

MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING - March 21, 1997

Location: Polytechnic University, Farmingdale, N.Y.

The meeting of March 21th was called to order at 8:05 PM by the LIDXA President, Frank N2FF. Frank welcomed guests W2NGC, Al; KB1AJB, Tommy; KB2SQP, Dave; and ex-members Walt W2TE and Bob, W2SF (ex-KW2P) along with his XYL Ann, N2WVB.

Frank mentioned to the membership that as a result of a decision of the recent Board of Directors meeting, he would like to change around the agenda of the meeting next month, by having refreshments first, starting at 7:45 PM , followed by a brief business meeting at around 8:15 PM, then the entertainment and concluding with a "Chinese Auction" or "Blind Auction." Explaining further, Frank said that this auction would involve the donation of various items in the \$10-20 price range, which would be "auctioned" off, sight unseen, to guests and members.

In terms of DX happenings, Lenny, KB2HK mentioned that a station from Greenland was checking into his net. In terms of IOTA events, Marty, NN2C reported that HK3JJH would be stopping by a number off islands of the coast of Columbia in the next few weeks. Finally Pat, KE2LJ, indicated that the venerable Radio Amateur Callbooks are being discontinued with the Spring 1997 edition. The callbooks will then be available only on CD-ROM. In other reports, members mentioned that a DXpedition to the Spratley Island group just presently came on the air as 9M6TPR, with operators K1XM and KQ1F. Other rumors were that some DXers were again looking into the possibility of requesting separate country status for the Austral and Marquesas islands.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed, K2MFY, the LIDXA Secretary read the minutes of the February 21 meeting. With some minor corrections these minutes were accepted as read. Ed also read the minutes from the Board of Directors meeting held on March 12 in the home of N2FF. To cut down on the business portion of future meetings, Ed said that his minutes would be printed out and distributed to the membership for review at the beginning of each meeting.

Russ, W2WM, LIDXA Treasurer reported that the club had \$1994.16 in the treasury. Russ read to the membership a letter that he had just received, registered mail, from Juan, ZP5MAL in Paraguay. Loosely interpreting the letter from Spanish, Russ explained that Juan was just awarded a plaque from the ARRL for world high score-21 MHz SSB in the 1996 ARRL International DX Contest. Juan was thanking the club for sponsoring this award, and out of his gratitude included with this letter \$100 in cash for the LIDXA to use for future contests or DXworthy activities. Ed said he would send a letter of thanks from the club to ZP5MAL.

Pat reported on the status of the repeater. Presently the repeater is working fine, except for possibly some desensing problems. There is no PL on the output, and the PL at the input cannot be turned off.

NEW BUSINESS

Frank reported that the Tri-State Amateur Radio Council (TSARC) which coordinates and regulates repeater activity in NY, NJ and the CT area, is in a state of disarray. There is virtually no leadership and the meetings are poorly attended and disorganized. Marv, W2FGD, who is the TSARC representative for the LIDXA agreed with Frank's observations. He stated that unless this group becomes organized, this situation could lead to uncoordinated repeaters and frequency conflicts in the future.

Larry, K2LS, reported on the status of his packet node. Presently everything is working satisfactorily. Larry mentioned that the new semi-annual BuckMaster CD-ROM of QSL information to be used on his node is available for purchase. Larry requested that the club obtain this software at a price of \$45. A vote was taken which approved this purchase: 9 FOR and 2 AGAINST, with several abstentions. However due to the limited budget of the club, the 9 members who approved purchase, donated \$5 each so as not to go into the club's treasury. Les, W2LK (ex-K2SHL) reported that his node at K2GX had improved since he raised his antenna up another 10 feet. He stated that the link delay between adjacent nodes was greatly reduced. Stan is also looking into changing the packet cluster software. Once everything is finalized he would try to change the baud rate from 1200 to 9600 baud.

Frank thanked Bob, W2SF, for bringing in the video for tonight's entertainment. In the April meeting there would be a discussion of DXing techniques on the 160 meter band. Frank suggested that perhaps Lou, N2TU, could give a demonstration of RTTY for the May meeting. On a different note, Frank mentioned that John, N2JE, who handles refreshments, would no longer be doing this after June. Frank was looking for a new volunteer, preferably more than one person, to handle this important task in the Fall.

Lou, N2TU, also confirmed that he would start to look into bringing back the AutoCall list. Lou would have a questionnaire included in the next mailing to the membership.

Art, N2KA, read some general notes he had put together to equipment manufacturers requesting donations of any kind to the LIDXA. Ann, N2WVB, said she would use a word processor to generate a form letter for Art.

Marv mentioned that past member and club president, Dave Ferrier, W2GKZ, was having some physical and personal problems and could not attend meetings nor check into the nets. Due to his past involvement with LIDXA activities, Marv proposed that the club vote W2GKZ as a Member-at-Large. The membership seconded Marv's proposal and would vote on it during the April meeting.

It mentioned at the Board of Directors meeting that perhaps the club's callsign, W2WMG, could be changed to a vanity callsign more appropriate to a DX club. After much discussion, Art, K2ENT, recommended that the club apply for the call W2IYX (in memory of deceased member, club president and active DXer, Harvey McCoy) in addition to a special event callsign such as NY2DX, etc. The membership approved Art's recommendation. Marv, who is the club's trustee for the repeater, requested that we keep the W2WMG callsign out of respect for one of the founding members of the LIDXA. It was uncertain if the club would give up the W2WMG callsign. Steve, K2WE (ex-NI2C) and Russ said that they would check the data base of available callsigns and report back to Frank.

The business portion of the meeting then concluded at 9:45 PM. After a refreshment break there was a video shown on the 1996 ZL8RI DXpedition to Kermadec Island. At the conclusion of the meeting Frank reminded the membership that the April 18th meeting would begin with refreshments at 7:45 PM. Frank also requested that members bring in some goodies for the Chinese auction that evening.

This meeting concluded at 10:30 PM after all the scheduled business and entertainment had finished.

Ed Whitman, K2MFY
LIDXA Secretary