

MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING —February 27, 2018

Location: *Town of Oyster Ice Skating Center*, Community Room 1, Bethpage, N.Y.

John, W2GW, the LIDXA President, called to order the meeting of February 27 at 8:10PM. Present at tonight's meeting included John, W2GW; Louise, K2MAU; Ed, K2MFY; Jack, NU2Q; Steve, N2AJ; Bob, K2YGM; Art, N2KA; Karen, W2ABK; Gerry, K1NY; Bob, K2TV; Adrian, KO2SCA; Frank, N2FF; Walt, W2TE; Aaron, WC2C; Rich, KB2ZPB; and guests Diane, K2DO; George, N2GA; Phil, N2MUN; and ex-member Allan, N2KW.

OLD BUSINESS

Some of the following brief DX was mentioned:

- General comments were made on the poor DX conditions during the past month. The solar flux numbers have been around 70, accompanied with noisy conditions. The low bands are fairly good, but noisy.

NEW BUSINESS

The club congratulated member Adrian, KO8SCA on his recent return from a mini-DXpedition to the country of Somalia. Adrian prepared a *Power Point* summary of this trip and John recommended that Adrian's talk would precede any formal club business. Initially all the members and guests introduced themselves.

Adrian discussed the genesis of this trip that began almost one year ago. He displayed the various administrative regions in the country of Somalia and how these areas were developed through political turmoil. The area selected for the DXpedition was in the town of Garowe, in the region of Puntland, situated in the north eastern part of Somalia.

Once licenses were confirmed it was decided that the operation would be from January 3 through 15, 2018. The DXpedition members were Ken, LA7GIA and Adrian. Adrian said he flew to Somalia via the United Arab Emirates. He and Ken stayed at a hotel in Garowe frequented by United Nations personnel. They had hired armed personnel for security in the hotel area which was surrounded a high wall for safety.

It was decided that most of the antennas would be wire types or verticals. Operation was from the hotel room. They did have some problem with the equipment, but tried to keep a station on the air when conditions were possible. In their evening time they had heavy QRN from the stadium lights of a nearby soccer field. Apparently besides local soccer games, the stadium was used almost daily for mass prayer rituals.

In conjunction with the trip the team organized a humanitarian fundraiser for *Doctors Without Borders* foundation in Somalia, which was absent from the country for many years. Donations were not sought to cover the ham side of the trip. Adrian indicated that total donations received so far by *Doctors Without Borders* were in the order of \$11,000. In advance of the 6O6O DXpedition, John forwarded a LIDXA donation of \$100 to the foundation.

Due to limited operational time, poor conditions, QRM/ QRN and erratic openings to North America, only a few members of the LIDXA were lucky to work the 6O6O DXpedition. QSL cards are handled by manager M0OXO.

At the conclusion of Adrian's presentation he mentioned that he would shortly be leaving for a DXpedition to the Spratly Islands as 9MØW, and part of a multi-national group to the island of Lyang Lyang in the Spratly group. Expected operational dates are expected to be March 6 through 13. At the conclusion of Adrian's talk the club warmly applauded his recent DXpedition and wished him well on his future activities.

At 9:30PM John opened up a brief business portion of tonight's meeting. First order of business was the approval of the January 16, 2018 LIDXA meeting minutes. These minutes were accepted as issued. Thanks to the efforts of our webmaster Pat, KE2LJ, the minutes appear on the LIDXA web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/lidxa>.

John W2GW, LIDXA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. The current membership total is 35 members. The annual 2018 dues of \$25 are now due. Over one-third of the present membership has already paid up their dues.

Allen, N2KW, reminded the attendees that the weekend of March 3 and 4 is the annual ARRL DX Contest-SSB mode. He stated that the powerful multi-operator station, K1TTT, in [Massachusetts](#), is looking for additional contest operators.

The meeting then concluded at 9:45PM after all the scheduled entertainment and business had finished. The next regular meeting of the LIDXA will be held on Tuesday March 20.

Ed Whitman, K2MFY
LIDXA Secretary

