

MINUTES OF THE LONG ISLAND DX ASSOCIATION - MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

The COVID Virus lockdown continues and the September meeting of the Long Island DX Association was held online via ZOOM. This meeting was held during the regular time for scheduled meetings of the Association for its business year.

John, W2GW, the LIDXA President, called the meeting to order at 8 PM. Members present via ZOOM were: John, W2GW; Louise, K2MAU; Steve, N2AJ; Tom, KA2D; Jack, NU2Q; Dave, KA2HTV; Walt, W2TE; Adrian, KO8SCA; Art, N2KA; Rick, K2RB; Karen, W2ABK; Lou, NO2C; Rich, KB2ZPB; Bob, K2TV; Gerry, K1NY.

John welcomed all attendees and the meeting proceeded in the informal way as it has been conducted since using the ZOOM format.

The meeting commenced with Adrian, KO8SCA describing his remote operation of LZ5R during the WAE SSB contest held this past weekend. LZ5R is a power station and Adrian described how stations from all parts of the world called him throughout the contest. Adrian was asked how he kept alert and awake during the 30 hour contest. First rule, do not drink coffee during the first half of a contest. He suggested that an operator eat lightly, perhaps do some light exercise but definitely, no coffee. Steve, N2AJ, Tom, KA2D, Rick, K2RB, and Jack, NU2Q reported that they made contact with Adrian.

Several members continued the discussion by observing that 30 hours more or less is a good period for a contest. A 48 hour contest period is just too much.

Another discussion revolved around the use of power with FT4 and FT8. After a recent FT4-FT8 contest, many hams admitted to running 'power.' The issue – is FT8 a low power mode. This topic is frequently debated. But Tom, KA2D recalled a comment by Joe Taylor, K1JT, a creator of these modes. Joe said in a talk to a club – run the power needed to make a contact.

As for band activity, TO0Z is active from St. Bart. While not DX, the Route 66 event is happening now.

Back to DX, John, W2GW said that conditions in the morning around 1200 UTC had been good on 20 meters to work into Asia. (Bob, K2TV mentioned that early evening is also good for working Japan). However, John further observed that during the past week or so, he has not been very successful in making morning Asian contacts. He believes that this is due to the seasonal changes when there is less gray line present at favorable times due to the tilt of the earth as we enter the change of season. John did share with the members, his log of impressive DX contacts made over the recent months.

Jack, NU2Q noted that Bob, K2TV contacted the T6 station in Afghanistan on CW the other day. Bob said that he just called a little higher than zero beat and the station came back after just one call. Adrian, KO8SCA commented on the great skill of this operator who works for the United Nations and is deployed to Afghanistan on a 6 month rotation.

The discussion then focused on the recommendations of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee. This discussion is a follow-up from last month so as to give any additional members the opportunity to voice an opinion.

In short, members spoke in opposition to the proposals of the DXAC. The primary reason is that what is proposed would prohibit many amateurs from fully participating in the DXCC program. Thousands of hams would be blocked out from achieving DXCC either because of their living environments, HOA and zoning laws or geographical distancing beyond the arbitrary suggested distance to a remote station.

The members expressed the view that amateur radio is a hobby and that if there is any competition for DXCC it is a competition within the amateur himself. DXCC should be attainable, challenging and fun to achieve.

John moved that the club approve the appointment of Jack, NU2Q, as the person delegated to write a response to the ARRL DXAC reflecting the views of the members of the Long Island DX Association. To sum up, our members are not in favor of the DXAC proposals.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 9:05 PM. John W2GW, then proceeded to play a video of the Belgian Expedition Group trip to Rockall in September – October, 2011. Rockall is listed by IOTA as EU 189. John, W2GW said that this body is claimed by the U.K., Ireland, Denmark and Iceland because of the large amounts of oil and natural gas believed to be buried in the continental shelf under the rock itself.

The video showed the harsh conditions under which the operators attempted to land on this rock. The group operated under the call MM0RAI/p and made approximately 2000 contacts under extremely difficult operating conditions from the top of the rock.

The next meeting of the LIDXA will be on October 20th at 8:00 PM using the ZOOM format.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Phelan, NU2Q
Secretary