

ADXA Minutes



PROMOTING DX AND DXING THROUGHOUT ARKANSAS

ADXA Quarterly

The fourth quarter meeting of the ADXA was the 50th Annual Convention held at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, AR. Those that signed the sign in sheet include: Robert Love—KE5FNA, Charles Tillotson—W5NX, David Norris—K5UZ, Dennis Schaefer—W5RZ, Dawn Gray - N5QT, Roger Gray - N5QS, San Hutson—K5YY, EJ Jones—K5EJ, Frank Kollatt - W5BPT, Jay Bromley—W5JAY, Kathy Bromley—WQ5T, Frank Fahrlander—N7FF, Pat Patterson—W5VY, Glenn Holmes—N5KLE, Earl Smith—N5ZM, Bruce Plantz—K9OZ, Glenn Wolf—N5RN, and J Ferguson—N5LKE. Guests include Shane Driskill—KG5SRO, Carl Luetzelschwab—K9LA, Bob Allphin—K4UEE, Ron Evans—K5XK, Mark Whatley—K5XH, John

Bryant—N5SU, Glenn Kilpatrick—WB5L, Burt Bates—WA5RN, Robert Tiller—AE5YG, Keith Miller Sr—N9DGK, Ed Hudgens—WB4RHQ, Madge Kollatt—K5EFA, John Piette—K9UNY, Nick Kennedy—WA5BDU, John Landri-gan—KA4RXP, and John Evans—WB5BHS.

President W5ZN called the business meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A motion was made by N5ZM to dispense with the reading of the meeting minutes and accept them as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and carried. N5RN gave the Treasurer’s report. N7FF made a motion to approve. W5VY seconded and the motion carried.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

A slate of officers was presented: W5ZN as President, W5VY as Vice President, N5RN as Secretary/Treasurer, N5ZM Executive Board member, and N5QS as Executive Board member.

K5YY suggested that in future elections we consider an at large member of the board. Northwest Arkansas should be represented. Would like it if we would vote on the office individually. This proposal will be considered for next year’s officers/board. K5UZ motioned that nomination cease. W5BPT seconded. The proposed slate of officers were elected.

The executive committee made a recommendation that we provide another donation to the Bouvet DXpedition. It was presented to the member-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue:

From the President	3
The Disappointment of Bouvet	4
Activating Toltec State Park	5
Directions to March 3, 2018 ADXA Meeting	8

Items of Interest

[ADXA Quarterly Meeting](#) — Russellville Hamfest; Forum at 11:00A; Meeting at 1:00 PM

(Continued from page 1)

ship and was approved. K4UEE spoke to the group thanking us for our continued support and ADXA will get a banner to K4UEE to display.

Other Business

K5YY asked to address the membership. San said he likes what he sees going on with ADXA. It was “worth the drive” from northwest Arkansas. San asked to make K4UEE a lifetime honorary member of ADXA. N7FF seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

2018 Meeting dates:

March—March 3, 2018—Russellville Hamfest

June—Bill Priakos—possibly in Fort Smith

September—To Be determined.

W5ZN reminded everyone that the DX Hog award is being resurrected.

K4UEE, K9LA and Ed Hudgens WB4RHA were presented with an Arkansas Traveler Certificate.

N7FF motioned that we adjourn the meeting. K5UZ seconded and the business meeting adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Below: K4UEE talking about 3Y0Z Bouvet DXPedition

Right: K9LA discussing propagation and Solar cycle 25

Right lower: WB4RHQ, K9LA, and K4UEE receiving Arkansas Traveler certificate.



From the President

Joel Harrison—W5ZN

What's in your wallet?

That, of course, is that tag line catch phrase of Capitol One in advertising their credit card however if you stop and think about it, the application to your DX station and capabilities is quite appropriate.

What's in your DX Wallet? – Do you have an effective antenna for every band? Your answer is most likely “define effective”. Of course, that can cover quite a broad area. I have had success with a simple dipole while other times a 5 element beam seemed deficient!

So what does that mean? I need a bigger amplifier? Higher power can help although an increase in power to a poor antenna doesn't provide much of an advantage.

OK, so just what the heck are you getting at ZN? Good question, even if I asked it myself! I'm referring to skill.....proficiency and experience. You don't just wake up one morning and Mr. Spock performs a Vulcan Mind Meld on you and you have it. You gain it from being on the air listening to successful stations and learning their techniques. You gain it from reading about propagation and then being on the air and experiencing, putting in to practice, what you have read. You gain it from asking question of radio amateurs who have been successful and accomplished something.

I like to ask a lot of questions. Some of them have been pretty simple and seemed pretty stupid at times but guess what? I got an answer and whether I received a very intelligent straight answer or a stupid answer to a stupid question it allowed me to assess that response and apply it to the other input I had received and come to my own conclusion I would then put in to practice. That result is experience that will prove whether your assessment was correct or not. If so, GREAT! If not, reassess.

