



The ADXA Quarterly

Volume 9 Issue 2

Promoting DX and DXing throughout Arkansas

June 2001

ADXA OFFICERS

DENNIS SCHAEFER
W5RZ
PRESIDENT

DAVE JACQUES
K5DV
VICE PRESIDENT

E. GLENN WOLF Jr.

ADXA MEETING

The 1st quarter meeting of ADXA was held at Earl Smith's home on 17 March 2001. Those in attendance – Earl Smith, N5ZM, Sharon Smith (Guest),

will continue to push for Dave Jacques, K5DV, as a third card checker. Both N5ZM and W5NX will be attending the Little Rock Hamfest (20 and 21 April 2001).

Some discussion on what we want to do for the December 2001 meeting began. The consensus is that we want a private room where we can eat and have a meeting—much like we did last year. Martin volunteered to look for such a place in Little Rock.

NEW BUSINESS

The Little Rock Hamfest will be the 20th and 21st of April 2001 at the Little Rock Expo Center. A lot of activities are planned: APRS, Packet, PSK31, etc. There will be a Repeater Council Meeting, an ARRL meeting with Bob Ideker, the new Arkansas Section Manager.

ADXA will be sponsoring the Shootout at Noon. Dennis may need help to run this.

Paul and Myrtle indicated that they may need help with admissions at the LR hamfest. ADXA will collect double hours if they help setup and/or tear down.

Some one asked if they new what has happened to Bill Kenamer—but no one knew.

Martin Hankins, W5HTY, asked if ADXA wanted to be a QSL manager for someone. He then presented a card that had ADXA listed as a QSL Manager.

Rick Harris, AI5P, mentioned that HamComm '01 was coming up in June. He also suggested that ADXA send

Lenny Mendel, K5OVC, Dave Jacques, K5DV, Rick Harris, AI5P, Jim Burkhart, AB5BV, Lance Posey (Guest), AC5TN, Patty Possey (Guest), AC5XA, Paul Wynne, AF5M, Myrtle Wynne, N500I, Martin Hankins, W5HTY, Glenn Wolf, N5RN, and Ollie Gade, W5GO.

The meeting was called to order at 1315 local with Dennis Schaefer presiding. Dennis asked that we go around the room and introduce ourselves. A motion from the floor was made to dispense with the reading of the minutes. There was a second and the minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

The Treasurer's report was given by Glenn, N5RN. The report was accepted as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Dennis thanked Earl and Sharon Smith for hosting this meeting. Dennis also thanked Rick for presentation at the December meeting.

Dennis mentioned that Glenn Davidson is not going home. He has suffered a stroke. ADXA will send a card.

It was mentioned that Charles Tillotson, W5NX, is now officially the second DXCC card checker. ADXA

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\$100 to support the LSDXA efforts at this hamfest. N5ZM seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Rick mentioned that he would be VP9/AI5P 20 April through 9 May 2001.

Paul Wynne gave a AD5XA repeater update. (**Editor's note: I hope I got all of this correct.**) The repeater will be moving to Chenal Mountain and may require a 114.8 tone as this is a very noisy RF location. The repeater frequency is 145.49. It was mentioned that if you can get into 146.73 (tone 141.6) then you should be able to get into AD5XA. There may be some expenses with this installation as the controller chip is 1980 vintage and very hard to find. Charlie Brown says he can put up antenna etc for Free. Paul is expecting that the repeater will be up by our next meeting.

K5DV made a motion that we adjourn, AI5P seconded. The meeting adjourned at 13:55 local.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ

Many thanks to Paul and Myrtle Wynne for hosting the June meeting. What would we have done without Paul and Myrtle through the years? They always do what is needed, and not just for ADXA. We would definitely be worse off without them (and a lot hungrier!).

Thanks also to Earl Smith, N5ZM, and Charles Tillotson, W5NX, for their hard work checking cards. Both were present at the Little Rock hamfest and checked a lot of cards. The guys appreciate the expressions of gratitude they have received and say that makes it all worthwhile. I know they would enjoy it even more if everyone would read the instructions just a little better before handing in their cards!

