



ADXA Minutes



Due to the COVID-19 virus it was decided that we would not have a formal second quarter ADXA meeting.

We will evaluate when we get close to the date for the third quarter meeting and make a decision at that time. The decision about the third quarter meeting will be shared via the ADXA reflector.

ADXA Website

[Click here](#)

Card Checking

If you have cards that you need checked contact either

Earl Smith, N5ZM

Roger Gray, N5QS

Rory Bowers, K5CKS

They will talk to you about how to best handle getting the cards to them to check.

Also Earl is a CQ DX Awards Checkpoint if you need cards checked for their awards.



Inside this issue:

From the President	2
Hy-Gain TH11DXX vs Opti-beam 16-5	4
From the QSL shoebox	5
ADXA Membership application	7

Items of Interest

[ADXA Quarterly Meeting](#) — September 19, 2020—Cancelled

From the President

From the President

Joel, W5ZN

When the calendar turns to September my thoughts begin to migrate from a summer time operating mode and family activities toward a focus on the low bands, primarily 160 meters. We've already seen reports on our reflector of some nice propagation to southeast Asia on 80 meters and the low band reflector is starting to come alive with reports of a few EU openings on 160 meters. Does low band propagation only occur during winter months? Obviously, it doesn't however during summer time in the northern hemisphere where a majority of the radio amateur population resides the long daylight hours and heavy QRN during the summer months does not provide much enhancement for low band DX'ing.

I want to thank those of you who have posted DX reports on our reflector. It is important for you to continue to do so as it provides good info for the ADXA folks. Sure, we have packet clusters however those can be quite confusing if you're not filtering out a lot of spots from a large geographical area.

I miss our in-person meetings. It has been a struggle to try to identify an activity for everyone. Sure, we could conduct a "virtual" meeting and something of that nature is still under consideration but frankly a lot of us have already crashed and burned from on-line virtual over exposure! For me, I am sick of virtual happy hours, virtual seminars, virtual birthday parties, virtual church and virtual everything! We're still considering the possibility of a virtual ADXA annual meeting however I'm not sure what that may look like. It seems everyone has held a virtual hamfest or seminar that has been open to everyone and I know a number of you have participated in these. This is very good, but what can ADXA do that is different to add benefit to your amateur radio experience and not simply be "more of the virtual same". So many things in our lives have been cancelled in 2020 let's just hope and pray that 2021 will bring our lives back to as much of what used to be "normal".

If by chance you monitor the ARRL Awards reflector you have seen the intense debate, once again, regarding remote operation and DXCC. Let's be very clear right now. I'm not aware of anyone within ADXA or the DX community that is opposed to the use of a remote station. It isn't new and they have been around for quite some time. What generated a fierce feud among DX'ers is when commercial businesses began offering a "pay to play" service. I have no real issue with this. What I have a personal issue with is utilizing a remote station in order to obtain a propagation advantage beyond what you would normally have from a single location. In other words, using a remote station on the east coast to work Europe and Africa and then a remote on the west coast to work southeast Asia and the pacific. If I were not solely focused on 160 meter

From the President (continued)

DX'ing right now would it matter to me? Well, I honestly don't know. What I do know is propagation shopping" with remote stations is real on 160 meters and my personal observation is that it is out of control. The use of remote receivers outside the US is even worse. Any change to the DXCC rules will be complicated and problematic. Why? Because the opinions and beliefs regarding any DXCC rules change range from the extreme liberal to the extreme conservative and there doesn't appear to be any middle ground. Sound familiar? It has always been said that amateur radio is a snapshot of society! So where does this leave us? One suggestion that has been "floated" is for ARRL to offer an endorsement to your DXCC for a "Single Location". In other words, if you made all of your DXCC credited contacts from a location within some specified radius then by attesting to such you can receive recognition for having made all of your DXCC credited contacts from one location. This is just an one idea and there have been several. Will any change be made to the DXCC rules? These decisions are for the Programs & Services Committee of the ARRL Board, and the ARRL Board, to sort out. Our DX Advisory Committee member for the ARRL Delta Division is ADXA member Steve, N4JQQ. Steve has been very active and directly involved in the debate as has our ARRL Delta Division Director and ADXA member Dave, K5UZ at the Board level. We'll see what becomes of this most recent debate, if anything.

So, what is my advice to each ADXA member regarding remote stations and the DXCC rules? DXCC is the most prestigious operating award in amateur radio. The fact that you have qualified for DXCC is an extreme honor you should be proud of. It documents commitment. Commitment to learning how to build your own effective station, developing a station plan and implementing that plan. Commitment to learning how to operate that station on the air effectively and efficiently by listening, listening and then listening some more. And most importantly, a commitment to ethics. These are all SO MUCH MORE important that simply whipping out a credit card and buying a few minutes of air time on a commercial station. Be proud of your station and your accomplishments, ADXA!!

Sadly, the pandemic has taken its toll on DXpeditions. The only major DXpedition planned is JX0X, Jan Mayen, currently scheduled for September-October 2021. ADXA has received a request for funding and currently reviewing the request. This is a very much needed entity so let's hope all goes as planned.