Don't be a “spoon feeder” and have someone do all of this for you. Get off your butt, put forth the effort and learn this yourself. I'm talking about self-improvement and you gain that from experience, not from goofing off.

I've had my ham ticket now for 47 years. I don't have the same station or apply the same operating techniques that I did then.....or even 10 years ago. Those have evolved, not because technology changed although that certainly is a contributing part, but because I have gained knowledge through experience.

So I'll asked the question once again “Just what the heck are you talking about ZN?” and that is very simple. Please take advantage of every opportunity to increase your understanding and experience in some technical aspect of amateur radio and DX. ADXA has a member reflector available for you to ask questions and we have a large group of folks that most definitely will provide input.

Get on the air and listen to DX stations. Even if it is a station close down in the Caribbean. A lot of those stations are well known U.S. DX'ers and testers down there on vacation or for a contest and by simply listening to them you can pick up a lot of useful operating techniques.

We are now edging in to late February and about to enter March. We have definitely had a winter in Arkansas this year. I love winter for one reason (and one reason only) and that is the low band season. In the late spring, summer time and early fall the daylight hours are long reducing the nighttime propagation and the QRN is usually atrocious in the northern hemisphere. I take down all of my receive antennas in mid to late March and store them in my shop so a farmer can cut hay on my land. Then in the fall, usually by November 1, get them all out again. This has been a good low band season. Conditions weren't anything special to speak of however a number of stations came on that I needed and I was able to pick up 9 new DXCC countries on 160 meters that brings my total to 260 on the band. I also picked up two new ones on 80 meters. One of those was the new country of Kosovo although that wasn't particularly spectacular. The really nice one I snagged on 80 this year was VU2CPL in India. Now to get him on 160!

I have 39 CQ Zones on 160. VU is in the last CQ Zone (Zone 22) that I need on 160 and I will have worked all CQ zones on each HF band.

The 2017/2018 contest season is about to come to an end. There are several each year although the “Big 4” are the CQWW Phone & CW and ARRL International DX Phone & CW. The ARRL International DX Phone contest is the weekend of March 3. It starts Friday evening at 6:00 PM local time and ends at 6:00 PM Sunday evening. If you're not a CW person or a CW person looking for a few new countries get on and tune around.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at our meeting March 3 in Russellville.

73 Joel W5ZN

The Disappointment of Bouvet

Joel, W5ZN

No one can be more disappointed about the aborting of the Bouvet DXpedition than the folks working to activate it. Just imagine being on a ship in VERY rough seas out in the wide open south Atlantic and battling sea sickness 24 hours a day, then arriving at your destination only to still be confined to the ship while looking out at Bouvet so close it seemed you could almost touch it, then having to abort and return to Punta Arenas.....then doing so with only one engine and traveling at 5 to 6 MPH, a little less than half their full speed capability, through the rough seas once again. Then you must change course and head toward Cape Town, South Africa! Once they arrived in Cape Town they had been on the boat for 31 days.....stop and think about that for a moment. Over four weeks of what must be hell to most of us.

There has been a lot of misery in activating DXCC countries over the history of the program, one particular event caused the death of a radio amateur when their boat was attacked by the military of a hostile country that claimed the disputed area as theirs.

Over the past several years these big, massive projects have been highly successful and we most likely have become complacent with our expectations. For those of you who attended our 50th Anniversary Convention in December you heard Bob, K4UEE tell about all the possible perils of a trip such as this. Bob was on that boat, along with a lot of others who are personal friends of mine so while I am disappointed my level can't begin to match theirs. I am grateful for their safe return to Cape Town.

In the coming days and weeks we will hear more about their voyage and also plans to try again.

What drives a person to make a trip like this? Beats me but what drives a person to sit up all night waiting for that 15 second burst of propagation to work a new country? It is for pride of accomplishment.....being successful from a station that you built, not something you whip out a Mastercard and paid for via a commercial service.

No Bouvet, so time to move on to other non-radio things??? ABSOLUTELY NOT! There is a ton of DX on, especially a brand new DXCC entity with Kosovo Z6. You need to work those guys! 3B7 and KH1 are coming up a bit later.

P29VXG popped up on 160 meters this month for a 7 day run so while I'm disappointed about Bouvet I was still able to put a new one in the log on 160 meters!

DXpeditions come and go and if you have been in this game very long you know the excitement of today's major DXpeditions will become just a memory of tomorrow. Get on the air work some DX, be proud of what your very own station that you built can do!

As I noted, I know most of these guys personally and they WILL be back. I believe it took them 3 attempts to make it to Peter I and they finally did!