Another ADXA hero is K5UZ, Dave Norris. ADXA sponsored the "Shootout at High Noon" CW receiving

contest at the Little Rock Hamfest this year. We had hoped to have a big turnout. Several talked a good game, but when noon came, only Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU, was sitting at the table. A contest with only one contestant wouldn't be very interesting. I ran around trying to stir up a little interest. No one, not even Earl, wanted to try. I've got to admit, it's pretty intimidating to the ego to try to copy high-speed code in front of a live audience. Finally, I grabbed (literally!) Dave, and I guess he felt sorry for me, because he reluctantly agreed to compete.

We started at 30 WPM - this was the "big gun" competition, after all. After the 30 WPM run, NN5NN, stepped in, making a grand total of 3 competitors.

Dave hung in there all the way up through 45 WPM. He even copied both callsigns at 45 WPM, something that doesn't usually happen. However, this was Nick's day and he cruised right through 50 WPM, tying the existing record. We know what it takes to be one of the "deserving" but it's really special when a DX'er has the courage to put his reputation out there on the line.

Anyway, it's all in fun - how Nick copied 50 WPM in a room with horrible acoustics is beyond me. Maybe the echo gave him two chances at each character. One good thing came out of all this - Nick is now turning into a DX Hog. He has always been a contest operator and is into QRP, but since putting up a new KT-34A, he is getting the DX bug. Maybe he will become one of the first holders of QRP DXCC when that comes to pass.

Since there is now a tie for the CW record (WA5BDU and W5RZ), the stage is set for a real "shootout" next year. Maybe Dave and Earl can

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practice a little and give us a run for our money. Anyone want to put on the contest next year?

I'm looking forward to the June meeting - hope you can make it too.

73,

Dennis W5RZ

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

These are the dates for future ADXA meetings. Please note the **years** as well as the date!

- ◇ June—3rd Saturday (16 Jun 2001)
- ◇ September—3rd Saturday (15 Sep 2001)
- ◇ December-1st Saturday (01 Dec 2001)
- ◇ March—3rd Saturday (16 March 2002)

NEXT ADXA MEETING

The 2nd Quarter meeting of ADXA will be held at the home of Paul and Myrtle Wynne. The meeting will start at 1300. As is customary, there will be food and drink available beginning around 1200.

See the maps on pages 5 and 6 for the address and phone number should you need them. Their phone number is (501) 988-5990.

KINGMAN REEF 2000

To: Arkansas DX Association

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your most generous support in helping make Kingman Reef 2000 a great success.

Kingman Reef, ranked as one of the top most wanted DXCC countries in the world, went QRT on 31 October 2000 at 1848 UTC with 80,841 QSO's in the log. Not only was it a new DXCC country for many amateurs worldwide, it was a DXpedition that made history. While DX'ers worldwide were anxiously waiting for us to get on the air in the comfort of their homes, we were battling Mother Nature in an adventure we would remember for the rest of our lives.

Your members should be receiving their QSLs and if not, they are being processed daily and they can expect them soon.

For the KRPDYG, Thank You

Ann M. Santos, WA1S

HAMVENTION

Dave Jacques, K5DV

I made my first trip to Dayton this year with Lenny, K5OVC, and I was absolutely amazed. The flight to Dayton was on Thursday and was pretty mundane with the exception of meeting a few hams. Upon arrival at the Dayton airport we saw a few of the ARRL heavies, David Sumner, K1ZZ and Bill Moore, NC1L.

Unaware that the hotel provided shuttle service, Lenny and I shared a cab with Wayne, W4MPY. Arriving at the hotel was the first of many new experiences; there were hams everywhere. We got checked in and after putting the bags (not y!s) in the room, headed for the watering hole. At this point I have to quit using names and/or calls as I just don't remember most of them. There were hams that I had talked to for many years and many hams I have

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never talked to and all of them were friends.

The next morning, Friday, we headed to Hara's Arena where all the action was. This year the hotels got together and provided transportation to and from the Arena for a \$2 a day fee. Once there I couldn't believe what I saw. There were more hams, flea market tables, distributor booths, and eateries than you could shake a stick at. Anything and everything a ham might conceivably want was available for a price. In fact there was one guy there hawking Kodak digital cameras and selling them quicker than he could stock them.

