



The ADXA Quarterly

Volume 9 Issue 4

Promoting DX and DXing throughout Arkansas

December 2001

ADXA OFFICERS

DENNIS SCHAEFER
W5RZ
PRESIDENT

DAVE JACQUES
K5DV
VICE PRESIDENT

E. GLENN WOLF Jr.
N5RN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

ADXA MEETING MINUTES

The 3rd quarter meeting of ADXA was held at Pavilion 2 at Crystal Springs, Hot Springs, Arkansas

accepted as presented.

Ollie, W5G0, reported that Glenn, K6ASB, has been moved from one nursing home to another and he would get the name of the nursing home. Ollie indicated that Glenn did recognize him.

Earl indicated that he would talk to Wayne Beck about getting the ID and Password so that the AD5XA web page could be update. Unless some one volunteers, N5RN will take on this responsibility.

Paul, AF5M, reported that the AD5XA repeater will be at the 200 foot level on the Arkansas State Police tower. We have 7/8" and 1/2" hardline and grounding kits. May have to pay to get climbers to install antenna with short notice. Climbers will have to be bonded and insured. Dennis, W5RZ, indicated that he may know of some climbers. Paul also indicated that he received a reprieve on the repeater pair.

N5ZM informed everyone that he has 304 confirmed on CW.

Stewart Long, KE5P0, mentioned something that many didn't know - W5RZ was on a Dxpedition many years ago. Stewart discussed the Christmas party-Will be at LR Hilton (University and 630), Room will hold up to 50 people. Club will pick up the cost of the meeting room. Rick Harris to be the program. Meal will be at 1200.

on 15 September 2001. Those in attendance - Paul Wynne, AF5M, Myrtle Wynne, N500I, Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, Dave Jacques, K5DV, Libby Jacques, WB6AXD, Jimmy Ballew, N5ZIV, Stewart Long, KE5P0, Martin Hankins, W5HTY, David Norris, K5UZ, Earl Smith, N5ZM, Leonard Mendel, K5OVC, Ken Blevins, K5ALQ, Frank Kollatt, Jr, W5BPT, Rick Roderick, K5UR, Ollie Gade, W5G0, and Glenn Wolf, N5RN. Guest included Patrica Blevins, Madge Kollatt, KA5RSH, Norma Mendel, KC5DDO, Melissa Schaefer, N5HX, and Jean Gade.

The meeting was called to order at 1323 Local with Dennis Schaefer presiding. Dennis thanked the Hot Spring group for taking care of the food and snacks. Dennis mentioned that a security change forced the relocation to Crystal Springs. AF5M motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes. K5DV seconded and the minutes were accepted as printed in the newsletter.

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

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Rick Roderick, K5UR, was introduced and spoke on the Log book of the world. Rick says that every EQSL to date has been busted. This will be a joint effort with others to get the ball rolling and likely to be a year down the road. It is intended that it will be self-supporting. Rick also mentioned a Challenge for 6M through 160M less 30M). The plaque is really nice and worth the effort.

NEW BUSINESS

Glenn, N5RN, passed around a D68C poster sent to the club for supporting their recent DXpedition.

Dave Jacques volunteered to draft up criteria to address the issue of Honorary Members. This should be discussed at the next meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 1415.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ

Since 9/11, my attention has been more on ARES and RACES than DXing, but the quest for the Honor Roll continues. E30NA and FO/SP9FIH are in the log for new ones, and the QSL's are coming in steadily. Band conditions have been great and DXing seems to be thriving.

John Papp, K5UC, suffered a heart attack and had to sell his house and move into an assisted living facility. I helped with the sad job of taking down his antennas and tower. Although John won't be able to chase DX much now, I promised him that his 20 meter antenna would work North Korea someday.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Glen, K6ASB, and the family of Steve Rumpf, AE5H. Steve was working out of state and had little time for DXing and club activities, but he was a friend and fellow DX chaser. He will be missed. Since many of DXers are hard-charging Type A personalities, we can consider ourselves reminded that we should watch our diet, get some exercise, and try to enjoy each day. If we do that, maybe we will be around to work North Korea someday.

