



## ADXA Minutes



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

We will evaluate when we get close to the date for the first quarter 2021 meeting and make a decision at that time. The decision about the first quarter 2021 meeting will be shared via the ADXA reflector.

### ADXA Officers (2021)

**President:** Joel Harrison W5ZN  
**Vice President:** Pat Patterson W5VY  
**Secretary-Treasurer:** Glenn Wolf N5RN  
**Director:** Earl Smith N5ZM  
**Director:** Roger Gray, N5QS

### 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.



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### Items of Interest

[ADXA Quarterly Meeting](#) — December 5, 2020—Cancelled

# From the President

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## From the President

Joel, W5ZN

This section of our newsletter reserved for the association president was once titled “Words of Wisdom”. I opined a while back that I did not believe I had any wisdom to offer so it was renamed to “From the President”, a more appropriate title for my writings. That is especially true for the year 2020 as in no way can I provide any wisdom with regard to what we are experiencing. We just must simply buckle up and get through it!

This is technically our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 newsletter however a number of occurrences have delayed it being issued. Most notably by me. So, with all of the usual opening comments out of the way, where are we as an association of like-minded radio amateurs? Good question.

The most significant impact that 2020 has had on amateur radio DX'ing is the lack of DXpeditions that we rely on to activate exotic locations for us to work. That all but vanished in 2020. We really only saw one DXpedition to Malawi in Africa and that in itself was impacted because two of the operators contracted Covid while there and had to remain in the country longer than planned. Even so, there is a significant amount of DX activity on the bands. Conditions have been fairly good and many of you have posted DX reports on our reflector. Please continue this practice not only because it is beneficial to all of us but also because it maintains our activity as a group.

Now to 2021. We most certainly will NOT hold a 1<sup>st</sup> quarterly meeting in March. What occurs beyond that is yet to be seen although I am optimistic beyond that so we will see.

GL es DX

73 Joel W5ZN

### Remembrances of King Hussein, JY1

Rick, AI5P

Recent articles in a popular amateur radio magazine about Hussein bin Talal, King of Jordan, and amateur radio operator JY1, prompted me to remember my own experiences. I was fortunate to meet King Hussein twice - once in Jordan and once in Tehran, Iran.

When he first came on the air in 1970, I was posted as a Signal Officer to the U.S. Army Mission in Iran/Military Assistance Advisory Group (ARMISH/MAAG) and licensed as EP2DX. According to the magazine article, he came on the air in March, 1970, after being given a radio set by his wife, Princess Muna. He soon became a very enthusiastic amateur and, as you might gather, was greatly sought after for a contact.

Amman only being about 925 air-miles from Tehran, it was certainly much easier for the local EP amateurs to get a contact than many other locales. Checking my log, I see I had my first contact with JY1 on March 20, 1970, on 20 meters SSB. Several additional contacts were made in the ensuing months.

In August, 1971, I had the pleasure of visiting Jordan. I was issued the amateur radio license JY9DX and had the opportunity to activate the call from a station at the Royal Automobile Club. As I recall, it was a British military transceiver (100 watts) with a dipole antenna. Since I was a tourist, I only activated the station a few times between seeing the outstanding historical sites. A photo and QSL of that operation is attached.

Of course, the highlight was being invited to the palace to meet King Hussein. This visit took place at night so I was not able to actually see the palace or the JY1 antennas. Once in the palace, King Hussein was a most gracious host and treated me just like another visiting amateur to one's home. I got to meet Captain Zaza, JY1/B, his military aide that I had also contacted on the air. I visited the JY1 station which had the Drake "Twins." What I remember most at the station was an actual coconut sent to him from a Pacific amateur as a QSL! It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In October, 1971, His Imperial Majesty Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran, hosted the celebrations of the 2,500-year anniversary of the founding of the Imperial State of Iran and the Achaemenid Empire by Cyrus the Great. The intent of the celebration was to demonstrate Iran's ancient civilization and history and to show-

## Rick Harris—AI5P

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case its contemporary advances. It was attended by Royalty, Viceroy, Presidents, Prime Ministers, and others. The festivities were held at the ancient site of Persepolis (the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire near Shiraz) and has been described as the most expensive party ever held - estimated \$ 17 - 22 million! For an interesting read on this event, see Wikipedia's "2,500-year celebration of the Persian Empire."

