DXCC and DX Challenge programs are, by their very nature, competitive programs. ARRL has for years published a "DXCC Standings" comparing stations achievements to one another. The DX Challenge program ranks participants competitively and even issues a "Desoto Cup" for the top "winner" each year. As a result, rules and enforcement of those rules must be maintained or the program simply becomes a sham. The unethical abuse has been most prevalent on 160 meters and 6 meters and has even seen radio amateurs using remote stations in other countries, some strictly in violation of the regulatory rules of their country of residence.

It is not our intent to limit the use of legal, remote station operation but rather apply simple, ethical rules to competitive award programs like DXCC, DX Challenge, VUCC and WAS. To date, ARRL has simply ignored the issue or chose to take a position contrary to the wishes of the DX community and in fact has ignored considerable input from their own DX Advisory committee on this issue. ARRL's popular stated position is "Any rule we enact cannot be enforced". We challenge ARRL to provide evidence to support this position and to also provide evidence as to why absolutely no enforcement action of the existing rules has not occurred in current known situations.

## Words of Wisdom From the President Joel Harrison—W5ZN

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The original TV series “Star Trek” is commemorating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. So what does that have to do with DX? Absolutely nothing except the phrase “Space, the final frontier” has a connection that you should accept as a challenge!

In your DX pursuit what is your final, or next, frontier? If you have DXCC, is it to reach the 100 mark (or 200, 300 etc) on another band, another mode or a 5 band DXCC challenge? Whatever that frontier is, now is the time to accept the challenge and prepare for your pursuit. Trying to accomplish many things all at once won't produce a very good result however laying out a methodical plan will permit you to achieve impressive results over time. Take a look at the ADXA member standings. Our members with very impressive totals have accumulated these over time with a well-established plan. With this solar cycle on a significant decline and pretty much finished low band activity is improving. In recent weeks the DX on 40 meters has been excellent. Now that the oppressive heat here in the south is starting to break a bit as we move in to fall it is time to finalize some low band antenna projects and work toward a new DXCC band or increased totals. If you do not have a copy of “Low Band DX'ing” then purchase one. This has become the authority publication on low band DX'ing. Whatever your goal is on the low bands this upcoming winter, now is the time to begin to finalize your plan and have it in place by November 1 or sooner. That is your final frontier!

Confused or stalled on an antenna project? Then drop a note on the ADXA reflector and ask!

Now that we are well past the half way mark for ADXA's 2016 year, how are we doing with some of the new plans we have? Here is an update:

Hamfest presense – we decided to increase our formal presence at a few select hamfests in Arkansas. We began in March at the ARVARF Hamfest in Russellville. Dennis, W5RZ helped organize a forum for ADXA that was well attended and very successful. We also targeted a presence in Little Rock at the CAREN hamfest. Ken, K5ALQ has done an outstanding job of organizing our

forums and room for this event. This will be an all-day activity for ADXA so plan to attend.

Website – we all agreed we were past due in updating our website. This has been a slow process that has taken longer than we planned. If you are or have ever been involved in developing or maintaining a website then you know firsthand the amount of time this takes. If you're not, then become involved and you will find out! Pat, W5VY has been leading this effort and while the website update has not gone "live" a number of things have occurred. We needed to move to a new server and that has been accomplished. We also required some assistance in moving our website design to a new platform and that has mostly been accomplished. There are, however, some additional steps that are working to finalize the revised website prior to going "live". This process is moving forward, just a tad slower than expected. Once complete we believe you will be very pleased with the new format.

New member recruitment – Target hams (those who hold DXCC but aren't ADXA members) have been identified and a new member recruitment is in the works. We delayed executing this effort until we can get the revised website up and running very simply because the first place a prospective member will look for additional info is on the website.

Our goal is still to complete these initiatives during the remaining weeks of 2016 and then move toward new projects for 2017.

One 2017 proposal that is in the works to be discussed is an exclusive ADXA 2017 DX and technical seminar. The draft plan is not firm just yet but will hopefully be ready to present to ADXA at our December meeting.

73 es gud DX

Joel W5ZN  
ADXA President

# Montserrat

## Rick Harris—AI5P

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The idea for the trip to Montserrat was developed at the 2015 Visalia DX Convention with a discussion with San, K5YY. He had suggested over the years we get together and go somewhere. About this time I also had an inquiry about a trip from Robert, KE5FNA, another ADXA member, and an old Army buddy Phil, K3EW. So I started researching a trip to Gingerbread Hill in Montserrat. I had seen a number of DXpeditions go there over the past few years. As it turned out, another friend of mine, Barry, N0KV, and some of his friends were going there in June so I was able to get lots of first-hand feedback over the summer.

Unfortunately, as events turned out, both San and Robert had to drop out. Phil was able to recruit a friend of his, Jim, W3NRJ, to join the DXpedition.

