

Officers

President: Jay Bromley, W5JAY | Vice President: EJ Jones, K5EJ

Secretary/Treasurer: Glenn Wolf, N5RN

Director: Roger Gray, N5QS | Director: Joel Harrison, W5ZN

Meeting Minutes

The first quarter meeting of the ADXA was held at the Arkansas River Valley hamfest on March 9, 2026. N5RN was unable to attend due to weather concerns. WQ5T was kind enough to take care of taking the minutes and collecting the sign-in sheet. Thank you Kathy!

Those who signed the sign-in sheet were:

Kathy Bromley – WQ5T	Tom Gardner – guest – KB5TBP	Chuck Foley – W5CJF
Joel Harrison – W5ZN	Dennis Schaefer – W5RZ	Steve Rapoport – guest – K5GNH
Kim Harrison – guest	Mark Whatley – K5XH	Bill Priakos – W5SJ
Dawn Gray – N5QT	Tom Northfell – W5XNA	David Middleton – guest – NE5S
Roger Gray – N5QS	Jon Williams – guest – K5DVT	Anita Tienken – guest – AA3AT
Ken Blevins – K5ALQ	Mark Graves – K5OO	Shirley Tienkey – guest – KF5SBG
Randy Curtis – W5ZJ	Ed Burris – WA5SOG	Stan Stockton – K5GO
Jay Bromley – W5JAY	Jon Reynolds – KI5UCZ	Jim Roughley – K5JUC
Charles Singleur – K5CS	Bill Kennamer – K5FUV	Stewart Nelson – guest – KD5CBE
Pat Patterson – W5VY	Bruce Plantz – K9OZ	Chuck Korzendokfer – KM5G
Keith Cook – guest – KK5ZD	John Evans – WB5BHS	Danny Bryant – W5CI
Lynn Reynolds – guest – KA5JSM	Nick Kennedy – WA5BDU	
David Norris – K5UZ	Kelsey Mikel – guest – K5PWR	

Meeting Minutes

as recorded by Kathy Bromley, WQ5T

Meeting called to order by Jay Bromley – W5JAY at approximately 1100

Reading Minutes of the Last Meeting

Move to accept as printed in newsletter – Dave Norris – K5UZ

Second – Bill Priakos – W5SJ

Motion carried

Treasurer Report

Presented by Jay Bromley – W5JAY

Move to accept – Roger Gray – N5QS

Second – Joel Harrison – W5ZN

Motion Passed

New Business

Joel Harrison made a motion that Dennis Schaefer become an Honorary Life Member of ADXA

Seconded by J N5LKE

Approved unanimously

Motion to adjourn – David Norris – K5UZ

Second by Danny Bryant – W5CI

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1110

From the President

Jay Bromley, W5JAY

A few years ago, at the BVRC banquet, I was sitting next to Dennis Tune and his wife. We were visiting, then she tells me that Dennis will go big guns in a new hobby and then switch over to something else. My reply to her, that in DXing (ham radio in general) there is always a new hill to climb and one is never truly finished, unless he or she wants to be finished. That you really never get totally finished and IMHO, that is what the DXCC and DXing is all about. BTW, have a look at Dennis W5DM stats on our ADXA web page. Dennis has been a ham for only a few years now and his DXing statistics are over the top for such a new DXer! Long ago Dennis has passed what took me decades to reach in the DeSoto Challenge. Lately I have noticed that Dennis is going hard in the FFMA.

As I have stated many times before, I got into DXing late in my ham radio career! I've been a DXer for about 27 years now. In other words, I started 27 years late. This makes my 54 year in the hobby if my math is correct. I remember sitting in Jimmy K5JUC's shack in the late 90s looking at his DXCC Honor Roll plaque, 5 Band DXCC, and he also had a World All Zone award on the wall. While looking at each award I remember saying I might could do DXCC Honor Roll, but not the others, especially 5 Band DXCC. Little did I know I would do much more than I ever thought was possible! All of it takes being a good operator, some good antennas, keeping your butt planted in the chair, good propagation and a bit of luck.

I really didn't know if I could get on the DXCC Honor Roll someday or how many years/decades it would take? However, I thought I could certainly do DXCC and that's where I started. I knew DXCC HR would take decades after visiting with Jimmy and some of the Fort Smith DXers. Most of those DXers were number 1 HR or were close to making number 1. What I didn't know at the time, once the DX bug bites you will be a DXer for life! There will always be another hill to climb and DXing is really a lifelong pursuit! When you are in the radio shack, you are always looking for that new one you didn't have before. Even if you are doing something non-DX related.

The DeSoto Challenge

One of the awards that was not on my radar screen was the DeSoto Challenge. That is one of those lifetime awards and one that can last for decades! As most of you know it starts with 1000 DXCC band points. Then you get another medallion every 500 additional band points. It is an interesting award that stops at the last medallion of 3000 band points!

