

DX Advisory Committee Report

January 2020

to the

**American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors
and Programs and Services Committee**

**Submitted by:
John C. Yodis, K2VV
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee**

To the Members of the ARRL Board of Directors and the PSC:

From: DXAC – Prepared and submitted by John C. Yodis, K2VV, Chairman

Date: January 5, 2020

Subject: January Report

Old Business

FT8 endorsement for DXCC

DXAC has received no feedback on a January 2019 recommendation for a one-time FT8 endorsement or certificate for 100 confirmed entities. DXAC acknowledges that the current DXCC recordkeeping system is not mode-specific for digital. PSC did ask DXAC for a recommendation to acknowledge and encourage new technology in the DXCC program. Is the endorsement a yes or no?

Changing rules for 5BDXCC

DXAC just received within the last week the task created at the last PSC meeting. The task was immediately forwarded to members, but the January 10, 2020 deadline is unworkable. Initial impressions are that current holders of 5BDXCC will feel their awards “devalued”.

It is interesting that the task includes the question of the original intent of 5BDXCC. 5BDXCC was created when those 5 bands pretty much represented the DX world of the time. What would be considered the intent if the idea came up today?

Other issued submitted to PSC in 2019

DXAC has received no feedback on whether PSC has considered these issues for possible tasking. The committee needs word from the PSC so that committee members can properly respond to amateurs who continue to ask us about the status of these proposals. Please let DXAC know whether these proposals are being rejected so members do not look ignorant or impotent in the eyes of amateurs who contact us as their representatives.

- Redefinition of the DXCC entities list and/or Honor Roll to acknowledge the long-term unavailability of some entities, keeping newer amateurs from the #1 spot. DXAC continues to receive inquiries as to why amateurs who have worked everything available are not “entitled” to #1 status.
- A policy on paying for QSLs

- Availability of an archive of DXCC desk decisions on status of unapproved operations and “entities” such as North Cyprus
- Potential measures to address abuse of remote operation
- Split-off of RTTY DXCC from digital DXCC.
- New 10-year DXCC competition per W9KNI’s proposal to encourage newer generations who feel they will never achieve “top of the heap”.
- Breakdown of the DXCC Challenge by mode and drop 6 and 160 meters. This would somewhat eliminate the geographical advantage enjoyed by Europe. Is it reasonable for ARRL to address every geographical and regulatory disparity? To many, FT8 has taken much of the challenge out of the Challenge.
- DXAC has received notice of illegal power being used by a DXpedition. Is it ARRL’s place to investigate these cases?
- Request asks for a new category of awards for “Providers” to recognize those who hand out QSOs from multiple locations. The Russian Districts Award does this, but it seems to be an unnecessary project for DXCC.
- Change the qualifying cutoff for Honor Roll from top ten to a percentage of the current country count.

New Business

Petitions for addition to the DXCC entities list

DXAC members have received petitions from representative of Catalonia and United Nations in Austria for DXCC status. Members have been instructed by HQ to ignore these requests. While these requests are without merit under the current rules, is it proper to ignore them?

The DX Advisory Committee stands ready to pursue any of the above subjects if the PSC feels they have merit. We ask, however, for a definitive yes/no decision on each so rejected ideas can be removed from our agenda.

Respectfully submitted:

73

John C. Yodis, K2VV

Midwest Division DXAC Representative / Chairman

DX ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 2020

Atlantic – Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
512 Beechwood Dr., East Rochester, NY 14445-2036
(H): (585) 586-6531
(W): (585) 235-8815 x131
Email: cshalvoy@att.net

Central - Jim O'Connell, W9WU
512 West Elm Ave., La Grange, IL 60525
(H): (708) 482-7373
(F): (708) 401-0077
Email: w9wu@arrl.net

Dakota – Ron Dohmen, NØAT
125 Magnolia La., Plymouth, MN 55441
(H): (763) 546-1702
Email: ron@n0at.net

Delta – Steven Rutledge, N4JQQ
4540 Shady Grove Rd. Memphis, TN 38117
(M): (901) 849-7449
Email: steven.t.rutledge@gmail.com

Great Lakes – Stanley K. Arnett, AC8W
801 Range Road, Marysville, MI 48040
(H): (810) 364-6674
Email: ac8w@comcast.net

Hudson – Saul M. Abrams, K2XA
307 Maple Rd Slingerlands, NY, 12159-3615
(H): 518-469-4796
Email: k2xa@arrl.net

Midwest – John C. Yodis, K2VV (*Chairman*)
P. O. Box 88, Moscow Mills, MO 63362
(H): (636) 366-4512
(M): (314) 620-1777
Email: JCYodis@aol.com

New England – Bob Beaudet, W1YRC
30 Rocky Crest Rd., Cumberland, RI 02864
(H): (401) 333-2129
Email: w1yrc@verizon.net

Northwestern – Richard Swanson, K7BTW
114 Raintree Loop SE, Rainier, WA 98576-9701
(H): (425) 890-0552
Email: k7btw@arrl.net

