

MINUTES OF LIDXA INC. MEETING - April 18, 1997

Location: Polytechnic University, Farmingdale, N.Y.

The meeting of April 18 was called to order at 8:15 PM by the LIDXA President, Frank, N2FF. In line with a new meeting agenda announced last month, the business meeting followed approximately 30 minutes of refreshments and informal camaraderie between attendees. Frank welcomed guests WA2UFO, Mark; N2HYD, Eliot; KB2MJC, Steve; WB2CUK, Bill; KA2RYE, Gail; and ex-member Bob, W2SF. Also present were the XYLs of members Bob, N2DXJ and Art, K2ENT.

In terms of DX happenings, Lenny, KB2HK mentioned that a DXpedition from Annobon Island should be operational next month. Marty, NN2C spoke on IOTA matters and reported that several IOTA seminars have been scheduled for the Dayton Hamvention in May. Finally Pat, KE2LJ, indicated that the long awaited DXpedition to Scarborough Reef as BS7H is on schedule for the end of April. Starting date is April 30 and a 7 day DXpedition is planned. U.S. QSOs are to be handled by W4FRU. Also Pat said that several Hungarian amateurs are expected to be operational from Rhodes Island (SV5) during the early part of June. On a final note, to commemorate 50 years on the air from Saudi Arabia, the present members of HZ1AB at Dhahran will be active in all major international and regional contests during the period May 1997 through April 1998. A special QSL will be provided for contacts made during this period.

In his role as Hudson Division ARRL Director, Frank reported that as a result of budget reviews at the League the ARRL would be raising some fees associated with DXCC activities. Frank also briefly discussed some of the proposals the League is investigating to change the present licensing structure and its associated privileges.

OLD BUSINESS

Ed, K2MFY, the LIDXA Secretary had the minutes of the February 21 meeting distributed in advance to the membership. These minutes were accepted as written. Due to a busy work schedule, Russ, W2WM, the LIDXA Treasurer, had not prepared a treasurer's report for this meeting.

Regarding club activities, Ed reported that his correspondence with leading amateur magazines, regarding the club's operation from the Montauk Point lighthouse over the August 2 to 3 weekend, has been completed. These special events announcements usually require a minimum of 3 months lead-time. Ed also said that he had written a letter of thanks from the club to Juan, ZP5MAL in Paraguay. Juan was awarded a LIDXA-sponsored plaque from the ARRL for world high score-21 MHz SSB in the 1996 ARRL International DX Contest. Juan had thanked the club for sponsoring this award, and out of his gratitude included with his letter \$100 in cash for the LIDXA to use for future contests or DXworthy activities.

During the March Board of Director's meeting, a motion was raised of possibly obtaining a vanity call sign more appropriate to our DX club. Russ said that he is looking into this matter and would check with Steve, K2WE (ex-NI2C) and analyze the data base of available call signs.

NEW BUSINESS

In the April meeting, Marv, W2FGD 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. At this time, the membership voted on the proposal and unanimously approved Member-at-Large status for Bob. Marty said that he would send out a membership certificate acknowledging this approval.

With no new business matters raised, this portion of this meeting then concluded at 8:45 PM. Larry, K2LS and Bob, W2SF then presented an informative discussion of DX on the low bands—from 160 meters through 40 meters. The talk highlighted antenna considerations and propagation characteristics for these low bands. Larry concluded his discussion with a handout summarizing the DX advantages of the 40 meter band.

After a short break, at 9:35 PM Frank opened up the meeting to the anticipated "Chinese Auction" or "Blind Auction." Members had donated various items related to ham radio, computer software, electronics, test equipment, etc. which would be "auctioned" off, sight unseen, to guests and members. Prices for these items would start 50 cents and higher. With Frank's expert techniques in auctioning, everyone had a grand time at this event. In many cases the recipients walked out with many bargains—in all cases the attendees had a fun-filled evening. It was anticipated that the club had obtained over \$100 for this event.

This meeting concluded at 10:00 PM after all the scheduled business and entertainment had finished. Frank reminded the membership that the May 16 meeting would begin at 7:45 PM for refreshments. It was anticipated that a number of members would not attending this meeting, since the Dayton Hamvention would be running from May 15 to May 18.

Ed Whitman, K2MFY
LIDXA Secretary