If one does the math, I wonder if they thought anyone would reach the top level (3000 band points) or not? In our ADXA, we have at three DXers in the elite 3000 club and several more that are well on their way or knocking on the door of that 3000 club.

One is our own Vice President K5EJ just made it into that elite 3000 club! By now I am sure you saw that announcement a few months back and possibly congratulated EJ on that outstanding achievement! The other two listed on the ADXA web site, is Rick K5UR and Joel W5ZN. If you look at the members standings on the ADXA web site, they are not stopping at the 3k mark! This was decades of work and being in front of the radio!

What do all three have in common, good operating technique, great antennas and lastly being in front of the radio. Especially during an expedition!

Rick K5UR and the FT8 Revolution

One of those 3000 club operators has found a new hill to climb. He is one that really doesn't need anything DX wise, but found a new challenge mode wise. That is Rick K5UR, and he is really going hard on digital FT8 mode these days and guess what? Being on the FT8 mode for a little over 3 months now, Rick is now nearing 250 countries on that mode and without an amplifier! As many of you that work digital know, FT8 is not just two computers talking to each other! While the computers do the decoding, there is a huge operator involvement or can be!

At our last BVRC meeting, Mercy KJ5EQA, one of our young ops, loves to get on the club station after the club meeting. Her favorite mode seems to be digital. After a few contacts it was time for Mercy to leave, I noticed Rick K5UR had called her. She was using the club station callsign of W5NX. She had to finish up her QSO before she could call Rick. He came right back to her and it was like Rick had been on the FT8 mode for years!

What I thought was cool, Mercy being so young, didn't know who Rick was, LOL. Some old timers came into the shack and I pointed at the log. Seeing Rick's callsign caused a bunch of smiles and then some of them looked a little puzzled as it was an FT8 contact! Then just the other night, my Kathy WQ5T was on 30m FT8 and the same thing happens, Rick calls her and she works him right after finishing up with some op in Europe. Plus, a good LOTW confirmation right after the QSO! If you look at Rick's statistics on our web page, you would swear there is nothing left for Rick to accomplish, but there he is working FT8 like there is no tomorrow. Again, in DXing there is always another hill to climb!

The Journey Continues

Many times, I will look at the membership standings and remember where I was just 27 years ago in Jimmy K5JUC's ham radio shack thinking I might be lucky enough to make DXCC Honor Roll! Now if I live long enough, I might be able to get Number 1 Honor Roll. That is my main hill to climb right now. Time will tell if I live long enough. Even if I check out tomorrow, ham radio and especially DXing is the greatest hobby bar none!

What is your present hill/hills to climb? In the last 27 years of being a DXer, my only regret is not doing it sooner back in 1972 when I first became a licensed ham! Remember, all this is your journey



and you are not in completion with anyone except yourself. When I was a working stiff, when a new expedition would come on, I would at the very least try to work them once and my mode of choice back then was CW!

In the meantime, keep working them! I hope to see everyone at our next club Zoom meeting in June where our guest speaker is Hal Turley W8HC. His topic will be on the 9U1RU expedition. Meeting time and date is Saturday June 20 at 1 p.m. Central time. Details on the next ADXA meeting is on the ADXA web site under "Upcoming Events".

73 de w5jay/jay..

Card Checking

If you have cards that need checked, contact Earl Smith, N5ZM; Jay Bromley, W5JAY; or Roger Gray, N5QS. They will talk to you about how best to get the cards to them for checking.

Silent Keys

ADXA records with sadness the passing of these prominent members, who contributed greatly to amateur radio and our community.

AF5M Paul Wynne	W5GO Ollie Gade
K5CKS Rory Bowers	W5HTY Martin Hankins
K5OVC Lenny Mendel	W5MQ Bennie Tomlinson
KB5DN Melvin Belknap	WB5AAA Jim Barron
KB5RF Harold Wilson	WB6AXD Libby Jacques
N5WJ Jerry Stroud	WA5NFC Joe Swafford
W5BPT Frank Kollatt	KE5PO Stewart Long – Oct 06, 2025

Newsletter Format Change

As you have likely noticed, this edition of the ADXA newsletter is different. You may be wondering why. Turns out that Microsoft is dropping support for Publisher in October 2026. I have been using Publisher since I started doing this newsletter well over a decade ago. I have been using the Office 365 version, and as of October 2026, it will be removed from the Office 365 software list. Microsoft will not be providing any technical support for the Publisher.

I started my search for a replacement product earlier this year and landed on Canva. So far, it has worked well. Bear with me as I make this transition.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the ADXA will be virtual. It will be on June 20, 2026. The Zoom call will open up approximately 30 minutes before the meeting begins. The meeting is scheduled to last from 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

Date: Saturday, June 20, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM Central

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89273165517?pwd=...>

Meeting chat link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/jc/89273165517>

Meeting ID: 892 7316 5517

Passcode: 770284

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,89273165517#,,, *770284# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,89273165517#,,, *770284# US

Join by SIP: 89273165517@zoomcrc.com

Dialing In the Signal

Using AI as a Tool in Amateur Radio

Jon Reynolds, KI5UCZ

There is a version of AI that confidently gives you the wrong answer. Most of us have met it. Ask a general-purpose question, get a general-purpose response — plausible-sounding, fluent, and occasionally just wrong. That experience has led a lot of people to dismiss these tools entirely. I think that is leaving real utility on the table.

