



ADXA Quarterly

ADXA Minutes



The second quarter meeting of the ADXA was held at Western Sizzlin in Springdale, Arkansas on June 17, 2017. Those members that signed the sign in sheet included Glenn Wolf, N5RN, Paul Wolf, AA5PW, Joel Harrison, W5ZN, Roger Gray, N5QS, Dawn Gray, N5QT, Landon McCord, AF5OD, Jay Bromley, W5JAY, Charles Floyd, W5JE, Charles Tillotson, W5NX, Dennis Schaefer, W5RZ, Ken Blevins, K5ALQ, J Ferguson, N5LKE, and Sam Hutson, K5YY. Guest included Kathy Bromley, W5QT, Dan Puckett, K5FXB, Bill Kenamer, K5FUV, Chuck Korzendorfer, KM5G, Richard Naylor, K5LRS, Paul Dixon, KK5II, Ed McCarroll, KCODX, Mark What-

ley, K5XH, Stan Ross, K5VR, Linda Ross, K5LIN.

The meeting was called to order by the President, W5ZN at 12:09 PM.

After going around the room having everyone introduce themselves, W5ZN asked N5RN to read the minutes. N5LKE made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as printed in the newsletter. N5QS seconded. The motion carried.

N5RN gave a Treasurer's update. N5LKE made motion to accept. N5QS seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

W5ZN reminded the membership that our

dues are used primarily to make contributions to DXpeditions.

New Business

No requests for support were received by the executive committee.

N5QS gave an update on the W5GO station. It will be in a new room in a new building. The station is on hold until the new room is available.

N5QS reminded everyone that there are new ADXA badges available. Badges are being made by the Sign Shop. Contact N5QS for more details.

N5LKE gave an ARRL update. He's condensing the ARRL newsletter that being

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Items of Interest

[Club Meeting Saturday September 16, 2017 @ 1:00 PM](#) — Home of K5ALQ, 11983 Rivercrest Drive, Little Rock, AR

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sent emailed out. He noted that the ARRL is experiencing a decline in membership and it is believed to be related to the recent increase in the dues. N5LKE plans on traveling to many of the Field Day sites.

W5ZN reminded the membership that ADXA buttons are still available.

W5ZN thanked W5VY for his efforts on the new ADXA website.

A motion was made to adjourn the business part of the meeting at 12:25 PM. The motion carried.

Technical Program

After the business meeting, K5YY gave a presentation on the history of the Arkansas DX Association.

W5ZN gave a presentation on Low Band Receive Antennas for Small and Large Lots.

W5RZ talked about DX'ing via EME with a Single Yagi.

W5ZN closed the meeting with a talk on Eliminating man made noise. Take away from this presentation—remember to look for #43 or #31 mix toroids (mouser part number: 623-2631803802) and avoid foam co-ax.



From the President Joel Harrison—W5ZN

It's great to see cooler weather in early September for a change rather than the 90 degree temperatures that usually persist through October of recent years. Hopefully the cooler temperatures will hold. So, let me ask a question. What is the one antenna project you really want to do? One excuse, the heat, has just been eliminated so what is holding you back? Time is a management thing that you can always work around and planning is something you have had all summer, during the heat, to finalize. Don't wait until your excuse is "WHAAAA, its too cold outside!!!!!"

I have a tendency to get an antenna project in my head, mull it over for several weeks or months, buy materials for it then it usually sits in my shop for sometimes months before I finally decide to complete it. One recent project was a new 60 meter antenna. I have had an inverted vee for several years that works, but not very well for whatever reason. I then had someone recommend I use my 80 meter 4 square, which I did and it was an improvement over the Vee but given it was a 4 square for 80 and not 60 the match was great but most likely 90% of the power was being fed to the dump resistor dummy load and not the radiating antenna elements!! So I decided I would build a dedicated full size vertical for 60 meters, which is around 46 feet in length. I purchased some 12 ft lengths of aluminum tubing starting with 2 ¼ inch diameter at the base then telescoped up each smaller diameter, each inserted 2 ft into the previous section. The last section was 6 ft length and allowed for adjustment for resonance. I use a 6 ft 4x4 with about 2 ft in the ground and four feet above as the mounting post and then ran 32 radials to complete the antenna. This is by far the most efficient antenna I have used on 60 meters.

