

DX Advisory Committee
Report

For the American Radio Relay League
Board of Director's Meeting

January 2023

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Chairman, DXAC

The DXAC met via Zoom on Sunday October 2, 2022 at 7:00pm EST (2300 UTC)

In attendance (15): K4MQG (Gary), NI0G (Udo), K5TF (Dick), K7BTW (Dick), N4JQQ (Steve), AC8W (Stan), K9LA (Carl), K5UR (Rick), W1YRC (Bob), W5OV (Bob), K9EL (John), K2CS (Chris), N5OK (Coy), W0VTT (Mike), K2XA (Saul)

Items previously emailed for discussion were as follows:

- 1) 4U1A entity status
- 2) Balleny & Scott Island entity status
- 3) VADXCC petition to suspend inactive entities and/or reconsider Honor Roll threshold
- 4) Return of RTTY only DXCC Award
- 5) Additional DXCC Award suggestions
- 6) DXCC Card Checker guidelines, rules adjustments considerations
- 7) Thoughts on DXCC 2025
- 8) Any other pertinent concerns or discussions

Results

Items 1 and 2 – 4U1A and Balleny & Scott Island entity status

A brief discussion of the status of the 4U1A and Balleny & Scott Island requests was held and it was determined that as the rules stand today, neither qualify for DXAC entity status. A reference to the Antarctic Treaty signed on 1 December 1959 and its inclusion in DXCC rule 3(b) was mentioned which would cover the Island's consideration.

For specific reference, DXCC Rules Section II. DXCC List Criteria, 3. Special Areas, b) Antarctic Treaty pertain to the Balleny & Scott Island request and Rule 4. Ineligible Areas a), i) cover consideration of 4U1A.

The DXAC felt that these items have been properly addressed and no further consideration should be given (unless otherwise directed) to either 4U1A or Balleny & Scott Islands. Later in the meeting, a question was raised as to the history of the 60th degree South rule and its application to what the DXCC Rules deem an entity.

Also, mention was made of DXCC Section II, Rule 3b, Separation by Water, and how the distances were derived. The distance was carefully chosen to add a small number of countries to the DXCC list. At that time, it was felt that making the distances much shorter would add too many countries and that would be detrimental to DXCC.

Item 3 – VADXCC petition

A discussion was held on the recent VADXCC petition asking for a review (and possible deletion) of inactive countries. Many felt unintended consequences may occur if there were any deletions (or considerations for inactivity).

There was a suggestion to evaluate the possibility of an inactive status; one that would take into account the amount of time an entity had not been active. Even though retained on the overall county list, the entity would be made “inactive” for honor roll (and other) purposes. Questions were raised as to the retention of credit for previously worked entities if their status became “inactive”.

Though these scenarios were discussed, it was ultimately the feeling of the group that the Honor Roll was at the pinnacle of the DX aspect of the hobby and that its achievement is one of “years of work” and it should not be diminished due to what appears to be a minority of operators being unable to achieve it.

The same feeling was generally held with any attempt to add countries if they do not fit current criteria (to satisfy the need for new ones particularly for those who have “worked them all”). Granted, there was no disagreement in the excitement generated by a new entity.

The DXAC determination is no further consideration should be given to this petition.

Item 4 – Return of RTTY only DXCC Award

Regarding a separate RTTY award, several members had polled clubs and other interested parties in their areas and the majority reported that those organizations were in favor of a separate, RTTY only award. It was noted that almost all current RTTY contacts are generated by digital means. Comments also included the difficulty in attaining RTTY contacts outside of contests (possibly lending credence to a separate award).

The DXAC has determined additional consideration should be given to this request (and that the CAC should be advised of this consideration as well).

Item 5 – Additional DXCC Award suggestions

As for additional DXCC awards, it was determined that there are currently over 20 different DXCC honors, based on an entity confirmation by band, mode and other criteria. Adding additional awards was thought to have no effect on DXCC program participation or in increasing ARRL membership (or retention).

The DXAC has determined there is no need for further consideration of this item at this time. One phenomenon that was an item of interest was the explosive increase in FT8 and the possible need to pay further attention to the popularity of that mode. A dramatic increase in LOTW activity is directly related to the use of FT8. Most current DX contacts are being initiated digitally as opposed to traditional modes (such as CW, SSB or RTTY). Interest in the “computer” as a part of ham radio would seem to be the path of the future.

Item 6 – DXCC Card Checker guidelines, rules adjustments considerations

The DXCC Card Checker question was answered by several reflector replies and is not really open for interpretation.

Item 7 – Thoughts on DXCC 2025

In closing, the thought of a DXCC 2025 review was mentioned. Acknowledging the work performed 25 years ago, is there a need for reevaluation of those findings? Is the DXCC program healthy or are there ways we can “update” it? Or is there even a need to do as such?

There certainly is a time and resource commitment and nothing was ultimately decided but the DXAC agreed that there should be further discussion on the matter at this time. It is likely that in 2023, a DXAC meeting will open this up for discussion.

Item 8 – Any other pertinent concerns or discussions

None surfaced at this time.

The DXAC meeting closed at 8:34pm EST (0034 UTC)

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Shalvoy K2CS – Chairman, ARRL DXAC

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June 20, 2022

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