

April 03, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Amateur radio is a fun and exciting hobby. "Hams" for many years spend money to upgrade their stations with new equipment and antennas to keep up with the latest technology as well as invest in stealth antennas to comply with the endless regulations from homeowner associations. One of the more challenging and rewarding aspects for those who love to chase the DX is obtaining ARRL's DXCC Awards. For the serious DX'er the two most sought-after awards are The ARRL'S DXCC Honor Roll and The Number One or TOP Honor Roll.

For those amateur radio operators striving to make ARRL DXCC Honor Roll with 331 confirmed Q's or even better, 340 confirmed Q's for ARRL DXCC TOP Honor Roll, it calls into question why the ARRL DX Advisory Committee (DXAC) would keep countries on the list that are now impossible to work. Let alone get confirmed. DXCC entities like North Korea (P5), and Turkmenistan (EZ) are two examples where their governments forbid their citizens to obtain licenses to operate amateur radio. If at some point they are worked, then the question arises of how to get legitimate confirmation for the contact for credit towards and ARRL award and to determine whether or not the station is a pirate.

It is believed that there are several thousand amateurs that are one or two countries away from making DXCC Honor Roll, but will never make it because the entities that would qualify them will probably never be obtained due to inactivity. In a lot of cases all that is left for them to obtain is North Korea, Turkmenistan or be lucky enough to work an island (such as Navassa Island) that is activate maybe every ten or fifteen years.

In an article written in the August 2020 Edition of QST magazine, a list of entities that still count for The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) DXCC awards was published, where amateur radio operations have ceased. Examples of these were as long as 18 years for San Felix Island and 11 years for Desecheo Island.

Then there is Bouvet Island where just trying to get there is a potentially dangerous journey. Recently a team has been there within sight of the island and had to turn back because of engine failure on the ship. There are icebergs and the constant change in the climate itself could put the team in danger. Some suggest that if a team got on the island, they may not be able to get off.

Scarborough Reef is another. A rock in the middle of the ocean with scaffolding built on it is now an entity. It is highly unlikely that another team will ever visit Scarborough Reef to operate.

It has become virtually impossible in today's climate to even consider trying to work these stations. Some hams will probably not live long enough for the next DX-pedition to some place like Midway Island, or Navassa Island due to restrictions for permits, funds, transportation, and logistics to operate there.

We believe it is time for The ARRL DX Advisory Committee to (DXAC) re-evaluate the requirements for amateurs to be able to have a prayer of reaching DXCC Honor Roll as the first step on the ladder for DXCC TOP Honor Roll. It is time to put some of these entities where their governments will never license their citizens to operate amateur radio in an "inactive" status effective on a future date and reduce the requirement for DXCC Honor Roll and TOP Honor Roll. If amateurs have worked these countries, they would be grand-fathered and would still count towards the awards. If the political climate changes for these countries, then they would be moved back to the active status. We propose having these lists; Active, Deleted and a third list for INACTIVE.

Therefore, the members of The Virginia DX Century Club (VADXCC) submit the following:

To: American Radio Relay League (ARRL)  
ATTN: DX Advisory Committee (DXAC)

From: Virginia DX Century Club (VADXCC)

SUBJ: PETITION TO SUSPEND INACTIVE COUNTRIES FROM COUNTING TOWARDS ARRL DXCC HONOR ROLL AND ARRL DXCC TOP HONOR ROLL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Virginia DX Century Club (VADXCC) submits the following petition for your consideration regarding countries and entities that are on the ARRL DXCC List, but are all but impossible to obtain legitimate QSO's and confirmation towards ARRL DXCC HONOR ROLL or ARRL DXCC TOP HONOR ROLL.

VADXCC encourages other amateur radio clubs as well as amateur operators who are unable to achieve ARRL DXCC Honor Roll or ARRL DXCC TOP HONOR ROLL due to countries that do not license their citizens to operate amateur radio, or the fact that some entities (such as wild life sanctuaries) on the list that are only accessible to conduct DX-peditions with government permission every 10 years or so to join this petition.

It calls into question why the ARRL would keep some of these entities as a requirement to work as credit for an award, when it is virtually impossible to get a team of amateur radio operators to these sites to operate and in some cases permission to do so.

Where-as amateur radio is a hobby where the airwaves do not recognize borders;

Where-as amateur radio is a hobby that is self-policing, promotes fellowship, and good will regardless of political or religious ideology;

Where-as amateur radio is there when all other commercial communications fail;

Where-as many amateur radio operators use their own equipment and participate free of charge as a public service in providing emergency communications to federal, state, and local governments as well as public service events in their communities;

Where-as ARRL's DXCC HONOR ROLL requires 331 countries or entities from ARRL's DXCC list with confirmed QSO's by legitimate amateur radio operators.

Where-as ARRL's DXCC TOP OF HONOR ROLL requires 340 countries or entities from ARRL's DXCC list with confirmed QSO's by legitimate amateur radio operators.

Where-as certain countries forbid their citizens the opportunity to be licensed to own amateur radio equipment or to operate amateur radio at all;

Where-as some of the entities listed on the ARRL DXCC list are not practical or impossible to get to and set up operations as a DX-pedition;

Where-as some of the entities listed on the ARRL DXCC list are on federally protected sanctuaries for wild life;

And;

Where-as entities that are on federally protected lands require permission, loads of paperwork, transportation, logistics, antenna restrictions such as height and location, time limits on operations, and only accessible every five to ten years between DX-peditions.

Therefore, we the undersigned clubs, hereby request The ARRL DXCC Committee to suspend and designate "in-active" the following countries on the ARRL DXCC List immediately as a requirement to "count" as a means to obtain ARRL DXCC HONOR ROLL or ARRL DXCC TOP OF HONOR ROLL until such time as the government authorities of the countries listed below allow their citizens the ability to obtain a legitimate amateur radio license, allow amateur radio operation under that license and are recognized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Countries that have been placed on the "in-active" list that have been worked by any amateur radio operator and have legitimate confirmed QSO's will STILL COUNT towards the ARRL DXCC HONOR ROLL or ARRL DXCC TOP HONOR ROLL AWARD. Furthermore, we believe that The ARRL DXCC Committee should reduce the requirement to 328 confirmed countries/entities from the ARRL DXCC LIST for ARRL DXCC HONOR ROLL and 337 confirmed countries/entities from the ARRL DXCC LIST for ARRL DXCC TOP HONOR ROLL.

THIS LIST BELOW ARE COUNTRIES / ENTITIES RECOMMENDED FOR THE IN-ACTIVE DCXX LIST:

P5 (P5-P9 and HMA-HMZ) – Democratic Republic of Korea  
EZ – Turkmenistan (suspended since 2006)  
BS7 – Scarborough Reef

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President Virginia DXCC Club

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Date