A couple of familiar faces were there, Bob Ideker and Earl Smith (Anybody know him?) and it appeared like everybody was having a ball. Friday night was the big DX dinner and the featured speaker was Chuck Brady. This guy has more accolades than I can mention. I'm not sure there's anything he hasn't done. If you haven't had an opportunity to hear him speak you are really missing out. He puts more emotion in one paragraph than most speakers put in their whole speech. Needless to say, Bouvet was the main theme but not the only one. He really didn't need pictures to make his points; with just a little imagination you could picture everything he described.

Saturday was the DX Forum but before we went there Lenny had to make an appearance at the YL Forum. At the DX Forum we saw and heard about all of the DXpeditions that have taken place this year. We met the folks that went on the DXpeditions and it was kinda fun to see the face on the other end of the mic/key.

After the forums I was beat and ready to head back to the hotel for some much needed rest. After all, tomorrow is the trip home. No matter how great it is to go on a trip it's always GREATER to get back home.

After arriving at the house I started going through all my goodies.

Naturally there was a cap from Yaesu, 5 pounds of miscellaneous literature and one Kodak Digital Camera. Remember that guy I mentioned - wow, what a salesman. After all, since I forgot my camera. How do you expect me to remember all the folks I met. Well, I finally have Dayton under my belt but there's another year coming up and #51 will be happening and if I can swing it, I will go back.

73 all, dj

THE GAINS (?) OF RESTRUCTURING

From the The ARRL Letter, Vol. 20, No. 16, April 20, 2001

HAM RADIO NUMBERS SHOW POST RE-
STRUCTURING GROWTH SPURT

Amateur Radio is experiencing a bit of a growth spurt in the wake of amateur license restructuring. **FCC licensing statistics as of the end of March--the most recent complete figures available--show a net gain of approximately 6600 current licensees, or about 1%, from last April, when restructuring went into effect. (Emphasis added by the editor).** Prior to that, the number of amateurs had remained relatively stable since 1998.

ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says the full impact of license restructuring--including the elimination of the 13 and 20-WPM Morse exams--is slowly making itself felt within the amateur community. "For the first quarter of 2001, ARRL VEC test session statistics show that new and upgrading amateurs continue to earn licenses at a rate stronger than that of first quarter 1999 and first quarter 2000," he said. "This is a positive trend that we expect will continue over the coming months."

As of the end of March, according to statistics com-

compiled by Joe Speroni, AH0A, the FCC showed 684,359 current licensees on its books, although the number of active amateurs is believed to be far smaller. Speroni's figures show that more than 20,000 new amateurs entered the hobby over the past year, while attrition was on the order of 13,600.

Overall, statistics show growth in the number of Extra, General and Technician licensees from year-earlier figures, while the number of Advanced, Tech Plus and Novice licensees declined.

Jahnke says comparing the ARRL VEC's first quarter 2001 numbers shows that interest in the Extra class license is up by as much as 30% over the first quarters of 1999 and 2000. "Extraordinarily, interest in the General license is up 450% to 650%!" he said.

With the change to a new, 50-question Extra class written element that combines material formerly covered in the 90 questions contained within the old Advanced and Extra tests, some predicted the Extra test would be easier to pass. That's not proving to be the case this year--at least at ARRL VEC-sponsored sessions, where the Extra pass rate has declined by nearly 7% from 1999. Technician and General pass rates this year have been up on the order of 10% to 12% from pre-restructuring rates, however, at ARRL VEC sessions.

Licensee numbers compiled by Speroni show that the FCC issued nearly 5400 new licenses in the first quarter of this year--more than 2230 in the month of March alone. That compares with around 3730 new hams in the same quarter last year. As would be expected, the vast majority of the newcomers entered the hobby as Technician licensees. March was one of only three months in the past year where the number of new licensees exceeded 2000.