That's all for now. Be safe.

GL es DX

73 Joel W5ZN

Hy-Gain TH11DXX vs Opti-beam 16-5

Comparison between the Hy-Gain TH11DXX and Opti-beam 16-5

Edward Jones, K5EJ

This summer's major antenna project was replacement of a nearly 50-year-old 100 foot Rohn 25 tower that was showing wear with new Rohn 45. The tower originally held a two-meter beam and a M2 6M9KHW 6-meter beam. I considered different options for what to put on this heavier tower. I decided to keep the 6 meter beam, remove the 2 meter beam and add a "backup" HF beam since we should see improved propagation on 10 – 20 soon. I settled on the Optibeam 16-5. I have a second 140 foot tower that holds a Hy-Gain TH11DX and Cushcraft 2 element 40 meter beam. The Hy-Gain beam has been a good performer so I did not anticipate much improvement with the Optibeam. The tower work was expertly done by Roger N5QS and Craig WA5YSD

Comparisons have mostly been on 20 and 17 meters because of summer propagation but the Optibeam is a much stronger performer than the Hy-Gain. Consistently on the order of two S units. Signals that are marginal copy on the Hy-Gain antenna are solid on the Optibeam.

The two antennas are quite different. Here are some comparisons:

	Weight	Area	Boom	Type
Hy-GainTH11DX	88 lbs.	12.5 sq. ft.	24 ft.	Log yagi
OptiBeam 16-5	165 lbs.	23.7 sq. ft.	33 ft.	Yagi

I was surprised at the improvement in signals on the Opti-beam because of a prior experience. Years ago I had a Sommer log periodic on the 100 foot tower. I ran across a 20 meter long boom (like 70 feet) monobander that W6KPC was selling and decided to put it up on the 140 foot tower. The performance difference between the two antennas was not significantly different even on long haul marginal path DX. Long path contacts predictably showed the largest improvement with the monobander.

I would look at both of these antennas if you are in the market for a multiband beam. The TH11DX has worked well for me and has stayed up for the last 15 years. That's a lot of wind and ice! It is less expensive than the Optibeam and doesn't require a crane to get it on the tower. On the other hand the Optibeam looks to be a significantly better performer.

Good DX

EJ K5EJ

From the QSL Shoebox

Rick, AI5P

Two of the deleted countries (yes, called countries back in the day!) that some of our more experienced (read really Old Timers) members might have in their DXCC totals included vast areas of Africa that later became numerous independent countries. Two countries became twelve!

French West Africa (FF) was a federation of eight French colonial territories: Mauritania, Senegal, French Sudan (now Mali), French Guinea (now Guinea), Ivory Coast, Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso), Dahomey (now Benin), and Niger. The federation existed from 1895 until 1958. Its capital was Saint-Louis, Senegal, until 1902 and then Dakar. The individual countries became independent in 1960. Contacts for French West Africa count if they were made on or before August 6, 1960.

Here is an QSL example for French West Africa:

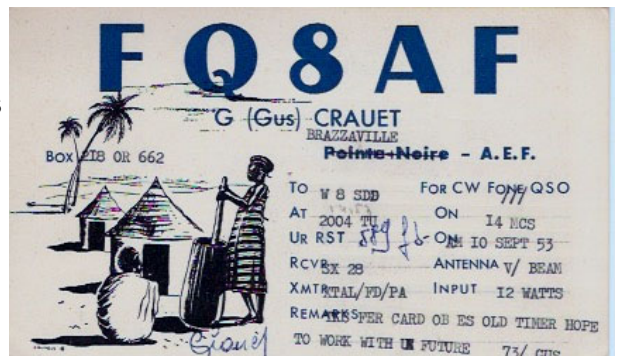
This contact was from FF8AJ in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, with W4GXB on October 30, 1955, on 20 meters CW.



French Equatorial Africa (FQ) was a federation (Afrique-Equatoriale française or AEF) formed in 1910 of three French colonies: French Gabon (now Gabon), Middle Congo (now the Republic of the Congo), and Ubangi-Shari-Chad (now the Central African Republic). Chad was separated in 1920 to form the fourth colony. The Governor-General was based in Brazzaville (Congo) with deputies in each territory. The federation ended in 1959 and all four attained their independence in 1960. Contacts for French Equatorial Africa count if they were made on or before August 16, 1960.

Here is an QSL example for French Equatorial Africa:

This is a contact from FQ8AF in Brazzaville, Congo, with W8SDD on September 10, 1953, on 20 meters CW.



CANCELLED

After several days of deliberation and consideration, the ADXA Board has concluded it is in the best interest of our members to cancel our 3rd Quarterly Meeting that was scheduled for September 19.

It is encouraging to see things opening up in Arkansas and some of the restrictions being lifted however given the general age of our members who attend our meetings, some with serious medical conditions who are not yet being advised to attend social gatherings, we believe it is wise to cancel this meeting.

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