When the Amateur Radio Society of Iran learned that King Hussein would be attending the festivities, we approached Iran's Post and Telegraph to issue him a license - EP1JY. This request was granted and we were fortunate that King Hussein was able to fit in a meeting with local amateurs during his time in Tehran. Attached are two photos of that meeting:

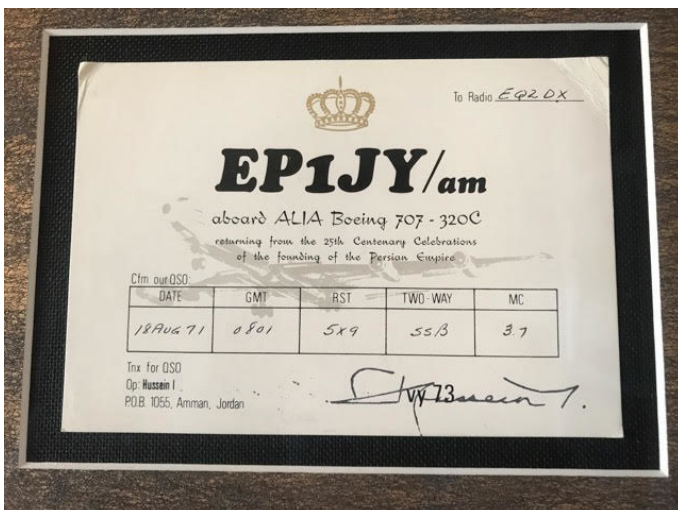
1. Presentation of the EP1JY license to King Hussein
2. JY1 with Iranian amateurs: Left to right: Wolfgang, EP2WB; Rick, EP2DX; Bill, EP2FB; Karla, EP2KH, Hussein, JY1/EP1JY; and Rosie, EP2YL

As you know, King Hussein was a keen sportsman, pilot, and amateur. When he departed Iran to fly back to Jordan, he got on the air as EP1JY/am while piloting his Boeing 707. I'm not sure how many contacts he made, but I was fortunate to make a contact and receive a special QSL. My EQ2DX call was used as the "EQ" prefix was authorized in conjunction with the celebrations.

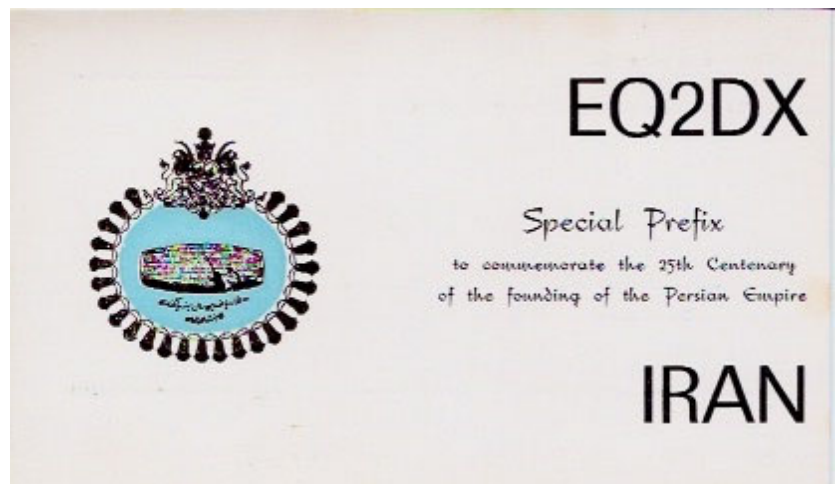
I'm sure many ADXA members who had the opportunity to contact JY1 will remember his great enthusiasm for amateur radio. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the pleasure of meeting this truly remarkable gentleman and fellow amateur.

Rick AI5P

## Rick Harris—AI5P







### Do You Really Know What Your Software Is Doing Behind Your Back?

John Evans, WB5BHS

If Not, Then Maybe You Should....

All Software Packages that you load on your computer, either free or purchased, comes with a EULA (End User License Agreement). Some are included in the software's user documentation, others are part of the installation process, you have to agree with the EULA Statements before you can proceed with the installation. Most folks just click "I agree" and continue with the installation without ever reading a word. In the future you might want to take a few minutes to glance over the License you have said you fully understand and agree to. Especially in the area of who can be held accountable for improper use of the software. More on this a little later.

A couple of months ago some Arkansas Amateur Radio Operators took advantage of the Perseid Meteor Shower. There are many articles, books and research papers containing additional information that is available on the Internet.

Communications using Meteor Bursts or Meteor Scatter are not new. The US Military and Amateur Radio Operators have been using Meteor Burst Communications since the 1960's.

