



AADXA NEWSLETTER January 2003

Well I would like to welcome you back to another exciting issue of our newsletter. I personally would like to thank you all for making this my 4th year on the newsletter and 3rd as newsletter editor. My time flies when you are having fun.

On the club front, we have stirred a lot of feelings with the logo business and other things such as a repeater from REACT of Southeast Louisiana that never came together because they could not produce when we asked them to. Hopefully for the club benefit and our sanity, we can finally get some of these long standing issues resolved and get back to dxing....

On the ham radio front, I included an article about talking on HF digitally... first repeater link, echolink, and IRLP brought no-codes many miles and continents apart together on the local repeater to now experiments with our own forms of wireless internet (see Dec. 2002 QST) and the below mentioned digital hf... my how ham radio has changed in just the past 2 years...

I see Mark has come up with another great editorial, so let me get off the soapbox and finish by saying...

HAPPY HOLIDAYS and MERRY CHRISTMAS from me and the family...

73 Mike KC5OKP

Well It's January again... seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for Christmas and looking forward to the beginning of a New year. I suspect that everyone had written to Santa with their request for the new year. What does the average "ham" want from Santa ? Just browsing through some of the magazines and catalogs I have found many items that I would be proud to own. For example the Yaesu FT-897 for starters, nicely compact with enough bells and whistles for me. Many of you may want some-thing a little more complicated... for you the Kenwood TS-2000, FT-1000MP, the Icom IC-746PRO or the IC-756PRO2. Any of these

would make a GREAT gift (hint,hint).

Maybe its not a transciever you desire, but some other component perhaps.. a tower maybe...? well you are in luck,as there are towers galore to be had, manufactured by many different companies such as Rohn, Glen Martin, Trylon "titan" towers, US towers and Universal to mention a few. These come in heights from 40ft to ... well lets not let our imagination get the better of us. Of course with a new tower there are other items needed such as antenna rotors (can't have an old rotor on a new tower), rotor cable, coax cable (definately want to use new low loss feed line and connectors) guy cables,turnbuckles and a various assortment of nuts and bolts to hold it all together.

Okay, we have a new transceiver and tower, rotor,and coax.. now all that is left is the antenna. Again as with the towers, there are a large assortment of antenna on the market with beams, yagis, log periodics, long wires, vertical and alot of special homebrew antennas out there for your hearts desire.

For most of us, this is enough to get us on the air, but there are a few things that the die-hard ham like me would like to have. Tuners, amplifiers, watt meters, antenna analyzers, the new 3 ghz. pc for the logging program, the ultimate internet connection for the fastest speed possible (Honey..when did they say the new t-3 line was coming thru?!?)... the list is larger than we have room for here in this newsletter,so please use your imagination.

Now that Santa has your letter, maybe it's time to start cleaning that shack,back room or attic of yours to make room for all your new equipment. The only problem being is that he received my letter first and now there is no room in the sleigh for yours...hi,hi (It is an old ham term meaning joking- ed)

Whatever you have wished for this Christmas, may Santa provide all of what you hoped for, for you and your family (Santa did remind me to put in here about his requirement of being nice all year long however...)

From my family to yoursHAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR and 73s !!

from Mark KD5NOY , Bertha (my lovely xyl), Lydia and Kris (our beautiful harmonics)

Notes From The President

Hello Again Friends,

I'd like to welcome all of you to another year of the AADXA. I'm happy that you all trusted me again this year and re-elected me and I hope that we can get some of these new projects off the ground. Thinking back on our history, it's obvious last year was the "rockiest" one by far. To my understanding, we still have a couple of bumps in the road but I'm sure with the help of all of our great members, we'll pull through this and come out on top.

Field Day results were posted in QST last month. We slipped in the rankings a little as compared to last year but overall, I still consider it a victory. For those of you who were there, the problems we experienced were outrageous, but we still pulled through it and scored just about 200 points less than last year. In our category of 3A, we ranked 79th place. Thanks to the donation of a HF antenna by Thomas AB5DK, our antenna problems for future events, will hopefully be deminishing. Thanks Thomas.