ICE ON THE ANTENNAS AT N5ZM'S QTH
(DECEMBER 2000)

MAP TO AFSM'S HOUSE

8611 Yellow Oak Drive
Jacksonville, AR 72076

146,520 Simplex

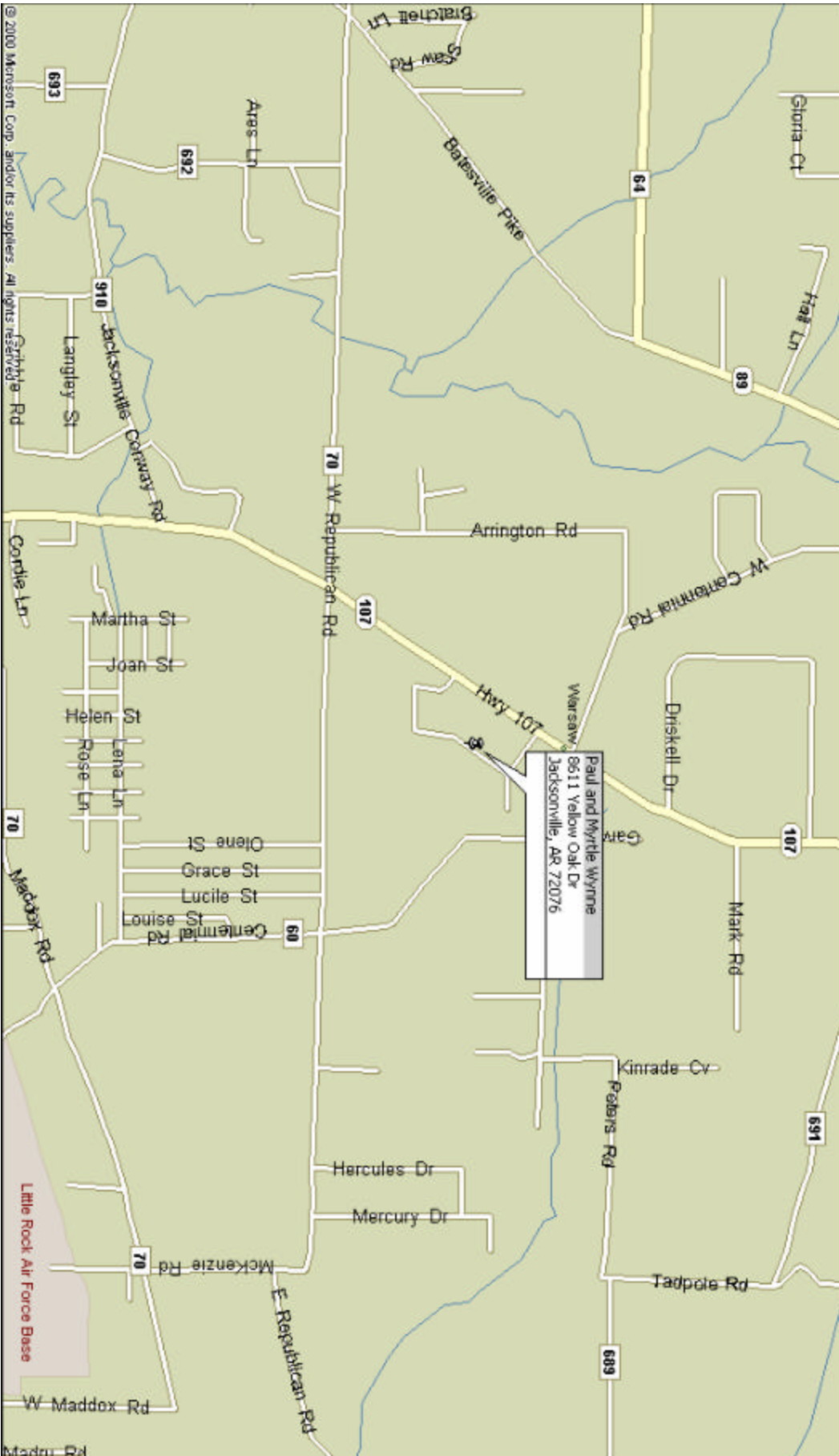
501 988-5990



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MAP TO AF5M'S HOUSE

8611 Yellow Oak Drive
Jacksonville, AR 72076
146.520 Simplex
501 988-5990



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ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

CALL: _____ LICENSE CLASS: _____ APPLICATION: ___ NEW ___ RENEWAL

NAME: _____ PHONE: () _____

ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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 \$20.00



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