The Water Heater Problem

A while back I asked an AI whether putting a timer on my electric water heater would save energy. Initial answer: yes. When I pushed it to work through the actual math, the story changed — the standby heat loss on a modern well-insulated tank is small enough that the energy cost of reheating a cold tank largely cancels the savings. The AI had drawn on general energy-conservation patterns that apply to lights and HVAC, but not to a modern water heater.

Then I reframed the question. I asked it to answer as a home energy efficiency specialist familiar with appliance insulation values and thermal load calculations. The response shifted immediately — it reasoned through R-values, standby loss rates, and recovery loads, and arrived at a nuanced and correct answer.

“The information was always there. Narrowing the field told the AI which part of its knowledge to stand in.”

Applying It to Amateur Radio

The same principle works across our hobby. Last year I used this approach throughout my tower project — a 40-foot Rohn 25G with a Cushcraft A3S tribander. Prompted as an RF engineer familiar with EIA-222 standards and amateur installations, the AI correctly walked through EPA summation for wind loading, flagged that the rotor and mast contribute non-trivial area of their own, and helped me verify the configuration stayed within Rohn’s specs. It also helped sequence the project — identifying steps like pre-testing the rotor and feedline continuity before the tower was vertical, which saved real headaches.

The calculations were right. I verified them anyway against the Rohn spec sheet. That part is non-negotiable.

The Third Level: Your Radio's Own Manual

Here is where it gets genuinely powerful. Beyond framing the AI as a domain specialist, you can upload a PDF — your radio's service manual, the operating guide for your rotor controller, the spec sheet for your amplifier — and ask questions directly against that document. The AI's field of information narrows from all of amateur radio down to exactly your equipment.

I have used this with radio manuals to cut through menu structures and clarify configuration options that the manual describes but does not explain well. It is faster than hunting through a 200-page PDF, and because the AI is working from the actual source document, it is not guessing.

A Word of Caution

When an AI misses the mark, it will say "oopsie." If you miss the mark with AI as your sole engineer, you might need a box of band-aids or a home improvement loan. Recognize the difference!

These tools are not engineers and they carry no liability. They can produce confident, internally consistent answers that are wrong — especially on structural or RF safety questions where the stakes are real. The framework I use: let the AI do the heavy lifting on complex calculations, ask it to show its work step by step, and then verify anything consequential against the primary source. Your Elmer, the manufacturer's spec sheet, or the relevant ARRL handbook should always have the final word when flesh or money is on the line.

Narrow the field. Check your work. Let the machine do the math — and let your experience be the filter.

73 de KI5UCZ

DXAC

Steve Rutelege, N4JQQ

I imagine about every member of the ADXA knows what the DX Advisory Committee is. But, let me refresh everyone's memory. I'll call it the DXAC in the rest of this note.

The DXAC is a committee made up of members, one from each ARRL Division. They are appointed by the Division Director. There are 14 Divisions and an additional member representing Canada.

I am the DXAC representative for Delta Division. There is also a chairman, currently Chris Shalvoy, K2CS. ADXA member David Norris, K5UZ is the board liaison.

Typically, the DXAC receives tasking from the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) which is made up of a standing committee of the ARRL Board of Directors.

The DXAC does not make any rule changes. This has to be done above our level. At times, questions or inquiries from members are discussed but the DXAC cannot make any changes.

However, if the DXAC or one of its members recognizes an issue that should be addressed, a written request or presentation should be forwarded via the Board Liaison. We are not supposed to "self task."

On occasion, an item that is informally discussed makes its way to the general membership. This should not happen. We have infrequently talked to different DX Associations and clubs about a particular subject. Unfortunately, a portion of one discussion was interpreted by someone as a fact and caused significant confusion as it was passed around to members.

The bottom line is that the DXAC is advisory in nature. We discuss issues, provide recommendations, and forward formal requests through the proper chain. Any changes to DXCC rules or policy come from the ARRL Board, not from our committee. I wanted to make sure the membership understands this important distinction.

73 de N4JQQ

Membership Application

Application type New / Renewal

Call _____

License Class _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State / Zip _____

Phone number _____

Email Address _____

DXCC Member Yes / No

Sponsor's Call _____

ARRL Membership Exp. _____

Add to ADXA Reflector Yes

(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 individual | \$35.00 family

Dues can also be accepted via PayPal: send payment to n5rn@adxa.org (select personal tab and mark as gift to avoid surcharge).

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

E Glenn Wolf, Jr., N5RN

210 S Estates CV

White Hall, AR 71602-8216