Last but not least, as for the prementioned christmas list of Mark KD5NOY; if by chance you receive all of this, you need to share your bounty my good man! I have a few things to add to that list myself, but since his article took up most of the room for this newsletter, I'll dispence with adding my thoughts to his list (Ok, a club repeater 1000ft up would be nice).

Well my friends, here's to another year for the AADXA!

Guy W5ZIM

Election 2003

The AADXA held it's election of officers December 6th for officers for 2003. We held our first real election with a run between Guy W5ZIM and Mark KD5NOY for President. After the votes were all counted we would like to announce the officers of 2003 which are the same as 2002:

Guy W5ZIM -President

Mike KC5OKP-Vice President

Ron KD5GAG- Secretary/Treasurer

Mike KC5OKP- Newsletter Editor

Mark KD5NOY- Newsletter Co-Editor

We would like to thank all who participated and we would like to also note that Paul KM5GD is not in office again this year after threats of leaving if we suckered him in to it... ever again (hi-hi)

Meeting Moments

Thomas AB5DK at our December meeting, graciously donated a tri-band TA-33 HF antenna to the ham club for our use in contests and ham related activities. On a motion by Ed NA5G and ultimately passed by the club members, We will give Thomas his original purchase price of \$50 for the antenna from our antenna fund and a deal was set up for storage of the tri-bander at his home until the club has more permanent storage places.

This year's Christmas party did not happen this year due to scheduling problems for almost everyone ,so a motion was passed at our December meeting to hold 2003's Christmas party after the December 5th,2003 meeting with the location to be determined as it comes near as our normal meeting place officially doesn't allow food or drink in the courtroom area.

Due Deadline Fast Approaching

The membership dues deadline for AADXA is fast approaching and is officially due on April 1st. We are still currently at \$12/year after discussion last year of making it higher. We have two ways now of paying dues. One is at the meeting and the other is via our P.O. Box by check or Money Order made out to Atchafalaya Amateur DX Association Inc.

The dues we all pay (with the exception of those who are grandfathered in as free) are used to pay for the P.O.Box , the checking account that we hold the club funds in, Field Day supplies,as well as other expenses throughout the year.

We would also like to thank those of you who are free lifetime members who still donate dues to us every year. Your help is very much appreciated!

The Club Logo

After the long on again,off again talks about the club logo, Joel KC5RFO has asked for us to stop using the logo January 31,2003 and we have decided to end the back and forth on the logo by giving it back to him on that date.

Originally in October, Joel had stated he wanted to explain his position on the logo,and hopefully change club members feelings on it and that they would better understand his feelings on the current logo. His beliefs are that he was trying "to help build an image for the club in people's minds with the logo" as an example,such as the butterfly image used for MSN that now everyone associates with microsoft.

After being confronted with member feelings on the logo and being invited to write his beliefs in print or present them at a meeting ,he called

Mike KC5OKP and Guy W5ZIM stating he "wanted the logo back" .It was then decided by the officers,after member backing at previous meetings to end use of the logo at Joel's deadline than try to work at some sort of a solution.

We are now asking members to come up with ideas for a new logo as we want something that does not look like the current logo and we are also looking for an artist to draw it for us. If you can help,please email the club at wa5mc@qsl.net or present it at our January meeting.

VE Testing

We would like to thank all of those who have helped in making this March our 2nd successive year for VE testing in Morgan City! In these two years, we have had people from as far as Baton Rouge,Lafayette, and Slidell come to test with us. And in that time 4 of our testees have become members, so testing does pay for AADXA!

Please note that the test fees are scheduled to go up to \$12 in 2003 for all Amateur VE testing as per notifications found on the web.

The VE team has also been talking about holding commercial (GROL) testing in Morgan City using W5YI commercial test preparation and Thomas AB5DK as the lead tester for this. As soon as something is definite,we will inform the club.

Testing is always held at 6:30pm on club meeting nights at the meeting site.

