

MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING — June 21, 2011

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

Ed, K2MFY, the LIDXA Secretary, called to order the meeting of Tuesday June 21, 2011 at 8:15 PM. Ed was acting chairman of this meeting since the LIDXA President, John, W2GW, was on vacation. Members present included Ed, K2MFY, Bob, N2DXJ and XYL, Tanis; Karen, W2ABK and OM Bruce; Andy, W2VZQ and XYL Marilyn; Marv, W2FGD; and Bob, W2PNJ.

OLD BUSINESS

- Several members reported that the solar flux has been dropping slowly. Flux had dropped below 100 and band conditions the past month were quite noisy.
- Through a recent vote in the country, the autonomous region in the southern part of the Sudan will be claiming independence from the northern part. Southern Sudan is expected to become an independent country on July 9, 2011. An “official” country name and IARU prefix for the new country has not yet been determined; however, a DXpedition is already planned for July 2011 once DXCC status has been assured by the ARRL.
- A DXpedition to Malpelo Island has been scheduled for early 2012. The tentative callsign will be HKØNA. Further information is on their site: <http://hk0na.com/>. The Colombian authorities have been contacted on permits and licenses for the expedition. It is expected that there will be eight Columbian and four international operators.

Starting the business portion of tonight’s meeting was the approval of the May 17, 2011 meeting minutes. 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 June meeting notice. Thanks to the efforts of KE2LJ, Pat, the minutes appear in the LIDXA web site at: <http://www.qsl.net/lidxa>.

The last weekend of June is Field Day. Several members mentioned that Field Day operations would be held in the following locations:

- **Grumman Amateur Radio Club**
Grumman Radio Club will be operating one station, WA2LQO, Class 1A, in the park building at the Haypath Road Park in Bethpage. Plans are to set up Saturday starting around noon.
- **Radio Central Amateur Radio Club & The Order of Boiled Owls of New York**
Radio Central Amateur Radio Club and the New York Order of Boiled Owls will be joining forces this year for Field Day at the Long Island Maritime Museum in West Sayville, New York. They will be signing KW2O and running Class 2A, SSB and CW 80-6m plus satellite with GOTA signing W2RC running PSK31.
- **Wantagh Amateur Radio Club**
The Wantagh ARC will again conduct Field Day on the grounds of the Wantagh Railroad Museum, located on Wantagh Avenue at Emeric Avenue. (Ed mentioned that an announcement of this operation just appeared in *Newsday*.)

- **Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club**

GSBARC FD will be at Babylon Town Hall in North Lindenhurst. Setup is 7AM Saturday. W2GSB will run Class 5F using SSB, CW and PSK31, VHF, UHF and satellite along with a GOTA station.

For further Field Day details check activities posted on the site of ARRL NYC/LI Section Manager Mike, N2YBB, at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>.

In last month's meeting John indicated that the ARRL has a new insurance broker for ARRL affiliated clubs. Ed mentioned that full details on this change are detailed in the July issue of *QST*. Ed also just provided John a copy of the 1994 LIDXA Certificate of Incorporation papers should they be required for insurance purposes.

In the political arena, it was noted that our local Congressman, Peter King, said that in the present proposed legislation bill, HR 607—which was to set aside spectrum bands/networks for nationwide public safety—he would see to modify the bill so that the amateur band, 420–440 MHz (70 cm), would be excluded. Read further details in the newsletter from our SCM, Mike, N2YBB, at <http://nli.arrl.org/>

NEW BUSINESS

Although the current sunspot cycle is now supposed to be ramping up towards maximum strength with increased solar flux numbers and better DX conditions, based upon current data, the propagation has not yet shown much improvement. Ed presented a brief discussion on whether this slowdown forecasts a second “Maunder Minimum,”—a 70-year period with virtually no sunspot activity (first occurred from 1645–1715). As a side note, this period of solar inactivity also corresponded to a climatic period called the “Little Ice Age”—when rivers froze and snow fields remained year-round!

Marv, W2FGD, reminded the membership to check-in at the LIDXA weekly nets on Sunday night at 9 PM local time on the Grumman Hauppauge repeater at 145.330/144.730 MHz (with 136.5 Hz PL), to get the latest information on club matters and events.

With the business portion of this meeting concluded, Ed presented a DVD on the highly successful DXpedition back in February 2001 to the African island of Comoros, as D68C. This group made over 168,000 QSO's in three weeks—a new world's record!

This meeting concluded at around 9:30PM after all the scheduled business had finished. This is the last club meeting of the season before the summer hiatus. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2011. Ed wished the membership a happy, healthy, and DX-filled summer.

Ed Whitman, K2MFY
LIDXA Secretary