



## ADXA Minutes



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

We will evaluate when we get close to the date for the second quarter 2021 meeting and make a decision at that time. The decision about the second 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.



### Inside this issue:

From the President	2
From the QSL Shoebox	3
The Club Log OQRS Service for Your QSL Card	5
Activating SOTA in Arkansas	10
ADXA Membership application	12

### Items of Interest

[ADXA Quarterly Meeting](#) —  
March 13, 2021—Cancelled

# From the President

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## From the President

Joel, W5ZN

March 2021 is a point in time, as it has now been one year since we last met in person. In March 2020 we had a very large attendance at our meeting during the Russellville Hamfest. While the pandemic was in its early stages no one could have predicted the impact it would have on society and our freedom.

It seems politics controls science and the medical industry these days so it is not clear when we will be able to meet in person however I am still optimistic that later this year, either in September but most likely December, we will be able to do so. Let's continue to look forward, and please plan, to attend if it comes to be. At least for the immediate moment I have something to complain about that annoys me more than this pandemic.....the time change to Daylight Savings Time!!!!

For now, Huntsville is moving forward with their hamfest in August. I plan to attend. In addition, W4DXCC is planning their DX convention this September. This has grown to be an excellent DX gathering. The only issue for ADXA folks has historically been the date, occurring on the same weekend as our 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly meeting. This year, it is scheduled for September 24-25, the weekend after our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday meeting date. Kim and I plan to attend and I'm pleased to see movement of the date, for whatever reason, this year. Info is at [w4dxcc.com](http://w4dxcc.com)

This is all good news for in-person meetings, however what about some REAL DX on the air?? The winter low band season was not good. Not because conditions were bad but due to the lack of any DXpeditions. This is the first year since I began working toward my 300-country goal on 160 meters that I have not worked a new one. It is now March and time to take down the RX antennas in the areas where hay is cut and start preparing for summer time activities. I'm stalled at 282 DXCC countries on 160 and wonder if I'll ever make the 300 mark.

Hopefully the world will begin opening up. We have one DXpedition to Cocos-Keeling, VK9CE, scheduled this month that should provide a bit of excitement on the bands and all the talk about improved conditions with the start of Cycle 25 is encouraging. There is plenty of DX on the bands, though, evidenced by the frequent spots and posts that ADXA members place on our reflector. Please continue doing so!

I talk a lot about setting personal goals in your DX pursuit. I have not kept a list of what each of you have achieved however I know many of you have noted hitting a mark in your goal. This is outstanding and leads me to ask "What's your next goal?".

So, please stay focused. I know this is all getting pretty darn old because I'm right here in it with you but let's look especially forward to a possible September meeting and a conference in December. In the mean time

GET IN THERE AND WORK 'EM!

73 Joel W5ZN

### From the QSL Shoebox - Rick, AI5P

Rick, AI5P

Most of our ADXA members will have Kingman Reef confirmed. Certainly a tough place to activate! The reef was discovered by the American sailing Captain Edmund Fanning, who also discovered Fanning Island, in 1798. It was named after Captain W.G. Kingman who visited and described the reef in 1853. It is about 9 by 5 miles in area but with the only dry land area being small and narrow strips composed of coral rubble and giant clamshells about 3-5 feet above sea level.

It was claimed in 1860 by the United States Guano Company under the name "Danger Reef." It was annexed by the U.S. in 1922 and in 1934 the Navy assumed jurisdiction. The lagoon was used in 1937-38 as a halfway station between Hawaii and American Samoa by Pan American Airways flying boats.

