

**DX Advisory Committee Report
Document #23**

January 2024

**Submitted by:
Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Chairman, DX Advisory Committee**

Prepared and submitted by Chris Shalvoy, K2CS - Chairman

Date: 8 January, 2024

Subject: Review of DXAC activity in 2023

There were several items the DXAC reviewed in 2023, most notably the status of Palmyra and Jarvis Islands, KH5.

An inquiry was received around the 13 of July by Bob Naumann, W5OV and was forwarded to the DXAC for consideration.

Several Zoom sessions were held over the following months and Saul Abrams, K2XA even visited the league for a review of original documentation regarding the initial DXCC inclusion of the islands.

His findings are very thorough and are attached for reference.

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ provided documentation from a 1991 determination by the DXAC on Jarvis as well as Point 3(b) in the DXCC rules at the time.

Garth Hamilton, VE3HO was even contacted for any addition information he could provide as he was involved with the 1991 Palmyra/Jarvis request. There was a very in depth investigation by the committee before a decision was reached.

Nothing had changed since the 1991 request that would reconsider the most recent petition.

Every DXAC member submitted consideration on the information provided and it was determined that the request was invalid.

Addition items that were discussed by the DXAC are more recent.

On 2 November, Bart Jahnke, W9JJ reached out to the committee indicating an upcoming DXpedition to Scarborough Reef as DX0NES. A license was issued and accepted for DXCC credit but the license expired on 15 December, 2023. Apparently, an extension has been applied for.

Reason this is of interest is credit for that DXpedition would be counted as the Philippines, not Scarborough Reef as suggested.

Later in November, a notification was sent to the committee indicating a license lapse regarding the recent Cambodia operation of XU7GNY. The license submitted was 10 years old and expired. Current QSO credits with this station are pending.

Though these items are not directly related to DXCC determinations, they are of interest to the DXAC and continue to update committee members on current DX topics.

In closing, the DXAC continues to be available for any tasks issued to it and is committed to the DXCC program and related activity. The DXAC also plans to initiate reviews of several DX items, including DXCC 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
Chairman, ARRL DX Advisory Committee

To: DXAC Members

From: K2XA DXAC Hudson Division

Subject: Visit to ARRL HQ regarding Jarvis Island

Random facts for whatever they may be worth:

January 1938 QST DX country list has Jarvis Island K6 (no mention of Palmyra).

January 1939 QST list has Jarvis Island, Palmyra Group KG6 (listed under Jarvis, not Palmyra).

February 1947 QST list has Jarvis Island, Palmyra Group (Christmas Island) KP6 (again listed under Jarvis).

A 1950 QST article discussing DXCC “criteria” basically said there were no hard and fast criteria, but the League would discuss country requests with “experts” regarding location and governmental control.

A 1955 QST article listed DXCC criteria as: 1) Political independence; 2) Geographic separation from a “parent” and 3) Any foreign lands in between parent and proposed child.

A 1960 QST article regarding “separation” said this criterion “Shall not apply to islands in a natural island grouping”.

No specific League document found specifying admission criteria for Palmyra & Jarvis.

On April 19, 1991, VE3HO, DXAC CRRL Representative, sent a memo to the DXAC discussing country criteria and proposing a rewrite. This memo was not acted on, but it contained a lot of useful information. VE3HO prepared three listings of the DXCC countries: 1) as it currently stands with dates for acceptance and criteria under which they were accepted; 2) Country’s past history; and 3) new list under his proposal. (He did not specify the source of his information.) The first list is very interesting and suggests that “Palmyra & Jarvis,” (listed under Palmyra, not Jarvis as previously done) is a child of Hawaii. Specific details follow:

VE3HO’s list uses criteria reference numbers current in 1991 and includes parenthetical country references where applicable, but I have converted them to reference numbers current today.

Hawaii, KH6, is listed as a 1) c country, permanent population, own administration, 500 miles, [now 800 km] from parent listed a “K”.

Johnston Island, KH3, is listed as a 2) b) i country 250 miles [now 350 km] from parent listed as KH6.

Palmyra & Jarvis, KH5, is listed as a 2) b) ii country 250 miles from parent and 500 miles from any other children of that parent, listed as KH6, because Johnston Island was listed as the childcountry 250 miles from KH6. Jarvis and Palmyra are not 500 miles apart, so they are treated as the same country.

Also, listed as 2) b) ii countries with the parent listed as KH6 are Baker & Howland KH1, Wake KH9, and Guam KH2.

So, according to VE3HO, Hawaii is the parent for all the U.S. islands in the Pacific, not the USA. The following countries are listed as countries because of separate administration (no longer a criterion) from other islands in the same island group; Midway KH4 and Kure KH7 from KH6, and Kingman Reef KH5 from KH5 Palmyra & Jarvis. Since Kingman has been deleted, it becomes part of the Jarvis, Palmyra Island grouping.

The history portion of the DXCC listing by VE3HO reiterates that Kingman was admitted by separate administration as part of the Palmyra Group, and Jarvis & Palmyra was admitted because of geographical separation from Hawaii.

Because Palmyra & Jarvis are listed as a 2) b) ii country, and not because of separate administration, who controlled or managed them when originally listed or now, is not relevant.

K9EL raised the question of whether KP1 Navassa and KH5 (I assume he meant Kingman) meet the 800km requirement. Both those countries were admitted as separate administration not by distance. KH5 discussed above, and KP1 separate administration from KG4 Guantanamo Bay.

Although VE3HO's memo was very detailed, I reiterate, he did not cite the specific authority for the data contained in his memo.

In looking through all the documents at the League, I was given a large folder of information compiled by Jim Maxwell, W6CF. He compiled all discussions of DX in QST from the early years up to his passing, including the random facts listed above. Very interesting reading (but did not address our current issue). In the correspondence from Jim to the DXAC he noted that some DXAC members thought that errors had been made in the past in applying the DXCC criteria and decisions looked inconsistent. Jim disagreed. He said that the League staff knew exactly what they were doing but the rules were interpreted differently then than now. Decisions that may seem inconsistent or an error then were perfectly valid at the time they were made.

In summary, as far as I can determine, Palmyra & Jarvis is a 2) b) ii country more than 500 miles from its parent Hawaii. Palmyra and Jarvis are not 800 km apart, so they are a single island chain country. The applicant's discussions concerning ownership, control or administration are not relevant. Neither Palmyra nor the continental US is the parent of Jarvis as suggested by the applicant. The deletion of Kingman is not relevant, except to add Kingman as part of the Palmyra Jarvis Island chain country.

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January 2024

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