



The ADXA Quarterly

Volume 17 Issue 3

Promoting DX and DXing throughout Arkansas

September 2009

ADXA OFFICERS

Pat Patterson, W5VY
PRESIDENT

Paul Wynne, AF5M
VICE PRESIDENT

E. Glenn Wolf, Jr.
N5RN
SECRETARY/TREASURER

ADXA MEETING MINUTES

The 2009 2nd quarter meeting of the ADXA was held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at the home of

Paul, AF5M, and Myrtle Wynne, N5OOI.

Those that signed the sign-in sheet included the following members: Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Bill Harper, K9IW, Jim Barron, WB5AAA, Frank Fahrlander, N7FF, Paul Wynne, AF5M, Myrtle Wynne, N5OOI, Earl Smith, N5ZM, Pat Patterson, W5VY, Rick Roderick, K5UR.

Guests included Sharon Smith, Paul Daulton, K5WMS, Holly Roderick, and Mrs. Barron.

President Pat Patterson, W5VY, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Pat introduced our guest—Paul Daulton, K5WMS.

Pat thanked Paul and Myrtle for the good food and snacks.

Health and Welfare

Harold Switzer's wife has passed. W5FO has passed away.

Old Business

A motion was made by AF5M and seconded by N5ZM to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed in the ADXA newsletter. The motion was passed.

N5RN gave the treasurer's report. A motion was made by AF5M to accept the Treasurer's report as

presented. WB5AAA seconded. The motion carried.

New Business

The 3rd Quarter Meeting will be at the Avery Pavilion. The 4th Quarter meeting will be December 5 at AECC.

Webpage work is going well. Any profile updates should be sent to Pat, W5VY, or Glenn, N5RN. K9IW is helping by updating totals for members.

Certificates for long time members W5GO and K5OVC were discussed. N5RN to get with K5DV and wrap up.

N5ZM motioned that we support the Midway DXpedition. N7FF seconded and the motion passed.

Pat gave a brief talk about the DX forum at Bentonville. Five or six folks showed some interest.

For Mena—do we want a booth? It is a Delta Division Convention. AF5M suggested a table with information for the taking.

Pat gave a review of Dayton 2009. He got to sit with EI0JF and wife at the DX Dinner. The program was really good. He also attended the contesting dinner and the SDR forum. W5ZN gave a good presentation on contesting on the 5000A. Another presentation on antennas was good dealing with the K3NA phased loop using 3 loops.

Rick Roderick, K5UR, gave a brief update on HR2160. Each ham needs to pull up the bill and write congressman. In your letter you should focus on emergency communications. Nothing from Mike Ross on his position.

A motion was made to adjourn by N7FF. Seconded

by AF5M. The motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

Paul Daulton gave a presentation after the meeting on the BITX20A (a easy and good radio) and the MMR40.

W5HTY

13 September 2009

It is with great sadness that I share with ADXA the passing of Martin Hankins, W5HTY. Martin will be missed by many both in and out of the amateur radio community. Please keep Martin's family in your prayers.



Martin Hankins, W5HTY, receiving his ADXA Honorary Membership from Paul Wynne, AF5M (2008)

Card Checking

Earl will be available to check cards as usual before the meeting. If you want to have your cards checked please arrive at 11:00. Also, let Earl know that you are going to be bringing cards. **If you are bringing 701YGF cards please read Bill Moore's instructions on the ARRL DXCC Blog page concerning submission of these QSL's.**

Mark Your Calendars

These are the dates for future ADXA meetings. Please note the year as well as the date:

- September— 3rd Saturday—19 September 2009. Location: Avery Pavilion, Hot Springs
- December—1st Saturday—05 December 2009. Location: AECC, Little Rock.



Caribbean 2009 - HOT, HOT, HOT !

Rick-AI5P

Caribbean 2009 - HOT, HOT, HOT !

The Caribbean is known for hot music, women, food and weather. I will only comment on the hot weather - hot as Hell as a matter of fact (but more about that later!).

I was supposed to go the Caymans last November but had to cancel due to some medical issues. So I researched another trip for May 2009 to include both Jamaica and the Caymans. I broke my hand about a month before the trip so I thought this trip might be also jinxed but I was able to do the entire trip - albeit with a cast on my left hand. The right hand - probably another cancellation!

