



QSX



Volume XIX Issue 3
Editor: Howard; KC2OJO

March 2012

The next Executive Board and General meetings of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday March 8th, at the Huntington Senior Citizens Center at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM, respectively.

At the March 8th meeting, Scott AC2FV will describe the Facebook page that he has set up just for use by members of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club, how it works and how you can join. If you are already very familiar with Facebook you don't have to wait for the meeting but can go to Larkfield's page (larkfieldarc) on Facebook. Otherwise, wait until after the presentation!

Please remember that club members are always free to bring in to our scheduled meetings a small amount of any Ham Radio related items that they may wish to sell. Please set up the items on a back table at least 15 minutes before the start of the General meeting. Selling will be limited to a period after the end of the meeting and any scheduled presentations.

For information on the recent passing of former member, Sidney P. Cutler, now a silent key, please see pages 6 and 7.

Coffee and Donuts will be available at the meetings for \$1 each



The President's Column

by

Gary McDowell K2TVN

Field Day 2012 is set, this year, for the weekend of June 23-24. This event is sponsored by the ARRL as well as your LARC Club. Its always held the fourth full weekend in June and our standard site is West Hills Park in Huntington, New York. This is a picturesque site with plenty of free parking, indoor facilities and police patrolled security. There isn't any admission fee and the club obtains a paid permit, and for the first time in years our general liability insurance limits are updated and improved so we do not need to seek special variances from the County of Suffolk. We can thank Neil Harris, Director (KC2TAF) and his wife as well as Roger Rapp, Treas.(W2GLE) and myself for resolving the insurance and permit issues so there will be smooth sailing for years to come in getting the park site permits.

The event itself is co-chaired by Pat McPartland (WS2A) and Fred Kruger (k2LDC) who are also directors of our club. Set up starts at about 8 AM and we meet at Boxer Court to obtain all the equipment and data to load into our own trucks and cars for a convoy to West Hills site. If you haven't seen where our 2 meter repeater and antenna is erected, this is a rare chance to see same up front and close as this is normally a secured site and the tower is impressive. I might further add that our brand new 2 meter antenna could be installed and running around March 2012.

Set up takes several hours but it all depends upon the number of club volunteers who show up at Boxer Court and help load and unload equipment as well as set up at site.

The event is a continuous, over night, 24 hour big event and is a lot of fun just team building with fellow hams, as well as learning how to erect emergency communications and operate same. For those of you who enjoy contesting with fellow ARRL members and hams around the world there is something for everyone. We have a dxing, cw, low power and GOTA stations.

You haven't lived until you see Pat direct and supervise the erecting of the CW antenna. There are a number of people all involved in bringing the masts up in concert and its analogous to seeing a circus tent put up in a professional engineering feat.

Since it is a 24 hour session, there are ample opportunities to come and help and visit and make this event a big success and a lot of fun.

In the last two years that I attended, I showed up for all day Saturday and then went home and took a shower and came back and stayed from 10 PM to 5 AM Sunday. I had a lot of fun doing the dxing contests and enjoyed the contacts all over the US etc. My favorite was a pile up to reach a station in Hawaii.

We also provide basic beverages and food for the workers and visitors. What's nice is that several members donated water, soda and dishes of food which keeps our costs down and add to the enjoyment of this important and great event.

We take plenty of pictures to document and remember the event which will be included in future QSX issues by our Howard Stern, secretary (KC2OJO).

We have had a core group of people from the club do the set up, stay and run the operating tents and do the take down and I dare not list these people for fear I forget any one individual who deserves credit too. What we will do is take several group photos of participants and workers for QSX.

I am writing this article now so that you may pencil in this grand event for June 23-24, 2012 at this time, and volunteer to Fred and Pat, so that the set up time is shortened and the enjoyment and fun time period extended

Exact set up and scheduling will be administered by Pat and Fred.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible register to help out and come and visit us at LARC ARRL Field Day 2012.

73's

Gary McDowell, K2TVN

2012 Membership Renewal

Payment is due by January 1, 2012

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address / Phone / email – If Changed:

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member Type (X only one Type)	Dues
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular	\$ 35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 65 or Older	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Age 17 or Less	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Disabled	\$ 25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Living Outside of Suffolk, Nassau, NYC	\$15.00

Qsx

Please send me Qsx by US Mail - **Add** \$10.00

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to: **LARC** and send with this form to:

Larkfield Amateur Radio Club Inc.