Does your rig have 6 meters? Conditions have been excellent. K5UR and W5RZ worked several VK stations on 6, and I thought it couldn't get any better. The evening of November 7, I had the rig on 50.110 listening to a K0 call CQ DX on CW. "Wishful thinking" was my first impression. I had tuned the band and there were no signals except for his. I almost fell out of my chair when a JA1 called him with an S9 signal. I went down to 50.099 and called CQ. A JA called me and then a small pileup developed! I worked 8 stations during the 6 minute opening and then things closed up tight. Maybe working WAC on 6 this sunspot maximum is still a possibility.

It was nice to see such a good group at the September meeting. As usual, the Hot

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Springs gang were great hosts and we appreciate their efforts. I hope to see everyone at the December meeting in Little Rock. Bring a friend or two. We'll have a good meal, swap some stories, and see another great slide show by AI5P.

73,

Dennis W5RZ

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

- ◇ December-1st Saturday (01 Dec 2001)
- ◇ March-3rd Saturday (16 March 2002)

Next ADXA Meeting

The 4th Quarter meeting of ADXA will be held at the Little Rock Hilton. Meal is at noon. Meeting afterwards.

Directions to the Hilton Inn-Little Rock

From I-40 East

Take I-30 toward Little Rock/Texarkana to I-630 West.

I-630 West to South University

Exit onto South University and proceed under overpass. Hotel is on immediate left.

From I-40 West

Take I-430 South to I-630 East
I-630 East to South University Exit

Hotel will be directly in front of you.

From I-30 East

Take I-630 West to South University Exit

Exit onto South University and proceed under overpass

Hotel is on immediate left.

From I-30 West

Take I-630 West to South University Exit

Exit onto South University and proceed under overpass

Hotel is on immediate left

Meal will be Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad. Romaine lettuce topped with Grilled Chicken Breast, seasoned croutons & Parmesan Cheese with Creamy Caesar dressing & Ranch Dressing on the side, rolls & Crackers, chocolate mousse, Iced Tea. Cost of the meal will be \$13.00 including tax and gratuity.

2002 ADXA Dues

Glenn, N5RN

ADXA dues for 2002 are coming due. I will be collecting 2002 ADXA dues at this meeting.

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BIG TOWER

Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU

What do hams dream of? When the lottery ticket is verified and the Brinks truck pulls up, what fantasies are realized? Shiny new flagship transceivers from Sevierville or Osaka, one per band, with washing machine sized amplifiers?

Sure, all that and more. But I think the persistent dream is of a place. A quiet, secluded place, far from neighbors and covenants, TVs, computer gizmos and line noise. It's on high ground--really high. It has a sturdy cabin for the ham shack. But most important is the tower. It's not some spindly thing held vertical by a prayer and multiple guy cables singing under tension. Not something that only a circus daredevil would climb. This tower is substantial. It stands confidently on four massive legs. It has a platform at the top that you can walk around on.

And it's tall. VHF signals beam to distant destinations unimpeded by trees, ridges, and boundaries drawn on maps. And HF signals roll out, filling the vast space you see from the top. E and H fields expand and contract and launch themselves toward Asia and Africa and Europe, toward tiny oceanic reefs-places you vaguely remember from geography class and exotic places you saw in this morning's paper.

What's all this got to do with reality? Funny things happen. The dominant communications company in this country decides to abandon a vast network of microwave towers in

favor of satellites and tiny fibers. Towers built with no expense spared are suddenly surplus assets that produce no income. As a late joiner, I'm not sure of the exact sequence of events. I know that at the Little Rock Hamfest, John Evans WB5BHS, and Charles Shingleur, K5NRC, approached me, grinning like schoolyard pranksters and spouting some tall tale about buying an AT&T microwave tower. Naturally, I made some excuse and backed away quickly.