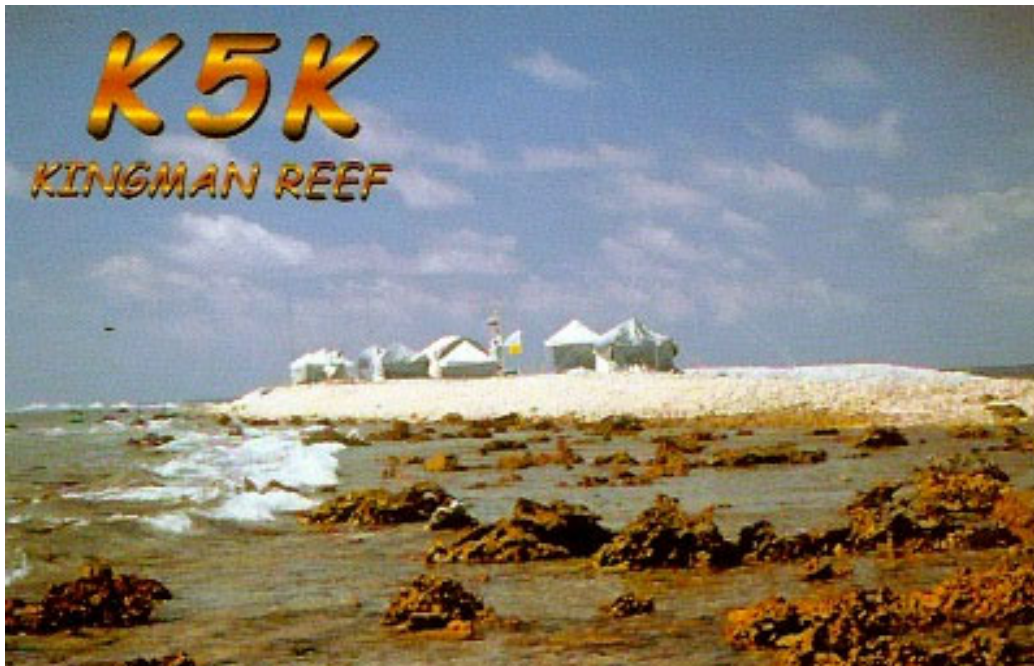
In 2000, the Navy relinquished its control over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2009, Kingman Reef became part of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (along with Palmyra Atoll, Howland Island, Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Johnson Atoll, and Wake Island).

In 1974 the first DXpedition took place as KP6KR and the last operation was by K5K in 2000. The first DXpedition, by today's mega-DXpeditions, was certainly more austere. Four operators, two transceivers, one amp, with two verticals. Only operating 40-10 meters (No WARC Bands then!). They operated for 29 hours and 43 minutes with a total of 5,535 contacts - but I think that's darn good operating!


In 2016, Kingman Reef was placed on the DXCC "Deleted" list. The ARRL deemed it a part of the Palmyra and Jarvis entity due to the proximity of the islands and the common administration of the islands by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Credit for contacts are from March 29, 2016, and before.

The example of the KP6KR QSL is for a contact with K2BT on July 1st, 1974, on 20 meters SSB.

The QSL example from the last Kingman Reef operation in 2000 is for a contact on October 27 with AI5P on 30 meters CW.



Another DX-pedition  
sponsored by:



**NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA DX  
FOUNDATION INC.**

QSL to:  
P.O. BOX 717,  
OAKLAND, CA 94604 U.S.A.

**KINGMAN REEF**  
**KP6KR**

CONFIRMING QSO/S WITH: K2BT

Band MHz	Date 1974	Time, GMT	RST	SSB 2X	CW 2X	
1.8						
3.5						
7						
14	7/1	0255	59	X		
21						
28						

21

### The Club Log OQRS Service for Your QSL Card

Joel Harrison, W5ZN

A couple of years ago I decided to stop using the incoming QSL Bureau, not because of poor service but simply because I had reached a point where I no longer desired to collect QSL cards from DX locations I did not need for my DXCC total. In addition, the increased popularity of LoTW has decreased the need for paper QSL cards for folks all over the world.

A level of interest in paper QSL cards still exists so we're not at a point to completely eliminate paper cards. The dilemma I faced was how to support and manage these requests without using the incoming bureau. Enter the Club Log OQRS service!

I have a Club Log account and I upload a copy of my log to Club Log. Obtaining an account is free, although voluntary contributions are encouraged to support the service. You simply go to [clublog.org](http://clublog.org) and sign up. Once your account is established you can start uploading your log. This is accomplished by simply uploading an ADIF export file of your log. I use DX4Win as my logging program although all of the logging programs today will generate an ADIF file. When I upload to LoTW, I generate an ADIF file and then sign it with TQSL for LoTW upload. After I complete the LoTW upload I simply go to Club Log and upload the same ADIF file. Uploading your log accomplishes two tasks; first it provides data for Club Log to create their "Most Needed List". Second, it provides an avenue for other stations to check your log, just like you do for a DXpedition, to see if they are in your log.

