

## **MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING - February 21, 1997**

Location: Polytechnic University, Farmingdale, N.Y.

The meeting of February 21th was called to order at 8:06 PM by the LIDXA President, Frank N2FF. Frank welcomed guest and ex-member Hank, W2HAP and Bob, W2SF (ex-KW2P).

Frank spoke to the membership briefly about his recent trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico. He also reported on several issues that the ARRL is looking into; namely, the proposed changes in Amateur Radio licensing and operation of the Membership Services Committee.

In terms of DX happenings it was mentioned that a one-week DXpedition to Scarborough Reef, BS7, is scheduled in late April.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ed, K2MFY, the LIDXA Secretary read the minutes of the January 17th meeting. These minutes were accepted as read. Russ, W2WM, LIDXA Treasurer, reported that the club had \$2095 in the treasury. Russ reminded the membership that the \$25 dues for the 1997 fiscal year are now due. Presently only 26 members have paid their dues. Frank added that the club must have new members to remain financially solvent. Russ added that at least 35 paid-up members were planned for in the new budget.

Pat, KE2LJ, reported on the status of the club's defunct repeater. Pat's friend from Grumman, Gordon KB2UB, has repaired the defective components in the Spectrum repeater and members of the LIDXA just installed the unit at the site. The Controller Card, which also had some bad components, was removed from service. Presently the repeater has no external control (which is actually in violation of FCC requirements), and the PL cannot be turned off. In addition the theft alarm circuitry is inoperable. However, much to the club's delight, the repeater has been thoroughly checked out, and is back on the air running 30 watts output (no amplifier). Gordon charged the club \$200 for his repair. Marv, W2FGD, has also sent Gordon a note of thanks from the membership. Ed said he would look into the possibility of the club collecting this repair money through our repeater insurance liability. It was reported that the other repeater at the site, the 147.33 MHz machine, has been removed from the tower at the request of the Melville Fire Department.

A discussion then arose on the viability of the repeater. Some members felt that except for the Sunday night net, the repeater was never used - especially with the numerous packet nodes in our area, and that its cost cannot be maintained within our restricted budget. Other members indicated that the repeater was part of the fabric of the membership, which kept club members in touch with one another. In terms of DX real-time spotting the repeater is much faster than any packet spots. After much discussion, Frank suggested that this issue be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting in March. In the interim it was suggested that to keep the repeater frequency busy, each night at 7:30PM the club would start a "chat-net" for members and guests. This informal get-together would discuss any and all issues of interest to the amateur community.

Lou, N2TU, also confirmed that he would start to look into bringing back the AutoCall list, now that the repeater is operational. Several new members indicated that they would like to submit their needed countries list to Lou.

## NEW BUSINESS

Ed said that he had sent a letter off to the Montauk Lighthouse Historical Society requesting permission for the club to operate again from the lighthouse during their BiCentennial Lighthouse Illumination anniversary over the August 2-3 weekend.

At the last meeting, Marty, NN2C, LIDXA Vice President, and also Membership Chairman, recommended that \$5 be given off membership dues for bringing in a new member. After a brief discussion a vote was to be taken on Marty's suggestion; however, since this motion could not be seconded, it was dropped.

Bob, W2SF, said that he had a list of videos that could be reserved for club meetings. This list was passed around for review. Pat also said as long as the school was notified a few days in advance, a VCR/TV would be made available on the club night. It was suggested that the club's Corresponding Secretary, John, KB2CB be notified of the video/entertainment, so that the information could appear in the monthly club meeting notice.

Frank then brought up the suggestion of a club badge, especially for new members. Rich, AC2P, said he still had various styles for sale and would get back to the membership.

Frank also suggested that the club look into a "Chinese Auction" or "Blind Auction" at future club meetings to raise some revenues for the LIDXA. Explaining further, Frank said that this auction would involve the donation of various items in the \$10-15 price range, which would be "auctioned" off, sight unseen, to guests and members. He also indicated that he would like to change around the agenda of the meeting, by having refreshments first, followed by a brief business meeting, followed by the entertainment and concluding with the 50-50 or blind auction. This format would be firmed up at the Board of Directors meeting.

At this point in the meeting a plaque was presented to Hank, W2HAP, in appreciation for the many years of his technical expertise in keeping the LIDXA repeater operational. Hank was also voted in as a Member-at-Large.

Frank announced that the votes from the Board of Directors were tabulated for the fifth "N2DTW Award". It was recalled that past Associate Member, Lenny Albergo, N2DTW, met an untimely death in an accident in 1990. Out of memory for this active DXer, a plaque was purchased by Lenny's friends, which had provisions for about two dozen small engraving entries. It was decided that the plaque be awarded yearly on a revolving basis to one member of the club who best promotes the purposes of the LIDXA as mentioned in the club's constitution. This member would be selected by the club's Board of Directors, with the plaque awarded each year. Last year the award was given to Rich, AC2P. At this time the 1996 winner of the plaque is Larry, K2LS, for all his efforts in promoting the spirit of DX activity over the past year by his diligent work with the LIDXA packet node at his house. The membership warmly applauded Larry.

The entertainment for this evening was a talk on DXing from Barbados by Steve K2WE (ex-NI2C). Steve's talk was followed by a very enthusiastic, discussion by Marv, W2FGD, of the development of post-war DXpeditions. Marv recollected that DXpeditions grew from an informal visit by a foreign national to an exotic country, to the recent \$300,000 trek to Heard Island that generated 80,000 QSOs.

This meeting concluded at 10:10 PM after all the scheduled business had finished.

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Ed Whitman, K2MFY  
LIDXA Secretary