With that said, These are the people we would like to congratulate on their passings:

November 2002

- David Maag KD5UIP (Now W5TPY due to vanity) of Laplace passed his no code technician

December 2002

- Daniel Simpson from Houma who passed his no code technician (the editor forgot to get his name and this may be incorrect -sorry folks)

Repeaters

Currently,the club has not been able to get our planned repeaters on the air and we have not heard from Huey N5DVI on the progress of the 6 meter and 2 meter repeaters he is currently building due to his heavy work load at work and family needs.

The 146.910- ,444.625+ , and 147,120+ are working properly. The 146.745- has some sort of antenna troubles and is only working if you are

near the tower in Amelia. As soon as we get word from Newton N5BOD on it's status,we will let you know.

The Future Of Ham Radio?

A article was recently published in the ARRL letter Vol.21 Number 47 dated December 6th 2002 dealing with what may be the future of ham radio. The days of hard to hear code or voices in the QRM may be gone... Here is a reprint of the article with permission..

FIRST AMATEUR TRANSATLANTIC HF DIGITAL VOICE QSO REPORTED

Radio communication pioneers Ten-Tec and Thales have announced that they've used an Amateur Radio linkup to span the Atlantic on HF digital voice for the first time. Ten-Tec's Doug Smith, KF6DX, and Thales' Didier Chulot, F5MJN, successfully transmitted and received HF digital speech signals November 22 between Paris, France, and Ten-Tec's Sevierville, Tennessee, headquarters.

"We view this as a significant accomplishment," said Smith. "Amateur Radio

has long been at the forefront of technological development. It's nice to be able to show that our legacy is alive and well." Tests are being conducted under the auspices of ARRL's Digital Voice Working Group, which Smith chairs. A written report on the tests is due in January.

Calling it "a major breakthrough," a Ten-Tec news release said the two amateur stations "demonstrated the advantages of digital audio during the conversation, including noise-free, FM-like reception and the potential for simultaneous voice and data." The feat was accomplished on 15 meters using Ten-Tec transceivers and Thales Communications Skywave 2000 digital audio software. Operating as F8KGG, Chulot spoke with Smith for several minutes over the HF digital link, operating within a 3-kHz bandwidth.

Smith said he and F5MJN used unmodified Ten-Tec transceivers in upper-sideband mode, although AM or FM mode also would work. No additional hardware was required beyond the cables connecting the transceiver and the microphone to the PC sound card. Smith said audio quality was roughly the same as a conventional telephone circuit. An Amateur Radio version of the Thales system is expected to appear on the market early next year. "At this stage, the system is experimental-only for ham radio, but it looks like it's going to take off," Smith predicted.

He has authored two articles on digital voice in QST: "Digital Voice: The Next New Mode?" <<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0201028.pdf>> in the January 2002 issue, and "Digital Voice: An Update and Forecast"

<<http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0202038.pdf>> in the February 2002 issue.

Additional images and background are available on the TAPR Web site <<http://www.tapr.org>>. Look for the Digital Voice Forum page and the presentation by Cédric Demeure.--Ten-Tec news release; Doug Smith, KF6DX

Meeting Dates

We would like to announce 2003's calendar of club meetings:

January 3rd	April 4th	July 11th (moved)	October 3rd
February 7th	May 2nd	August 1st	November 7th
March 7th	June 6th	September 5th	December 5th

We will hold testing on these nights also but meetings start at 7pm. The July meeting was moved due to the First Friday being Independence Day.

Where To Write

If you would like to reply to anything in this newsletter or submit an article for printing, send email to either the editor directly at kc5okp@hotmail.com our co-editor at kd5noy@qsl.net or by snail mail to:

AADXA Newsletter
P.O.Box 337
Amelia, Louisiana 70340-0337

NOTE: We do have the right to edit for size and/or content and ask that you leave your name, callsign, and a way to get in touch with you for any possible questions or clarifications.

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Mike Robichaux KC5OKP Mark Robinson KD5NOY