GL es DX

73 Joel W5ZN

Activating Toltec Mounds State Parks

Glenn, N5RN



For years I've seen signs to Toltec Mounds State park but never took the time to "get off the beaten path" to visit the park. A good friend of mine that I met at an ADXA meeting years ago, Rick Harris – AI5P, started activating some parks in New Mexico where he moved a few years back. I thought to myself, "That would be fun I think". It gets me outdoors doing something and it involves my favorite hobby – Amateur Radio. I wouldn't call it a New Year's resolution, but I decided around that time that I would get out and activate a state park. I decided to activate Toltec Mounds state park. Why? It was close. It was a park that I've wanted to visit for years. And I wanted to see if I could pull all the pieces together to make it happen.

I chose January 20, 2018 as the date I would activate the Toltec. The bitter chill of winter had loosened its grip on Arkansas and it was supposed to be dry. I spent a few days gathering up equipment and making checklists. I tested the equipment the best that I could (do you ever test things enough?) and began loading up the car. I pulled out of my driveway about 1315Z in the morning. As luck would have it, Shane – KG5SRO was up and about and was on a local repeater. After a bit of talking on local repeater we moved to the repeater at White Bluff (147.195+) and continued to visit. Well as it turns out I was able to visit with Shane all the way to Toltec.

When I got to Toltec, I parked my car in the second to last space in the parking lot. I figured I could use the last space as a setup spot. Which is pretty much what I did.

As I began unloading the trunk, pulling out the generator, the table and chair I saw a park ranger headed my way. "Oh gee. What's this gonna be about" I thought to myself. The ranger was very pleasant and asked me what I was doing. I began explaining what Parks on the Air was and what I was setting up. She thought I was going to be "broadcasting" and was very nervous about giving me the okay to do that. I explained that I wasn't going to be broadcasting but she didn't seem convinced. She asked if she could check with her supervisor before I did anything more. I said "Sure no problem. I would wait to her back from you". So setup was on hold until I heard back from the Ranger. While I waited I found out that I had enough cell services to get on to Facebook and the POTA group and mention my problem. It apparently is NOT uncommon. Each park is different on what they will let you do but it seems that all parks will try to accommodate the POTA activity. About twenty minutes later the Park Ranger came back and said that her supervisor was fine with what I was doing. In fact, she said "Thanks for activating us. I'm glad we are a park that someone wants to operate from". She was very pleasant throughout the whole process. Thumbs up to the Rangers!

I continue my setup. Everything went pretty well. Setting up Buddipole was the most time-consuming part of the process. It had been years since I had played with the Buddipole so I forgot most of what I had learned in setting it up. I was planning on working on 14.250 so I had to play with the Buddipole a bit to get the SWR down to about 1.2 or 1.3 to 1 on 14.250 MHz. I got it pretty close with it resonant at frequency of 14.246 MHz according to the analyzer.

I fired up the rig and called CQ a couple of times and K7SEN answered my call. I couldn't believe the rush I got from making that contact. It might as well have been North Korea. There is no doubt my excitement

(Continued from page 5)

came through in our QSO. I will always remember that contact. I got a 55 to 57 signal report which is great for the setup. Thanked Neil for the QSO and went on to call CQ some more. The contacts didn't come as quickly as I hoped but I was able to snag a couple of Canadians and someone from New Hampshire. So, the antenna was working. I was optimistic.

With the benefit of being able to get into a repeater, KG5SRO said he couldn't hear me (in the skip zone most likely) but he could hear others calling me. He told me that he heard several others calling for me. But I could not hear them. I texted N5ZM and he said, "you need some ears you have a pile up". "Oh Wow!" I was excited. When I went back to the radio nothing but static. What's going on? I checked everything again and it all looked fine, but I wasn't hearing anything.

Well about that time the generator ran out of gas. No big deal. I could deal with that. Gassed the generator up and tried to get back on the air. Still nothing. It was a little after 1800Z so I knew the NAQP SSB party had started so I scanned the band. Nothing. I knew I had a problem, but I was at a loss as to what it could be.

I decided to drop down to 40M and see what I might hear there. Same thing. Nothing but static. I was getting a bit frustrated with not hearing anybody. I decided to return to 20M. It took a while because I didn't record the settings of the whips from before (a lesson learned). I finally got everything back to working but I started having the Astron SS-30M shutting down. I moved the Astron away from the RF path and it helped some, but it was still happening too much to my liking.

Given my inability to hear any of the contesters, I decided to call it a day around 2030Z. I packed everything up and started my trip home. I met Shane for lunch and we talked about future activations. Shane seems as excited about doing this as I am. So we will be looking at another activation in the very near future.

I got home and did some research and found that RF getting into the power supply is relatively common problem. The fix is to shorten the cord and/or add some ferrite beads to the leads. I will be likely be doing both before the next activation. As for the radio. It was deaf when I got home, and I had no idea what to try. Rick, AI5P, emailed me and asked how the activation went. I replied telling him the problems /issue I had. He suggested that I check all the filters, noise blankers to see if that helped. Well I decided that I would do a reset of the radio. I then setup an A/B switch so that I could switch between my home rig and the Icom706MKIIg and compare what the radios could hear. After the reset they seem to be very similar in what they can hear. Maybe it helped. I hope so.