Pacific – Ken Anderson, K6TA
Box 853, Pine Grove, CA 95665
(H): (209) 296-5577
Email: k6ta@arrl.net

Roanoke – Gary Dixon, K4MQG
1606 Crescent Rdg., Fort Mill, SC 29715
(H): (803) 547-7450
Email: gdixon@comporium.net

Rocky Mountain – Richard D. Williams, K8ZTT
11347 E. Grant Road, Franktown, CO 80116
(H): (303) 840-1672
Email: k8ztt@yahoo.com

Southeastern – Pete Rimmel, N8PR
P.O. Box 848879, Hollywood, FL 33084-0879

(H): (954) 632-9399
Email: n8pr@bellsouth.net

Southwestern – Mark Weiss, K6FG
6151 Ellenview Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91367

(H): (818) 716-0888
Email: k6fg@arrl.net

West Gulf – Coy Day, N5OK (*Vice Chairman*)
20685 SW 29th St., Union City, OK 73090-6817

(H): (405) 483-5632
Email: n5ok@arrl.net

RAC – John Scott, VE1JS
324 Churchhill Road, Sandy Cove, NS, Canada B0V 1E0

(H): (902) 834-2681
Email: scotts@sandycove-ns.ca

Board Liaison – David Norris, K5UZ
907 Evening Sunset Cir., Redfield, AR 72132

(H): (870) 613-1606
Email: k5uz@arrl.org

Staff Liaison – Bart Jahnke, W9JJ
225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111

(W): (860) 594-0272
Email: w9jj@arrl.org

Administrative Liaison – Sharon Taratula
225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111

(W) (860) 594-0269
Email: staratula@arrl.org

**DX Advisory Committee Report on Removal of Silent Keys
from the DXCC Annual List**

January 2020

to the

**American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors
and Programs and Services Committee**

**Submitted by:
John C. Yodis, K2VV
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee**

To the Members of the ARRL Board of Directors and the PSC:

From: DXAC – Prepared and submitted by John C. Yodis, K2VV, Chairman

Date: January 10, 2020

Subject: Final report on task submitted to DXAC: Removal of Silent Keys from DXCC Annual Listing

Although the tasks were received late in December 2019, the DXAC was able to solicit numerous opinions by the proposed January 10, 2020 deadline.

In summary:

The task elicited comments over a wide range with no particular mandate:

Frequently mentioned was a desire to maintain an "In Memoriam" list either separate from the annual listings or with an asterisk for silent keys.

Also mentioned more than once was "why is this even an issue when there are much more important things for ARRL to address?"

If the DXCC Annual List is only a list of those showing activity within the previous year, the problem should solve itself.

If ARRL is supporting other lists that are likely to contain silent keys, any change in policy should be concentrated there.

The committee acknowledges the difficulty of tracking silent keys and reissued callsigns, particularly outside of the United States and Canada. It is unlikely that ARRL has the resources to address this comprehensively without slighting some parties.

Respectfully submitted:

73

John C. Yodis, K2VV

Midwest Division DXAC Representative / Chairman

DX Advisory Committee Report on 5BDXCC Task

January 2020

to the

**American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors
and Programs and Services Committee**

**Submitted by:
John C. Yodis, K2VV
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee**

To the Members of the ARRL Board of Directors and the PSC:

From: DXAC – Prepared and submitted by John C. Yodis, K2VV, Chairman

Date: January 10, 2020

Subject: Final report on task submitted to DXAC: Revision to Rules for 5BDXCC

Although the tasks were received late in December 2019, the DXAC was able to solicit numerous opinions and reach a conclusion by the proposed January 10, 2020 deadline.

The newly established Awards Group was helpful in providing input although, as expected, some contributors devoted more effort to sniping at others' comments than advancing the issue.

In summary:

A proposal to change the requirements for 5BDXCC to any five bands rather than 80-40-20-15-10 was overwhelmingly rejected by commenters and **unanimously rejected by the DXAC**.

With regard to the points of the task:

1. Is this thought widespread in your Divisions?

No, comments were more typically "why was this brought up?"

2. Is this being motivated by the current low ebb in the solar cycle?

Lack of propagation on higher frequencies was not cited as a major issue other than as an excuse for operators who are too impatient to wait for another solar cycle.

3. Does this devalue the award?

Yes, the range of operating frequencies in 5BDXCC represents a unique challenge

4. Does this proposed new rule go against the original intent of 5BDXCC?

Not specifically knowing the original intent of 5BDXCC, few addressed this issue. It can be inferred, however, that increased activity on all amateur bands was a major driver. Potential elimination of more difficult bands would be inconsistent with this objective.

Although endorsements for 5BDXCC are available, many commenters suggested making a separate 9BDXCC available.

The Chairman appreciates the extraordinary effort of DXAC members in submitting comments within a very limited timeframe. Support from Sharon Taratula in Newington and Hudson Division Director Ria Jairam N2RJ is also acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted:

73

John C. Yodis, K2VV

Midwest Division DXAC Representative / Chairman