This project from conception to completion took almost 18 months. Not because it was a labor intensive ordeal but rather because I never got off dead center and finished it until one day I woke up and decided it was time get that aluminum in the air and off the floor of my shop. I have a tendency to think things through way too long but what that allows me to do is have the project established on paper and thought through considerably and then revised. Once construction begins the effort is usually smooth.

So the question once again is "what's holding you back?" My current antenna project is a very much improved 160 meter transmit antenna.

Now that summer is technically over and we're moving in to fall and the 2017-2018 contest & DX season you still have time to finish whatever is in your head to get ready but "START IT NOW!" otherwise the DXpeditions will be on and you won't be in the log. There are a couple of opera-

tions coming up that you do NOT want to miss. Unless you're Landon, AF50D, or some of our younger members we won't see another operation from these areas in our lifetime! By the way, that is no excuse for you younger members to sluff off here because there is no guarantee no one will ever go back to these locations.

Some of you have expressed an interest in visiting my station to see the array of 160 meter receive antennas I currently use. I have spent a great amount of time designing, laying out, building and writing about these over the past 10 years. Joe, my buddy who cuts hay on our land started his fall cutting early this year, thanks to all the rain we've enjoyed this summer, so as soon as he gets all of his equipment moved out and I do some periphery bush hogging and clean up I'll be getting the three 8 vertical arrays and the 9 vertical array back out and set up so sometime in late October or early November we'll pick a date, maybe two, for those who want to come out for a tour.

Aside from antennas, lets talk about a few ADXA items. Over the past two years we have been successful in reviving our membership and meeting in some areas we have not held a meeting for some time, we revised the website and now have a very attractive presence on the web and we are having technical presentations at our meetings. So that brings me to our newsletter. We have a very attractive newsletter format and we have a very excellent, outstanding and dedicated newsletter editor Glenn, N5RN who does a phenomenal job. But we lack content! Sure the same obstacles with our antenna projects claim victory over our desire and ability to get good articles to Glenn. I am no different. I know I am supposed to write this section and when my deadline is way before Glenn sends out the reminder but here I am at the last minute, holding him up! Rick, AI5P, sends in some very nice articles about his operating adventures and those are greatly appreciated. Don't think you have anything to contribute? I am always very interested in what others have done, successful or not, because it provides an additional layer of experience that we may not have endured and can help us in avoiding some complications or mistakes when we undertake a project.

So let's discuss the newsletter at our upcoming meeting and set some guidelines and get some commitment on articles.

I want to thank Ken, K5ALQ, for hosting our meeting. I very much look forward to seeing each of you there.

73 Joel W5ZN
ADXA President

Our DXCC Program and Why Its Integrity Matters

Dave Norris, K5UZ

The recent decision of the Awards Committee and the abrupt subsequent reversal of the entity status of KH4 and KH7 highlighted a weakness within the DXCC program administration and adjudication as it stands. The Awards Committee adjudicated on Midway and Kure without the requisite consultation of the DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) as per the Awards Committee standard operating procedure (SOP) as written. In fact, the DXAC Chair, Gary Jones, W5FI was notified only hours ahead of the public edict from HQ as was the entire ARRL Board of Directors. Many viewed this as a mistake or an incorrect ruling as nothing had really changed on the administration of either Kure Is. or Midway Is. as correctly pointed out by past DXCC Manager and fellow ADXA member Bill, K5FUV. The Board and HQ Management intervened and the decision was quickly reversed; however, this probably would not have happened had the DXAC and the Programs and Services Committee (PSC) of the Board been consulted and a reasoned dialogue ensued.

I should point out that the Awards Committee decision was not a unanimous vote, and that should have triggered a consultation with the PSC and the DXAC as per the SOP. There are some cut and dried cases that the Awards Committee can and should quickly adjudicate not only with DXCC, WAS, VUCC or contesting in the need for simplification or streamlining an easy, clear-cut process, but nevertheless the SOP of consulting the DXAC or the CAC (Contest Advisory Committee) should be followed as to avoid problems such as the recent KH4/KH7 ruling. A similar situation has now occurred with respect to changes in the general contesting rules again without the advisory committee being consulted or even notifying the Board of Directors. It would not be surprising to see the Board of Directors take steps to prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future, such as issuing a Standing Order requiring consultation with the Board and the appropriate advisory committee.