P.O. Box 1450

Huntington, NY 11743

Date Submitted _____

**IF YOU HAVEN'T SENT YOUR 2012 DUES IN YET:
NOW IS A GOOD TIME!**

Minutes of the February 12, 2012 General Meeting

The meeting, chaired by Chuck N2JIY, started at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of allegiance.

Howard KC2OJO gave the Secretary, Website, Reflector and Qsx reports. The minutes of the January meeting were published in the February Qsx that was electronically distributed on January 27th and then printed by Chuck N2JIY and mailed by Rich KA2LHK. Howard stated that no web related problems occurred during the previous month but the

Monday night Info-Chats had sparse check-ins and more material was needed for the website and Qsx.

Roger W2GLE reported on the funds available in the club's various bank accounts.

Bruno KC2ESI gave the repeater reports. The .210 repeater antenna has a crack in the fiberglass that is filling with water when it rains – thus lowering its sensitivity.

Continued on page 5

Selecting and Using an Electric Generator by Fred Kruger, K2LDC

Continued from the February Issue of QSX

There are two basic connection options:

1. Use heavy-duty 3-prong outdoor rated extension cords to connect appliances and lamps directly into the generator's outlet. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for grounding the generator.
2. Have a licensed electrician connect the generator to your house wiring using a "listed" transfer switch, which means it meets nationally recognized (and local) safety standards as indicated by the UL Listing Mark on the product. Having an electrician install the listed transfer switch will safely prevent your generator from back feeding utility lines, thus avoiding a safety hazard to you, your family, neighbors and utility workers, and preventing possible damage to your generator when utility power is restored. Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring.

Remember:

You don't need to run everything at the same time; rotating larger items allows the use of a smaller generator, which costs less to buy, is easier to move and consumes less gasoline.

Never operate a generator inside your home, garage, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar spaces even if you plan to use a fan, an open door, or open windows for 'ventilation'.

Never refuel a hot generator or one that is running; hot engine parts or exhaust can ignite gasoline.

Turn off all connected appliances before starting your generator.

Turn connected appliances on one at a time, never exceeding the generator's rated wattage.

Read and follow the manufacturers instructions that came with the generator, as well as those on their website.

Don't leave a running generator unattended; if possible, turn it off at night and when away from home.

When you are not using your generator, fill its tank with fresh gasoline and add the proper amount of fuel stabilizer. Change the engine oil if needed. Drain the carburetor float bowl. Drain the sediment cup (if one is installed). Change the engine oil, if needed.

In Summary:

- Read, understand and follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Operate outdoors in a clean, dry area.
- Generator must be properly grounded.
- After losing power, turn off main breaker or pull main fuse block.
- Generators that are directly connected to existing wiring systems must be connected through a double-pole, double-throw (DPDT) transfer switch; which assures that the generator is never connected to the outside power service lines. **NEVER directly connect your generator to your house wiring. It is very dangerous and introduces an electrocution risk to your neighbors and to utility workers who may be working on power lines to restore service.**
- All electrical connections must comply with the National Electric Code.
- Do not overload your generator with too many appliances.
- Use properly sized extension cords in good condition.
- Two small generators may be easier to move and use and more fuel efficient than one large one.
- You may be liable for damage or injury to people and property that may result from an improperly installed or operated emergency generator.

Finally:

Consider how much interaction you want with your back-up power system and how much you're willing to spend. Generators for home use range from small "pull start" and/or "battery start" portable units to large, fully automatic power systems. In this paper, we have discussed only the former. You can purchase a generator which will run from bottled gas (propane) and/or from the natural gas supplied to your home via underground pipes. There also are larger, semi- and fully automatic "standby" generators. These may be the subject of a future article.

Continued from page 3

That problem should be resolved soon. Our antenna installers will probably complete the installation of our new antenna as soon as the weather permits.

Bob AC2AZ commented that he could hit our .210 repeater with 50 watts from his mobile on the far side of the Tappen Zee bridge.

