

MINUTES OF THE LONG ISLAND DX ASSOCIATION -

MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2020

The COVID Virus lockdown continues and the October meeting of the Long Island DX Association was held online via ZOOM.

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; Adrian, KO8SCA; Art, N2KA; Rick, K2RB; Karen, W2ABK; Lou, NO2C; Rich, KB2ZPB; Bob, K2TV; Gerry, K1NY; Pat, KE2LJ; K2KNB, Richie, (President of LIMARC); AA2VG, Peter (President of Larkfield ARC); Howard, WB2UZE (co-founder of LICW).

John welcomed all attendees and the meeting proceeded using the ZOOM format.

The meeting started with a question from Richie, K2KNB about what DX is being heard and what antennas would be best. Tom, KA2D, Adrian, KO8SCA and Lou, NO2C gave ideas.

John, W2GW, formally welcomed Howard, WB2UZE as a new member of the club. Howard is known to the members as an avid CW op, DX chaser, and co-founder of the LICW, the Long Island CW Club. Howard acknowledged the welcome from John and thanked the members who responded to him with warm welcome wishes on email.

John asked Howard to describe the LICW. Howard explained that the club was founded to foster the training of hams in the art of CW. In the almost 3 years since the beginning of the club, there are approximately 965 members. People from all backgrounds and ages have joined including the recent addition of a 92-year-old Veteran who operated CW during the Battle of the Bulge.

John then spoke about the DXpedition to Kosovo, Z66DX. He also mentioned the operation on Jan Mayen, JX2US.

John thanked Adrian, KO8SCA, for activating 4U75UN. He also thanked Tom, KA2D for forwarding copies of the OhioPenn DX Bulletin and the 425 DX News to the members.

John spoke about the new solar cycle with the appearance of an observed sunspot although the actual number is a little higher. He also mentioned the probability of a solar storm coming soon.

John asked Adrian, KO8SCA, to offer some comments. Firstly, Adrian explained that the operator at JX2US is someone assigned to a weather station on Jan Mayen. He operates in his spare time which at present seems to favor Europe. Adrian is going to operate VP9I in the upcoming contest. He also spoke about the operations at 4U1UN. The amplifier is currently not working and any repair will not be easy to do. He mentioned the other UN stations, 4U75A in Vienna and 4U75B in Brindisi, Italy. These calls, with 4U75UN, will expire on December 31st.

John then proceeded to call on those present to let them discuss what is important to them.

Richie, K2KNB, spoke about LIMARC. The club is being affected by the COVID environment due to the fact that there are no in-person functions. This loss of personal contact has caused interest to lessen. It seems that the November Hamfest may be virtual and this may even occur with the club's spring event. All LIMARC repeaters are doing well.

John called on Peter, AA2VG. He explained that Larkfield ARC activities are done through ZOOM although a recent outdoor VE session was held and 2 people became hams.

The discussion then turned to the QRP CW only outing at the beach in Captree State Park this Thursday. Although sponsored by LICW, all are welcomed. Time is from Noon to 5 PM. day.

Bob, K2TV, said that the bands were good and that he has worked numerous South Korean stations using 100 watts on FT8. The Great South Bay ARC is holding activities on ZOOM but the club experience is not the same as in-person events.

Bob, W2OSR, explained that he has not done much DXing. He will attend the QRP event.

Karen, W2ABK, spoke about the problem of QSL cards not being forwarded by foreign post offices. Even though there is LOTW, Karen prefers a paper QSL.

Pat, KE2LJ, spoke about living in Florida in terrific weather and having a good time.

Art, N2KA has not been on the air much. He recently did some work on his tower.

Steve, N2AJ, spoke about the Aves Island DXpedition YX0A of 2006. It seems that one of the operators died at the beginning of operation and the group received permission to use his call, YV0LIX, for the remainder of the event.

Rich, K2RB spoke about the continuing cautions around the COVID spread. He also mentioned the possibility of his relocating to southern Connecticut.

Dave, KA2HTV, spoke of contacting operators in the Seychelles. He uses a four square on 160 meters and noted that 15 meters has been open for him to make SSB DX contacts.

Jack, NU2Q, spoke about working several JA's on Sunday evening but that today he could not raise any. Last week provided good conditions for contacts to Lebanon and Turkey. Jack spoke about his private challenge to work as many 'continents' in a day. He especially notes in his log the days when he has worked '5' and especially '6'. Purely a personal thing.

Howard, WB2UZE, spoke about working Australia on 160 in addition to his work for LICW.

Lou, NO2C, also worked Australia in 160 and other DX using SSB.

Richie, KA2ZPB, told of recently working New Zealand and KG6JDX from Guam.

Finally, a discussion covered the issue of whether Global QSL card exchange was still in existence. No one knew for sure. An alternative was offered by Steve, N2AJ – QDURE as a possibility to investigate.

The business portion of the meeting ended at 9:10 PM.

John then played a video of the 2007 DXpedition to Scarborough Reef – BS7H. The video was a good presentation of the challenges from all sides that the group faced in order to operate. During the video, members saw Gerry's call, K1NY appear on the monitor of one of the ops.

At the end of the video, Steve, N2AJ reminisced as to how he worked with Martti OH2BH who was on the DXpedition to provide Lou, W2BIE, with this last country for his total. Steve described how Martti called Lou while holding off thousands of very anxious hams. It was a success. Steve displayed a special QSL made for the event. Only 4 were made and Steve has one.

The next meeting of the LIDXA is scheduled for November 17, 2020 at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Phelan, NU2Q

Secretary