Once your log is uploaded you can set up OQRS for stations to request your QSL card. At the top of the Club Log web page there is a tab for "OQRS". When you select this tab the OQRS page appears where you can set up your OQRS. The process is simple and you designate whether you want to send all requests via the bureau, direct or offer both as an option for the requester. You can set a fee for those who prefer your card to be sent direct rather than through the bureau. The fee you establish for direct QSL cards will be paid through PayPal. For W5ZN, I set a fee of \$1.00 for a foreign QSL card direct request. This is a simple fee and doesn't even cover the entire cost of a global stamp, however I'm not in the business of making money. I just simply want some of the cost offset.

When a DX station requests my QSL card I receive an email from Club Log with the QSO details from the requesting station. I simply note in my log that a confir-



mation has been received, print a QSL label and either place the card in my outgoing bureau stack or, if a direct request, place it in an envelope to mail. If it is a direct request, I also receive a notice from PayPal that I have received a payment.

This increases the efficiency of my paper QSL process considerably. The requesting station does not have to wait for his/her card to be processed through the bureau system to reach me and I don't have to manage a bunch of paper cards I no longer desire to have. It also eliminates my receiving a card from someone who is not in my log!

I have been surprised at the number of QSL requests I receive through the Club Log OQRS system. Obviously, my activity in the major DX contests generates a lot of interest and even more surprising are the few card requests I receive that have already been confirmed in LoTW.

In the two years since I opened the OQRS system for my QSL card I have received a total of 89 requests, 18 of which paid for a direct QSL and two of those added an extra \$2.00 donation! For those who request my card to be sent via the bureau, I keep the cards in a stack and then send them to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau twice per year, on July 1 and December 31.

The Club Log OQRS system has made my response to paper QSL card requests more efficient and is so much simpler than working through a stack of cards from the bureau. If you're interested in establishing an OQRS account for your station and encounter any issues in setting it up, just drop me a note and I'll try to help.

### Activating SOTA in Arkansas

By Bruce Plantz, K9OZ

K9oz@comcast.net

On a fall late morning in the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas, the sun is finally burning through the haze. I've driven for a couple hours, hiked about a mile and half up an abandoned jeep trail and am now at the remains of an old fire tower site. I spend 10 minutes setting up my antenna and station and put out a CQ SOTA on 20 meters. It takes a minute for the Reverse Beacon Network report to get to the SOTAWatch spotting site, but when it does, I suddenly have a small pileup.

I work through it in about 20 minutes, snagging contacts from coast to coast, a couple Europeans and a couple of friends on summits in Georgia and Colorado. I shift to 30 meters and work another 10 or so, then to 40 meters for the close-in chasers. At the end of the hour I have 42 contacts in the log. It takes me 5 minutes to tear down and pack up, and I head back down the mountain after spending a few minutes looking around and finding a couple of nice views through the trees. It has been another successful day on my journey to Mountain Goat.

If running a small pileup on with a QRP radio and a wire strung in the trees sounds like a perfect ham radio morning to you, read on.

The Summits on the Air Program originated in the United Kingdom in and has grown to a worldwide fraternity of hams who enjoy the outdoors and portable operating. SOTA has taken off in the United States in the last 10 years.

We are lucky to live in Arkansas, a state with hundreds of hilltops that are classified as SOTA summits. Some are easy drive ups like Mt. Nebo or Rich Mountain where you can sit at a picnic table in the shade, others are drive ups with small hikes, some are accessible by car on National Forest roads and get you to some of the nicest vistas in Arkansas, some are a reasonable hike up an old Jeep trail, some are bush-whacks up a hill only to be attempted in winter and many aren't accessible to any but hard-core hikers. I'm no spring chicken, but I've been able to make it to the top of roughly 40 summits in Arkansas and neighboring states. At present, I am the only Arkansas ham who is activating summits, meanwhile hams come from all over the country to explore the Ozark and Ouachita summits. I'm trying to spread the word on SOTA to other hams in Arkansas.

So what does it take to activate a summit? Not much. My first summit was Mount Magazine. I went up with my Elecraft KX-1 and a Ventenna vertical I used for motel portable operating when I travelled for work. I made over 20 contacts and was hooked. I've since evolved to a KX-2 or MTR4 and have upgraded my antennas to a Par end fed 40 meter or a linked dipole for 40, 30 and 20. It's like everything else in ham radio, there is always something new to try and something more to learn. With nearly 120 summits under my belt, I'm still improving and still learning from mistakes.