Total, I only made 6 contacts. Many would say it might not have been worth the effort. However, I had a great time. Randy and Tonya Geater stopped by and we had a good visit. A little later Rex Parker (W5MPG) as stopped by and we had a good visit. A lady came by and inquired about what I was doing, and she seemed impressed by it.

Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. I can't wait until the next trip to a park!



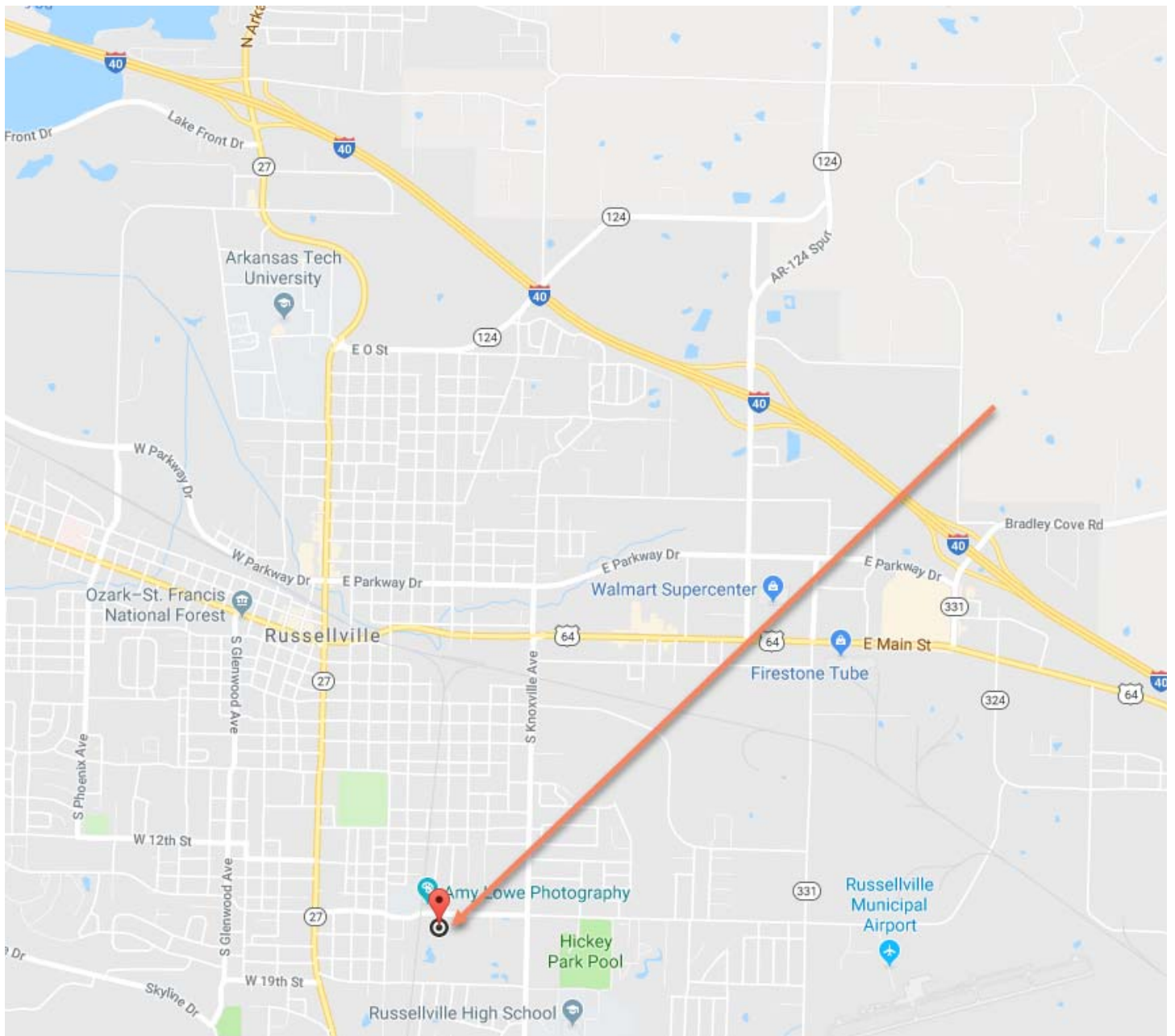
Directions To Next ADXA Club Meeting—March 3 , 2018

Russellville Hamfest

L.V. Williamson Boys & Girls Club of the Arkansas River Valley

600 East 16th St.

GPS coordinates - N35° 15' 49.0" W093° 7' 35.0"




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