

MINUTES OF OF THE LONG ISLAND DX ASSOCIATION MEETING

AUGUST 16, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom, which the members continue to prefer. Our meetings in this format are informal and conversational.

All who share our interest in the Amateur Radio specialty of DXing are invited. Non-members should contact a member if they would like to have the Zoom link.

Present at this meeting were: John, W2GW, LIDXA President; Tom, KA2D, VP; Louise, K2MAU; Aaron, WC2C; Ritchie, K2KNB, President of LIMARC; Bob, W2OSR; Art, N2KA; Jerry, WB2ZEX; Rick, K2RB; Adrian, KO8SCA; Steve, N2AJ; Walt, W2TE; Lou, N0TC; Sali, K2RYO; Alan, N2KW; Lee, VK3GK.

The meeting began at about 8:00 PM with a discussion of the lack of activity recently on the 12 meter band. The consensus view was that this was probably due to the summer-season solar conditions. Improvement was expected to begin next month if the usual patterns hold.

A few members expressed disappointment that some DX stations still do not participate in LOTW to confirm contacts. No solution was expressed.

Tom, KA2D, recommended the VE7CC DX cluster app which he has found to be especially useful because of its ability to link with logging programs and to search other databases.

Steve, N2AJ, mentioned that he has been enjoying chasing POTA (Parks on the Air) stations in recent weeks. He specifically mentioned a QSO with Jim, AC9EZ, from a park in ND.

Walt, W2TE, recommended to the group the new book by DXpeditioner, Cesar, VE3LYC, which documents his adventures. The book is entitled Dream Big and Dare to Fail. However, it appears from Cesar's website that the book has sold out at this time. Cesar will consider doing another printing if demand warrants. He asks that you send him an e-mail if interested.

Several members of the group asked Walt about his new K4 transceiver. Walt said that he especially likes the K4's support of "diversity reception" using two antennas. He said that he is still learning the many capabilities of the rig, but has been enjoying it very much.

Rick, K2RB, who also has a K4, contributed that he has found N6TV's Tips an Tricks with K4D video on Youtube to be extremely helpful in setting up the rig.

Lou, NO2C, announced that the Great South Bay ARC would be participating in Lighthouse/ Lightship Weekend, operating from the Fire Island Lighthouse (Aug 20 and 21st). He invited our club members to join in.

The members congratulated Art, N2KA, on his confirming a 6 meter contact with Japan.

John, W2GW, thanked Steve and Tom for their help in diagnosing and later testing the audio on his laptop after Microsoft had fixed the bug in the driver they installed in one of their "updates."

John then suggested that we curtail our discussions to save plenty of time for Adrian, KO8SCA, who had promised to favor us with a presentation on the latest DXpedition in which he participated, Kiska Island in the Aleutian Chain of Alaska.

Adrian, KO8SCA, then gave a fantastic 45-minute talk, amply supported with slides shared from his own screen via Zoom.

We learned that the operation, under the call of K7K entailed many dangers and hardships including a two-and-a-half day, 750 mile voyage via a sturdy fishing boat on the treacherously rough Bering Sea. Then there was the nearly constant wind and rain on the Island.

But, despite poor July solar conditions at the time, made worse by the northern-latitude effects on propagation, the team managed to get twelve thousand contacts into the log, five thousand of which were "uniques." The 20 and 17 meter bands were most productive. Most of the contacts were in FT8 and CW modes. Well done guys!

Japanese Ops were especially excited about the trip, perhaps because their country had occupied Kiska for a time during World War II as a mini-sub base. Indeed, the stated official purpose of the K7K operation was to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Island's liberation by the Americans. That probably helped to get the special permission needed to visit the island.

A brief Q and A followed Adrian's presentation. The antennas were verticals next to the salt water. An 8KW and two 2KW generators provided power.

The meeting ended at about 9:15 PM

For the entertainment portion of our get-together, we had a video of the 2007 operation from St. Brandon, 3B7C.

The next meeting will take place on September 20, 2022 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
John Reiser, W2GW
President