The second point I wish to address is the current recommendation or tasking from the PSC requesting the DXAC to look at the DXCC Rules on entity criteria. A certain well-known operator and his minions are making a full court press on the ARRL Board and DXAC with respect to a change in the DXCC Rules, specifically to Section II, Rule 1 a. A specific proposal was floated during the July ARRL Board meeting at the PSC. The proposal is a "50% + 1" UN vote count on UN Member State status. I think this was intended as a quick end run around the DXAC through PSC by the proponents of said proposal; however, thanks to three members of this club (K5YY, K5FUV and W5ZN) and the excellent rebuttal drafted by K5FUV helped one director's base an argument for review of this effort and slowed the process. The matter was referred to the DXAC as a formal tasking study as it should be. Again, we need to follow our

SOP's! The DXCC Rules as established in the DXCC 2000 project have been very successful. Do we at some point in time need to change rules with the times? Indeed, yes, and that is why a PROCESS was established.

I and many agree that loosening the criteria on the UN Member State requirements opens the door to too many "non-entity entities" being established from whole cloth simply based on what amounts to a failed vote in the UN General Assembly. This further weakens the integrity of the DXCC Program by allowing the potential for sham entities to be foisted upon us, and we have had enough of those. The DXAC must look at all sides of this argument and render a sound and fair decision, not unduly influenced by one side or the other in the debate.

I do believe the burning impetus behind this rule change effort will resolve itself at some point. The entity currently in question can easily resolve it by an action of its own legislative body; however, that may take more time than some involved want. One answer may be for a modification of the UN Member State rule not based on the lose 50% +1, but rather a UN "super majority" vote say 2/3 +1 or even 75% in favor of UN Member State status. That would be for the DXAC and PSC to debate and establish and I do believe the DXAC recommendation will be reasonable. Again, we must follow the procedures to ensure the integrity of the DXCC Program and we must also be thinking of unintended consequences.

Lastly, on the matter of the integrity of the DXCC Program, I wish to address enforcement of our rules by HQ regarding some apparent abuses and outright cheating going on with respect to remote controlled station networks. HQ Staff has stopped some of the more egregious and blatant cases of these violations when the perp was caught red-handed. However, the problem is greater than an European op using a W6 remote station to work a rare one in the Pacific. By observation I fear the problem is more widespread than some are willing to admit. With some commercial network refusing to give ARRL a log of users, it does make one wonder how honorable their intentions are with respect to the DXCC Program rules and whether this simply facilitates cheating. Not only is this an issue for the DXCC award but also the VUCC and to a lesser extent the WAS award programs.

Up to this point, the ARRL Board has not had much interest in this matter even though most DXCC participants believe this issue should be addressed. The DXAC did give a recommendation on this initially and it was a 200km distance rule for remote stations. The PSC and Board chose to ignore the recommendation of the DXAC in the interest of "progressing technology" and "drawing younger amateurs in to the hobby". It has failed to do either and I contend it has had a detrimental effect on the both DXCC participation and the overall integrity of the program. What will it take to remedy this? It will take convincing the Board, which

by and large does NOT care about this subject, with provable data from the DXCC member participants.

As to a workable solution, there have been many put forth over a wide range of possibilities such as the DXAC recommendation to separate award tracks such as CQ has done. However, this is endemic of this problem and illustrates the challenge of getting a consensus on a remedy. Even the DXAC failed to come to a consensus on the ethics statement revision concerning remote operation, and even if they had come to a recommendation, it probably would have died in PSC due to lack of interest or support. Therefore, until hard data is presented to the Board, this problem will only deepen, but at some point, this must be addressed for the sake of the program's integrity.

We have rules and they must be observed and if need be, enforced by the appropriate authorities in the ARRL. The DXCC Award is the ARRL's premier award, in fact it is amateur radio's premier award and if we wish it to continue as such, we must insure its integrity. It is the integrity of the DXCC Program that has put the DXCC award above all other award programs in world, and I fear it is being compromised.

