

DX Advisory Committee Report

January 2014

to the

**American Radio Relay League
Board of Directors**

Submitted by:

**Arne Gjerner, N7KA
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee**

Introduction

The high bands continue to provide openings to entice the DXers to actively use these bands, hopefully providing an opportunity for new band entities. The lower bands have seen some increasing seasonal activity as well. The DXpeditions that were active during the past several months definitely have contributed to overall band activity.

Feedback from the DX Community

Input from the DX community has been generally slow with a few exceptions. Most inputs and summaries continue to favor restrictions for remote control operations and for not changing the entity criteria.

An input was received and submitted to the committee suggesting a change to the endorsement levels on the 6M band. The 6M band, being most affected by solar conditions, continues to provide the most difficult challenge for attaining DXCC without the use of EME. It was proposed that instead of issuing endorsements at 25 entity levels above 100, reducing the endorsement levels to 10 or possibly 5 might entice those active DXers on 6M to continue with an increased interest thereby benefiting the 6M DXers as a whole.

Another input was received and submitted to the committee suggesting that consideration be given to introducing Honor Roll Awards for each individual band.

Committee Happenings

Generally, the DXAC tends to favor the proposed changes to rules 8 and 9, with some mileage limitation added to rule 9, and acceptance of proposed Rule 11 except deleting the last paragraph of an “uninhabited” list.

Several DXAC reps have made additional or revised their previous comments concerning the remote operations. Requiring that the control point shall be in the same entity as the transmitter (and receiver) is still the majority opinion. The requirement for a maximum distance between the control point and the transmitter in the 200km to 200 mi distance has been mentioned so as not to gain a propagation advantage.

K4MQG proposed the addition of the US State Department’s List of Independent States of the World be added to the DXCC entity criteria and the few comments are not in favor of it being added to the criteria. As one comment stated, “Why add another list that would make the DXCC more politically charged”.

I posted my opinion of the fairness issue has changed in the past few months as I realized that where we each reside determines the propagation advantage or disadvantage of that location. Unless one is to physically move to another location those advantages will continue. I also examined why I would jump into a pile-up and realized it was not the competition, it was the opportunity to work a new band entity to increase my DXCC totals. I began to realize I was doing this for myself and other than trying to work a new band entity I was not competing with others for DXCC standings. I have begun to see the DXCC program more as a personal operating achievement, not a competition. My decision however remains open.

Several representatives have responded favoring the idea of both the 6M endorsement level change and the offering of DXCC Honor Roll certificates for individual bands. Additional input is expected on these proposals.

Final Comments

Examining DX contest rules, both ARRL and CQ, one can notice the absence of remote control operating location. Instead, there exists rather strict rules for locations of a contest station TX and RX and a ban on remote receiving sites. These rules are intended to provide for a level playing field for these contests (competitions). Remote operating during contests has increased with not all control points being located within the same entity as now required by the DXCC program. I would like to suggest that both the CAC and DXCC exchange ideas that would possibly affect the others rules and possibly allow for parallel discussions and feedback to proposed changes. This can best be seen in the remote control point location requirement differences between DX contests and DXCC rules.

The DXAC realizes with the current political climate in the World that it is difficult to escape the "Political Issues" of any entity criteria regardless which list is stated as a requirement. The DXAC is continuing its discussions concerning the entity criteria as well as the remote control issues.

There have been couple of problems with the DXAC email system that when discovered have been addressed and resolved in a timely manner by Joe Garcia, NJ1Q.

Respectfully submitted,

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