I heard about it again a short while later. As you'd expect, Dennis, W5RZ, was in the thick of it and the probable ring-leader. (Actually, none of this would have happened if Kevin Manzer, AC5DK, hadn't tipped us off that it was available) It was a long shot, but we might be able to get this tower site. Hams were doing it around the country, as reported on the ARRL web. But even though it could be cheap compared with its original cost, it was too much for one or two guys to take on. Could a half dozen or so local hams be found that like competitive operating? Guys that wouldn't mind throwing in on something undefined and with an uncertain payback? I've heard that if you want to scare someone, offer him exactly what he wants. All kinds of fears emerge: liabilities, hidden legal icebergs, escalating costs and conflicts that turn your former buddies into adversaries.

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But the sight of that tower was too much for seven dreamers: the three I mentioned, plus Jimmy Poole, WU5X, Jon Caery, KC5LVW, and the ever-adventurous J. Setcer, N5QJ. And of course your reporter is the seventh.

You know by now what happened. Verbal commitments from the seven were given, an offer was made and then increased, and the tower was ours. What's it like? We have an acre of land and a good access road.

There's a 600 square foot building, built to last with three-phase power and air conditioning. There's even a 30 kW generator. The tower is 112 feet tall. It's built like a fire tower, but has a ladder instead of stairs. There are four large microwave horns, two on top and two about halfway up. There is a large platform of steel grating at the top with a railing all around. We understand that these sites were constructed to withstand, to a certain extent, the physical stresses of a nuclear attack.

The place is northwest of Dover. We think the peak we're on is called Colony Mountain, but we're not even sure of that. The group now informally just calls it The Big Tower, or uses the initials B-A-T.

Where are we now and where are we headed? If I were a cartoonist, I could draw seven guys thinking about the same tower, but the thought balloons above their heads would show seven different images. (My wife sees it as seven little boys with their secret hideout/clubhouse.) But we have a fairly consistent vision of HF beams and

wire antennas and of VHF/UHF antennas at the top. A serious, contest style installation is the goal. We're going to exploit this thing from 160 meters to 70 cm and maybe beyond.

Getting all this stuff installed on a tower this tall will take a little time. But progress is being made. The building has gone from creepy to positively homey. Damage from previous vandalism has been repaired and improvements including carpeting have been installed. It says something about the enthusiasm of this group that strenuous tasks like welding, weed cutting and painting went on during the hottest days of summer. Operating positions are now being mapped out and partition walls planned. We can't wait to have our friends up to check the place out. Meanwhile, check out some facts and photos on our web site hosted by Charles Shingleur and found at <http://www.royal.ugate.net/cmcc/>. Hope to see you all at the Big Tower soon!

Nick Kennedy, WA5BDU

DXCC Card Checking

Earl Smith, N5ZM, has indicated that he will be available for DXCC card checking during this meeting. He asks that you read the directions for creating your submission and follow them carefully.

Remittance Form

ADXA Renewals:

(ADXA membership requires ARRL membership)

(\$20 individual): _____

(\$30 family): _____

Name: _____

Call: _____

Name: _____

Call: _____

Banquet

Number of Banquet Tickets: _____ @ \$13.00 each for a total of \$_____

Grand Total (ADXA Dues plus Banquet tickets): _____

Make Checks payable to ADXA. To help get a head count please return by 27 November 2001.

PLEASE send your check along with this completed form to:

Glenn Wolf
3002 N Ridge
White Hall, 71602

Map To Little Rock Hilton



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

MAIL APPLICATION TO:
E Glenn Wolf, Jr., N5RN
3002 N RIDGE DR
White Hall, AR 71602 -8902



ADXA
C/O E. Glenn Wolf, Jr – N5RN
3002 N Ridge Dr
White Hall, Arkansas 71602—8902