I flew to Miami via Dallas on May 5th. With earlier experiences trying to connect in Miami for the Caribbean, I had booked a room at the airport hotel. This turned out to be good planning as the plane was late getting out of Dallas and I may have missed the Jamaica flight if I had tried to go all the way in one day. Arriving in the Caribbean at night (on some islands) isn't the best idea either.

Jamaica is only a 90 minute flight from Miami and you fly directly over Cuba. Landing at Montego Bay, my first impression was a very modern airport and hot as heck ! A taxi ride thru town to the Inn revealed a number of tourist hotels, heavy traffic, and somewhat of a third-world look as well.

My reservation was at the Richmond Hill Inn. A beautiful place on a hill overlooking most of Montego Bay. Quite reasonable rates, restaurant, bar and swimming pool. It's quite well known and many of the cruise ship passengers come up to take photos (with an entrance fee) and is also well known as a wedding site. The staff was more that accommodating as they moved me from my original room to a suite (at no extra cost) so I could be closer to a palm tree I was using for my antenna support. However, I was surprised by the costs of a number of things on the island - more expensive than I would have thought.

I was on the air from May 7th (UTC) to the 14th. I was using my Icom-706MK2G and a variety of double-bazooka wire antennas. So one band at a time.... I also used my spare radio to monitor 6 meters with a homemade dipole.

I knew this was a good location as the first contact was with A61BX on 7 CW. But the week turned out to be very noisy on the bands. Lots of time I could get bits and pieces, but not the whole call. Very frustrating!

On the tourist side, I did visit the beautiful beach at Negril, the Rose Hill and Greenwood Plantation (sugarcane) Houses, and the very unusual (and beautiful) Dunn River Falls.

Jamaica, the third largest island in the Caribbean, is about 144 miles long and 50 miles wide at its widest point. The Blue Mountains rise to over 7000 feet. Discovered by Columbus in 1494, it was colonized by Spain but seized by the British in 1655. Awarded to Britain by the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, Jamaica became one of her most valuable colonies with the cultivation of sugarcane, cocoa and coffee. Early history under the English recorded pirates and buccaneers attacking the Spanish Main from Port Royal as well as the establishment of the greatest slave market in the world. Slavery was abolished in 1838 - well before the United States did it. Jamaica became a British Crown Colony in 1866 and an independent nation in 1962.

Radio contacts totaled 1161. Ninety percent were on CW and the best band was 20 meters. Nothing was heard on 6 meters.

On May 15th I flew to Grand Cayman via Kingston, Jamaica. The Caymans are 180 miles southeast of Jamaica so it was a short flight. Grand Cayman is 22 miles long, 8 miles wide at its widest, with its highest point being only 60 feet asl - so quite a terrain change! Everything is quite modern, clean and reminded me of traveling along a nice beach in Florida. The Supermarket I used was actually quite nicer than the one I use in Albuquerque - except for the prices! Everything in the Caymans (as a general rule) is the stateside price plus 20-25 percent.

I had rented a small cottage thru the Internet and it turned out to be just right. Not so sure if it would have been during the busy season as the cottages were built together with about 6 in a row. My wire antennas might have caused a problem with lots of folks around, but it was more or less deserted while I was there.

I was very close to the sea - about 150 feet. Certainly made a difference in what I was hearing! Contacts totaled 2682 with 82 percent on CW. Again 20 meters was the workhorse with 45 percent of the contacts. A number of JA stations were contacted on 40 and 30 meters CW at sunrise. I also managed to contact 21 USA stations on 6 meters so that was a treat!

Interesting tourist visits included the Turtle Farm, a ride on a submarine to the world-famous Cayman Wall (about 90 feet down), the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park (huge iguanas!), and the famous/infamous tourist attraction of Hell (named for the jagged rocks)... and I must say it was hot as Hell in Hell!

The Cayman archipelago is made up of three islands: Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman. Columbus discovered the islands in 1503 when his ships were blown off course from Panama to Hispaniola (Haiti/Dominican Republic). He named them *Las Tortugas* for the enormous numbers of tortoises that would provide substance to passing sailors over the years. Among the few creatures that thrived here were crocodiles, called *caymanas* in the Carib Indian language. Colonized and administered from Jamaica, the Caymans chose to remain a self-governing British Overseas Territory in 1962. Long a backwater - known mostly to divers - the Caymans, since the 1970s, have become a major international financial center (the fifth largest banking center in the world) and tourist destination (Seven Mile Beach is regarded as one of the world's best). Heavily damaged by Hurricane Ivan in 2004, the islands have the dubious honor of having experienced the most hurricane strikes in history.