A lot of coordination was done with the owner of the actual amateur radio equipment, George, K2DM. He was going down for the CQ WW SSB contest in October and we were scheduled to go Nov 4-12. As it turned out, George was having major issues with the tower winch motor. He ended up buying a new motor which was shipped to the Miami Airport Hotel where we picked it up and hand-carried it to Montserrat.

I met Phil, who I hadn't seen since 1969, and Jim at the Miami airport and we flew on to Antigua. From there we took an 8 passenger prop plane over to the new airport on Montserrat. After a quick 20 minute flight, we arrived. David, the owner of Gingerbread Hill, met us at the airport. We spent the evening of the 4th sorting out the equipment and setting up operating positions. On the morning of the 5th, we managed to hook up the coax to the beam (which George had left up - normally it's taken apart and stored), and raise the tower to about 55 ft with the Mosley TH-33 yagi. Unfortunately, the old motor decided to quit at this point. We then erected dipoles for 80/40/30/17 and 24 meters. I had brought my 30/17 dipoles with me. We also put together the 6 meter beam and secured it to the roof (unfortunately, nothing was heard on 6 meters). During our visit, we eventually managed to replace the motor with a little luck and a few ###%% words!

Operations began on the 5th and continued until the morning of the 12th. I brought my K-3 and Icom 706MKIIG. Jim used my Icom 706 and Phil used George's Kenwood TS-570SG transceiver. Conditions weren't the best this week but we had many contacts including some good DX. Phil, K3EW/VP2MEW, ended up with 2619 contacts; Jim, W3NRJ/VP2MVI, with 662, and I (VP2MXP) had 2840. My most interesting DX included: P40MH, YB3MM, A65CA, HS0ZIV, ZS1LS, PJ6/DF8AN, 8P2K, ZF1N, IT9RDG/IF9, TF3DC, OX5T, 9V1XX, FY5HB, Z35W, HB0CC, TA4AO/4, FK8IK, W5/UA3TT, GB800MC, 5B4AJG and VP8NO.

Montserrat was sighted by Columbus in 1493 and named after the Spanish abbey of Santa Maria de Montserrat. He did not land. English and Irish settlers from St. Kitts started a colony in 1632. It is often referred to as the "Emerald Isle of the West" because the Irish figured prominently in its early history. Montserrat became a haven for Irish Catholics escaping from religious persecution. Briefly occupied by the French, it was returned to England by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. Today it is an overseas territory of the United Kingdom.

This pear-shaped island is 11 miles long (18km) and 7 miles (11 km) wide. The damage caused by Hurricane Hugo (1989) and the volcanic activities starting in the 1990s devastated the economy. Plymouth, the capital and main commercial center, was abandoned in 1995-96. The W.H. Bramble (Blackburne) Airport was closed and eventually destroyed by volcanic activity in 1997. Between 1995-2000, two-thirds of the population was forced to flee. There are about 5,000 people now living on the island.

Many internationally known musical artists recorded in Montserrat in the 1970s and 80s. Sir George Martin, the Beatles producer, opened a recording studio in 1977 which, unfortunately, was badly damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and closed.

The Montserrat Volcano Observatory, which we visited, continues to closely monitor volcanic activity. It has been relatively quiet since 2010. We were able to visit parts of Plymouth with a tour guide. The devastation was quite something to see first-hand.

On November 12, Jim and I took an early flight to Antigua while Phil stayed on the air and joined us in the early afternoon. I hired a taxi driver to give us a tour of Antigua which was quite good and filled in the 6 hour layover. We



# Montserrat

## Rick Harris—AI5P (continued)

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then all flew to Miami where Phil and Jim proceed home to Maryland and I overnighted and flew to Albuquerque the next day. Montserrat was a very interesting experience and I wouldn't mind returning! Rick AI5P



Your transport from Antigua to Montserrat



Gingerbread Hill



Helo from Volcano Observatory - Soufriere Hills Volcano (3180 ft) in the background - Erupted 1995. Always "socked in" while we were there.



Approaching the town of Plymouth



Plymouth



A few of the albums recorded in Montserrat

## ZF2EZ—CQ WW 160 Contest

Bill Priakos, W5SJ

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A few shots from January of this year...putting up the 160 meter vertical at ZF1A for the contest, operating my 1 watt radio on 20. I will be QRV from September 27<sup>th</sup> through the first of October, just having fun with the guys in CARS (Cayman Amateur Radio Society). Please look for my spots. Will be on QRO on 40 and 30 in the mornings looking for Asia and then looking about for Fort Smith, ADXA and LSDXA members the rest of the time and adding a few Q's on 20 CW with my one watt power-house...look for me, pse!!







