

MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING — March 20, 2012

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

John, W2GW, the LIDXA President, called to order the meeting of March 20th at 8:16 PM, after a brief socializing period. Members present included John, W2GW; Louise, K2MAU; Ed, K2MFY; Bob, N2DXJ and XYL, Tanis; Karen, W2ABK; Steve, N2AJ and XYL Margaret; and Art, N2KA.

OLD BUSINESS

- Much of the DX discussion centered on the fair propagation conditions. DX is prevalent on the HF bands although the solar flux index has dropped somewhat from the highs of the past Fall. There are limited openings on 10 and 12 meters; however, the other high bands still have good propagation. Several members noted that the bands seem very noisy.
- Operator DL7DF has been very active from the Kingdom of Tonga with the callsign A35YZ.
- A major DXpedition to Spratly Island has been cancelled due to political uncertainties.
- A number of German stations have been heard/worked from Namibia. The callsigns used are V5/home call.

Starting the business portion of tonight's meeting was the approval of the February 16th meeting minutes. Except for a minor editorial correction, these minutes were accepted as presented. In addition, the minutes were prepared in advance by the LIDXA Secretary, Ed, K2MFY, and sent out to the membership with the February meeting notice. Thanks to the efforts of KE2LJ, Pat, the minutes appear in the LIDXA web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/lidxa>.

John, W2GW, LIDXA Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report. Members were reminded that dues (in the amount of \$25) for the year 2012 are expected. John suggested that members give or mail him their dues at the earliest convenience. At the present time approximately 75% of the present membership has paid their 2012 dues.

NEW BUSINESS

At the start of tonight's meeting a minute of silence was held for the passing of Marv, W2FGD, on March 9th following his stroke a few weeks ago and then major surgery. John indicated that Marv was one of the founders of the LIDXA back in the mid-1960's, past President, and an active DXer on the HF bands, Honor Roll recipient with 370 DXCC totals. He was net control station for the Sunday night LIDXA net for the past decade. Out of respect for Marv, and due to the dwindling participation, John stated that the weekly DX LIDXA net would be ending. It might be started up in the future if there is renewed interest.

Steve, N2AJ, called attention to the "Silent Key Forest" sponsored by the Israel Amateur Radio Club. The purpose of the forest, near Jerusalem, is an area where trees are planted in memory of radio amateurs of the world who have passed away, and also in honor of living amateurs. It is also a site of festive events, for get-togethers of hams and field day activities. Almost 4700 trees have already been planted at the site. After a brief discussion, the LIDXA voted unanimously to have two trees planted there in Marv's honor and to have a certificate mailed to Helen, Marv's widow.

In terms of silent keys it was also noted that legendary DXpeditioner ZL1AMO, Ron Wright, had passed away in New Zealand on March 6th after suffering a collapsed lung. ZL1AMO was one of the most proficient CW operators and operated most of his DXpeditions (which were well over 100—mostly from Pacific Islands) in his favorite mode. Ron was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame and held many awards and honorary memberships (including the LIDXA).

It was mentioned that the ARRL announced that a new DXCC fee structure was going into effect on April 2, 2012. Although the details seem very complicated they can be clearly explained on the site: <http://www.arrl.org/dxcc-awards-fees#>.

A DXpedition is planned in early September to Swains Island (KH8/S) in the south Pacific. Since this is a fairly rare DX entity (#31 on the *DX Magazine* Most Wanted Survey), and one of the team members includes Lou Dietrich, N2TU—a past member of the LIDXA who subsequently moved to North Carolina—the club voted a donation to the DXpedition of \$100—which would ensure our logo appearing on the Swains Island DXpedition website (www.nh8s.org).

With the business portion of this meeting concluded, John presented a DVD on the on the September-October 2011 DXpedition to the Pacific Island of Kiribati (Christmas Island) in the Northern Line Islands—a part of the Republic of Kiribati. The callsign used for the DXpedition was T32C. Despite initial problems encountered the DXpedition was a major success, making 213,169 QSOs and establishing at least ten new world records.

This meeting concluded at around 9:50 PM after all the scheduled business and entertainment had finished. The next meeting of the LIDXA is scheduled for Tuesday April 17th.

Ed Whitman, K2MFY
LIDXA Secretary