So it was quite an interesting trip to two very contrasting islands!

A number of ADXA members made it into the log - and a pretty hot contest for the prizes!

73,

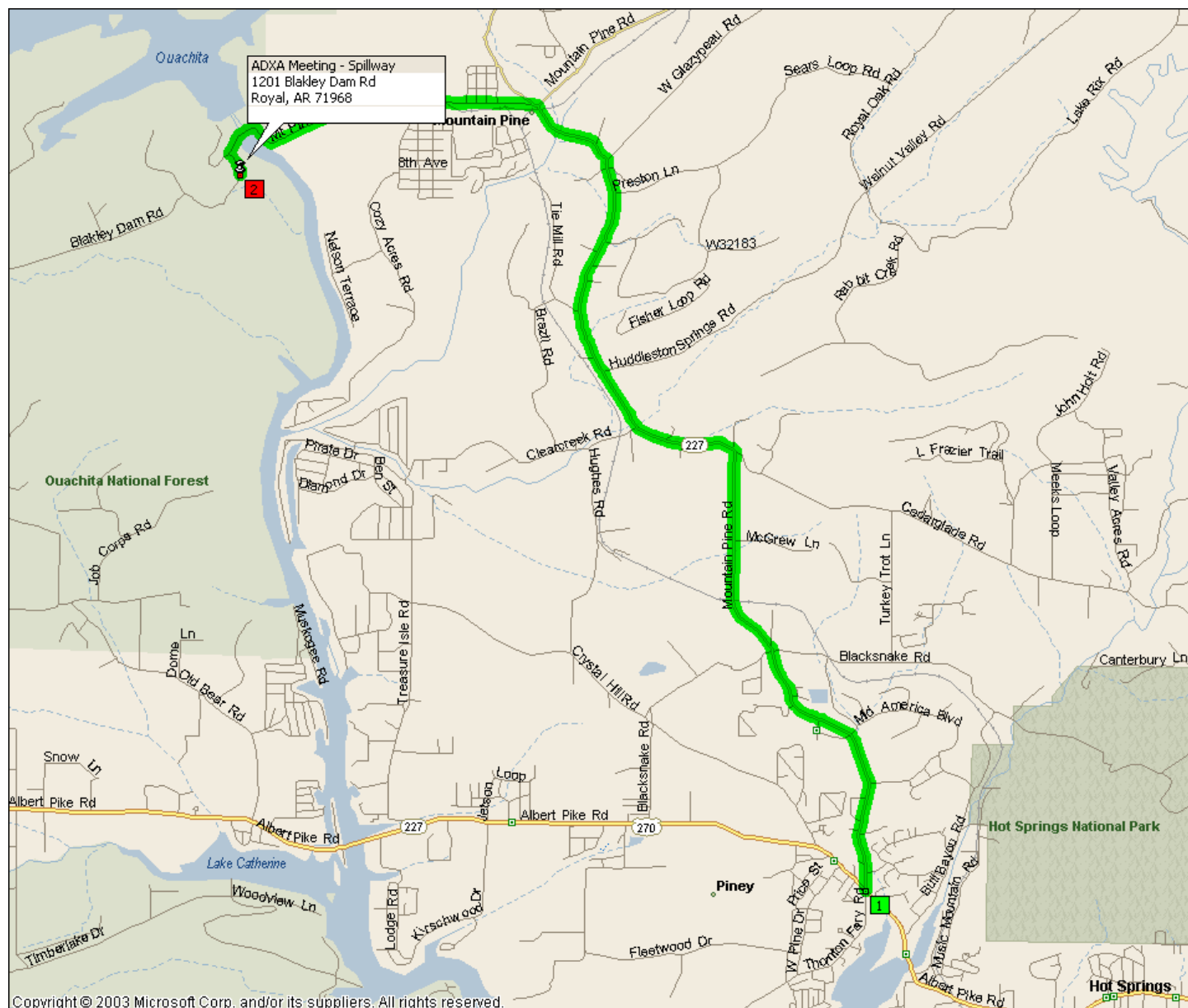
Rick AI5P/6Y



Map to ADXA Meeting

1201 Blakely Dam Road

Royal, AR





ARKANSAS DX ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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**

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

E Glenn Wolf, Jr., N5RN

210 S Estates CV

White Hall, AR 71602 -8216