During the month of August we experience the Perseid Meteor Shower. As the Meteors enter Earth's atmosphere you can sometimes see the Meteor's trail of ionized particles in the E Layer. This event can last from a few seconds to nearly a minute. But there is a lot more to this event than the visual delight. We, as Amateur Radio Operators, have the ability to bounce our signals off this trail of ionized particles to extend our communication range on VHF frequencies. This allows us to communicate to areas of the US and other parts of the world on 6 Meters that would not be possible under normal conditions.

Up until a couple of years ago communicating via Meteor Scatter or Meteor Bursts required a lot of skill, some special equipment and above all extreme persistence. This all changed with the introduction of the WSJT-X software package written by Joe Taylor, K1JT. This single software package has allowed many Amateur Radio Stations using minimum equipment to communicate using mediums that were next to impossible just a few short years ago. Mediums such as EME (Earth-Moon-Earth or Moonbounce) and Meteor Scatter are only a couple. WSJT-X is a software package that supports several different modes of communications such as JT65, FT8, FT4, MSK144 along with many others. In the name WSJT, WS stands for Weak Signal and JT stands for Joe Taylor, K1JT.

Using WSJT-X Software and the MSK144 Mode allows Meteor Scatter Communications to be possible with a very minimal station. The MSK144 mode was designed for Meteor Scatter Communications. MSK in MSK144 stands for Minimum Shift Keying.

The early hours of August 12th, 2020 was the peak of the Perseid Meteor Shower. George, WB5JJJ, worked several stations on 6 Meters with no effort. I worked a station in Michigan on 6 Meters using my 40 Meter Dipole Antenna. The conditions were amazing. It is easy to see how some stations have their Worked All States award on 6 Meters with the help of the Meteor Showers. The band was full of stations giving the specific 6 Meter frequency of where they were monitoring.

The conditions early Wednesday morning was so good that many folks moved to 10 Meters. On 10 Meters the length of communications via Meteor Scatter are longer than 6 Meters and 2 Meters. A lot of Amateur Radio Operators made a lot of contacts on 10 Meters using the MSK144 Mode supported by the WSJT-X software package. Nearly all stations uploaded their logs to many of the online logbook Web Sites in order to get credit for their efforts during this period of low sunspot activity. Most stations bragged about the new states, new countries and new Grid Squares they worked on 10 Meters using this

## John Evans—WB5BHS

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new technology.

Sounds great -- right! Does anyone see the problem so far? Remember the comments about knowing exactly what your software is doing under the hood. The MSK144 Mode of Communications is very complex and math intensive in order to convert extremely weak signals from a very short burst of a tone. You can read an excellent description of the MSK144 Protocol at:

[https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/MSK144\\_Protocol\\_QEX.pdf](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/MSK144_Protocol_QEX.pdf)

Remembering back to the Amateur Radio Technician Class License the FCC has rules about the speed in which data can be transmitted via Amateur Radio. On HF Bands the speed limit is 300 Baud while on VHF and UHF Bands the speed limit is a whopping 1,200 Baud. Well I know many of you Legal "By The Book" individuals have already pulled up the FCC rules and verified this information. In order to save you time searching you can look at FCC part 97.305 (f)(4).

Now at this point, many will say, wheeew, they are under the wire because the FCC considers 10 Meters a VHF frequency and the FCC spells out that 1,200 Baud is allowed on 10 Meters and the even on the frequencies folks were using for the Meteor Scatter Communications in the wee hours of Wednesday August 12th, 2020. So what is the big deal, why spend the time on something that is not a problem.

Well if you read the FCC's full explanation they describe "Symbol Rate" not character speed. In the case of MSK144 the "Symbol Rate" approaches 2,000 Baud, which is not permitted on 10 Meters. The bottom line is that MSK144 is prohibited on 10 Meters and using this mode puts you in violation of Part 97 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The ARRL has filed a request for the FCC to delete the "Symbol Rate" limitations and go with the bandwidth limitation of 2.8 KHz. This request is WT Docket 16-239.

What does all this mean??? First off, know what your software is doing under the hood. While you do not have to have an advanced degree in physics and RF Propagation, you do need to understand the operational parameters of the software and how this fits into the Federal Regulations. Next know the rules and regulations. And finally, support the ARRL in their efforts to get the FCC to change their rules to be more in line with current technology.

A couple of nights ago there was a little activity on 6M using MSK144. Stations from AL were easy to copy in AR. If you are going to try Meteor Scatter communications on 10M please use the JT9G Fast mode supported by WSJT-X and is perfectly legal on 10 Meters.

-John



### **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 4th Quarterly Meeting.

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