73 ES DX

DE K5UZ

Card Checking

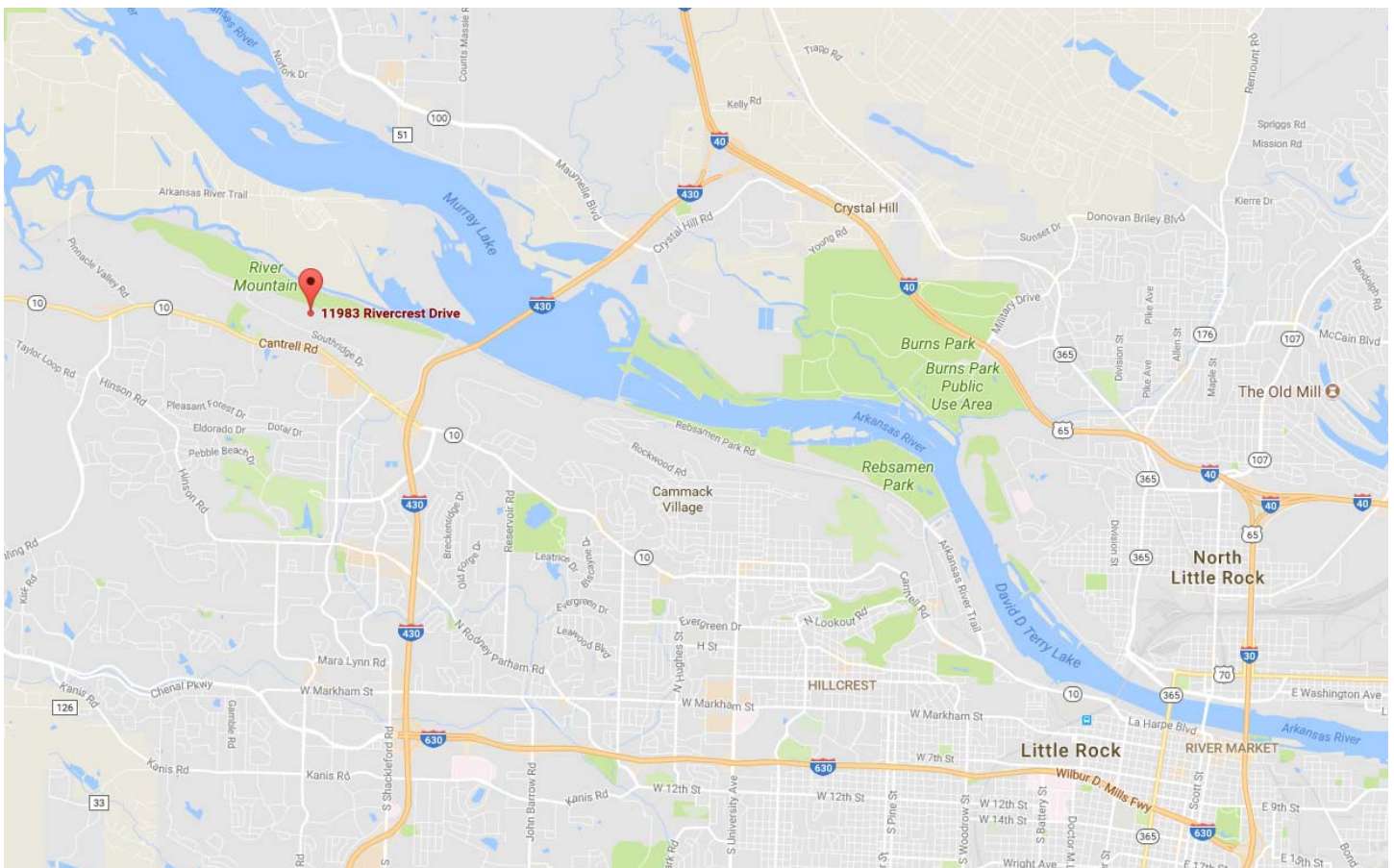
If you have cards that need to be checked, please contact Earl, N5ZM. He will generally be available about an hour before the start of the meeting. Please allow Earl some time to grab a bite to eat before he starts checking cards.

Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—September 16 , 2017

Home of Ken Blevins—K5ALQ
11983 Rivercrest Drive
Little Rock, AR 72212
GPS: 34.8016339,-92.4082906

Meeting Start time is approximately 1:00 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