So you're interested. Where do you start? Start with the [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk) There are links to maps, spotting, and a wealth of information. Another great resource is at [www.sotl.as](http://www.sotl.as) that combines many of the resources into an easy-to-use format. It even has a great map that shows the summits in Arkansas with links off to more information on each summit and often tips on how to access.

Before you go, take a few minutes and register with SOTA. This will let you post an alert or spot. Self spotting is permitted and encouraged in sota. On CW, if you post an alert and your CQ is heard on RBN it will automatically show up on the SOTA spots. Once you are spotted, be ready for the small pileup. The

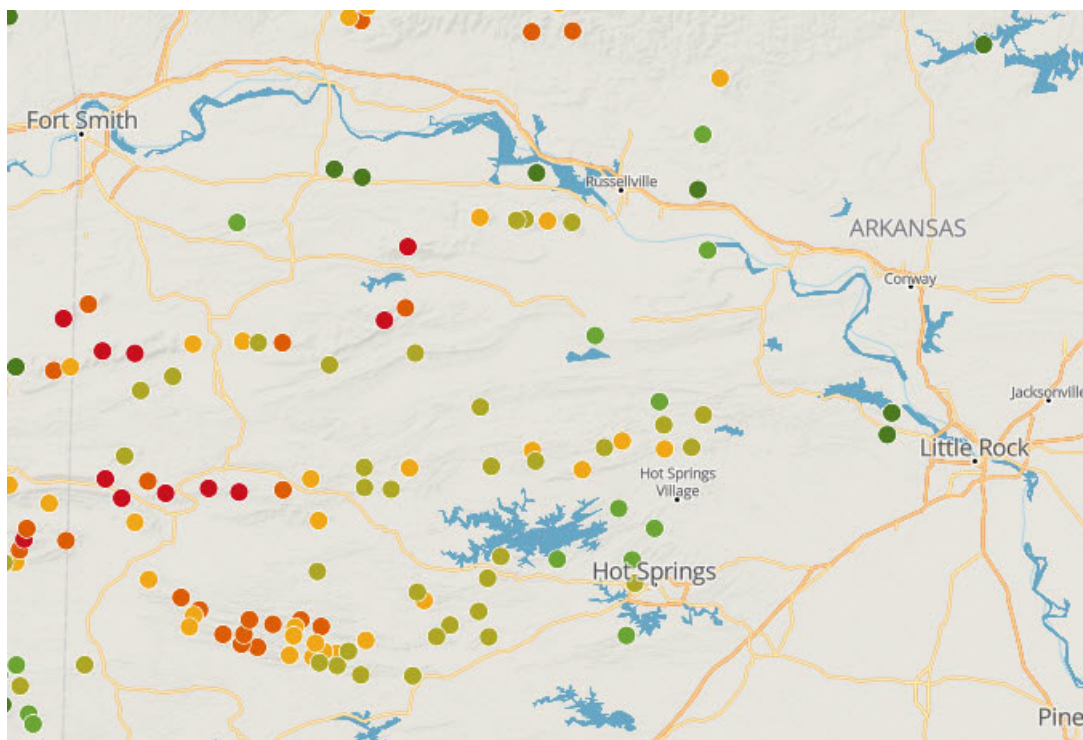
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SOTA chasers are generally top-notch operators and you even get real signal reports. Know the designation for your summit (Magazine Mountain is W5A/MA-001) although you only need to exchange signal reports. I also recommend chasing a couple activators before you head out. You can see the spots on [www.sotl.as](http://www.sotl.as) and it doesn't take long to figure out the routine. 20 meter CW is the most popular SOTA band with 30 and 40 also offering good results. You can find SOTA activity nearly every day around noon around 14.062, 10.112, and 7.032. I have made one SSB and one 2 meter FM contact on SOTA, so I know it's possible, but can't offer much advice on those modes. I'm a CW guy.

I've also gotten hooked on chasing the other activators from home. It's good practice digging out the weak signals.

If you have questions, feel free to contact me directly. When the pandemic is over and clubs are having meetings again, I'll be glad to make presentations on SOTA in Arkansas.

So don't be afraid to give SOTA a shot. But be careful, you might end up getting hooked on it like I did.



Sotamap

The Ouachita and southern Ozarks are filled with SOTA summits.





### Petit Jean

It doesn't take much radio, or battery, to get on the air and even work DX from a summit.



K9OZ/p on the top of Petit Jean Mountain.

### **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 1st 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