2016

## All—Arkansas Hamfest

September 17, 2016

Saturday  
8 AM—3 PM

### Schedule

6:30 am Flea Market Setup  
8:00 am Open to the public  
9:00 am VE Testing  
10:30 am ARRL Forum  
3:00 pm Close

### Vendors

Palmetto Antennas *(tentative)*  
Embroidered Memories  
Grapevine Amateur Radio  
Mid-South Amateur Radio Supply

### Fall **Arkansas DX Association** Meeting

8-11 am DX videos / 11 am-12 pm Working DX / 12-12:30 pm ADXA Business Mtg / 12:30-1:30 pm Antennas

**BOAT ANCHOR CAFE**

*Card Checking  
DXCC & WAS & VUCC*

*VE License Testing*

*Door Prizes*

Info / Map / Online Flea Market-Tailgate Registration  
[www.carenclub.com](http://www.carenclub.com) click on Hamfest link

Catholic High School  
6300 Father Tribou Street  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

A few blocks north of the Markham & University intersection

Talk-in: 146.940-



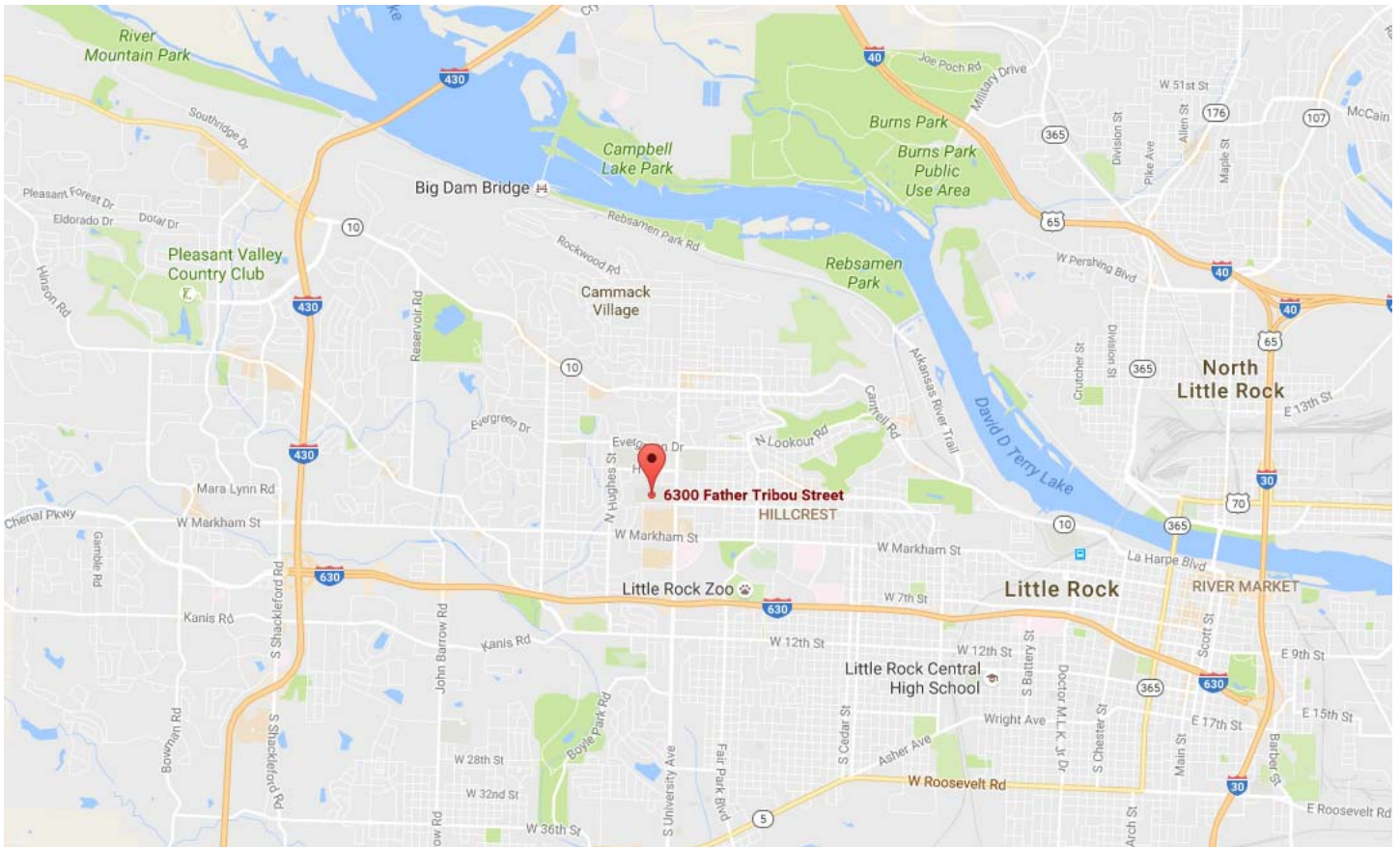
# Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—September 17, 2016

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**Catholic High School  
6300 Father Tribou St.  
Little Rock , AR 72205  
Talkin: 146.94-  
GPS: 34.7568934,-92.3465172**

**Meeting Start time is 12:00 PM**

**[Google map link](#)**



  
**Organization**

## ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION

### MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

**BUSINESS NAME**

President: Joel Harrison, W5ZN  
Vice President: Pat Patterson, W5VY  
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