

LONG ISLAND DX ASSOCIATION MEETING AUGUST 20, 2024

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

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

Present at the meeting were: John, W2GW, President of the LIDXA; Louise, K2MAU; Jack, NU2Q; Bob, W2OSR; Steve, N2AJ; Karen, W2ABK; Chris, VK3FY; Tom, KA2D; Dr. Dave, KA2HTV; Adrian, KO8SCA; and new member Frank, W2FDM.

The meeting started at 8 PM with a continuation of a discussion of 6 meter openings and what type of equipment it would take to work DX on the band.

Steve, N2AJ, said that he has been in contact with Adrian, KO8SCA. He said that Adrian would try to join the meeting via sat-phone from the boat which had just gotten underway following conclusion of the Jarvis Island DXpedition in which he had been a participant.

Next, several members shared experiences concerning the recent heavy rain storms which hit Long Island. It seems that Nassau County was not much affected. However, Suffolk County suffered some damage. The area around Stony Brook experienced about 10 inches of rain, causing damage to the pond and surrounding houses.

Adrian then joined the meeting. He described the first week of the Jarvis operation as being somewhat frustrating. Solar flares erupted and caused communications to be degraded for several days. Adrian said that after the initial days, operation became more normal and many QSO's were made.

John, W2GW, spoke of the solar-flux index being well over 300 during the first week, which presumably caused the D layer of the ionosphere to absorb even signals from the upper HF bands during daytime hours. Those bands became useful after dark.

Adrian was asked about the reaction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife scientists to the project. Adrian said that the scientists were happy to be able to spend two weeks on the island. The agency's budget does not allow for trips having a land portion of more than two days. The Radio-In-Box format of the DXpedition allowed the scientists to see how ham radio operations can be conducted in protected territory, with minimal impact on the environment. The hope is that the favorable experience of an environmentally friendly radio endeavor like Jarvis will influence them to be more forthcoming in granting permissions for future radio operations in other areas under their purview.

Chris, VK3FY, showed a short video of a baby lamb he rescued and which he presently has living in his house.

Dr. Dave spoke about his recent experiences with satellite operation. He is using Remote Ham Radio antennas. The antenna configuration at present is in experimental mode. Dr. Dave described the antennas and the program which controls them. John, W2GW, Jack, NU2Q, and Tom, KA2D made additional comments concerning the software, equipment, antennas and the need to record contacts made during a pass. Recording is necessary due to the fact that contacts are made very quickly, too fast to be written down within the time of the satellite pass.

Jack, NU2Q, showed a QSL card from VK3XB. This confirmed a contact that he made on August 12th of 1959 when he was a Novice operating from Vermont. The operator was trying to work WAS all Novice class. Jack gave him Vermont. Several years later, a short mention was made in QST that this station did make Novice class contacts with all states. There was a small picture of QSLs hanging on a wall.

Frank, W2FDM, introduced himself as a new member who lives in Centereach. Frank is also a member and officer of Radio Central. Tom, KA2D, knows Frank from the many years of working Field Day with this club. Frank does not run high power, he has a vertical antenna and currently has over 300 confirmed DX.

After a brief delay, Adrian re-joined the meeting. He introduced George, AA7JV. Members exchanged greetings and congratulations to him for a successful Jarvis Island operation.

Adrian then introduced Don, N1DG, who is no stranger to the Club. Don made some observations. The DXpedition logged 106,885 QSOs. Twenty-five percent of the contacts were made by the team and the rest were made by 40 remote operators. Three stations used less than 100 watts. Don further mentioned that due to the bird population, the vertical antennas had to be lowered. This compromise was necessary in order to continue with the permission to operate on the island.

John, W2GW, announced that the next meeting of the Club will be on September 17th at 8 PM using the ZOOM format.

The meeting ended at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Phelan, NU2Q
Secretary