Bruno also indicated that he is close to getting updated location information into our APRS station.

Larry N2BKJ, the membership chairman, reported that at the current time there were 52 paid up members.

Howard KC2OJO gave the Daytimers report with the comment that attendance was running at about 3- 4 members.

Fred K2LDC gave the Nighttimers report – the recent range has been about 4-7 attendees.

Pat WS2A, Field Day Co-Chair, stated that at the next meeting he would be circulating a sheet upon which members could indicate on what times they would be available and for which tasks.

There were no items under Good & Welfare and there was no ARES/RACES report.

Under New Business there were brief discussions concerning the Club's need for one more Director and the fact that there were now D-Star repeaters in Suffolk, Nassau and Brooklyn.

The meeting was closed at 7:45 PM and the Auction, led by Fred K2LDC started. Thanks, Fred, for again volunteering to be our Auctioneer.

February 9th Executive Board Meeting Minutes

The Executive Board meeting started at 7:00 PM with Gary K2TVN presiding. Attendees were Scott AC2FV, Neil KC2TAF, Fred K2LDC, Roger W2GLE, Gary K2TVN, Chuck N2JIY, Pat WS2A and Howard KC2OJO.

Items covered included:

Neil KC2TAF volunteered to help with the Membership database software and to take care of obtaining our Suffolk County permit for Field Day.

Bruno KC2ESI described the remaining work on our repeaters and APRS station. The location update for the APRS station is almost complete.

Scott AC2FV volunteered to set up a Facebook page for our club and teach our members how to use it.

Gary K2TVN and Chuck N2JIY showed the other Directors the new Certificate of Appreciation form that had been generated for the club.

Getting an additional Director to fill the last open slot.

The Executive Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

LIMARC HAMFEST SUNDAY MARCH 4, 2012

AT LEVITTOWN HALL

**201 Levittown Parkway
Hicksville, New York 11801**

Doors open 9 AM for Buyers, for Vendors at 7 AM — VE Session 10 AM

General Admission \$6.00

For full details visit <http://www.limarc.org/fest.htm>

IN MEMORIUM

Sidney P. Cutler, WB2GUB (Jul 5, 1925 - Feb 15, 2012)

In the wintertime when the trees are bare, I can see Sid's antenna tower from my rooftop. Our homes are just a couple of blocks apart here in Kings Park, where both our families have lived since the early sixties.

In those days there was no internet and so hams "discovered" each other by catching a glimpse of a call-letter license plate or seeing a distinctive antenna installation. I don't recall exactly how it happened but we finally met around 1970, plus or minus a couple of years.

At that time, Sid told me about a great Ham club he belonged to... the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club, based in Huntington... and he invited me to join, which I did. After that we took turns driving to monthly Club meetings for many years until he dropped his LARC membership.

Sid experienced a fall at home some weeks ago. Complications set in and he became a silent key on February 15th. And so, I'd like to offer a few observations about Sid from the point of view of a friend who shared this great hobby of ours. Forgive me if some of my historical dates or facts might be a bit off.

In World War II Sid served in the European Theater, flying photo recon missions for the Army Air Corps. Some of those missions, he told me, were in the B-26 "widow-maker", a bomber whose wingspan was, it turned out, just a tad too short for safe takeoffs and landings.

After the war he took advantage of the GI Bill and studied at (I believe) the RCA institute. He became a TV repair technician which probably paved the way to his ham radio interests. At the time that I met him, though, he was a solid citizen in the insurance business. He was well suited for that, because of his interest in people and his great personality.

I think it's fair to say that Sid never did anything half-way: in ham radio he was deeply involved in operating (WAC WAS DXCC Ten-Ten), slow-scan TV, FieldDay, Smithtown ARES /RACES, LARC auctions, and more. His shack included a fully-equipped custom operating console that was proudly displayed on his QSL card. He helped to install and maintain the old LARC 2 meter repeater on one of the the Kings Park Psychiatric Center buildings.

But over the years Sid's focus changed and evolved... he became deeply interested in film photography (before digital imaging) and built a professional-grade color darkroom in his basement. He became a powerboat owner, and went on to complete a 20 year distinguished membership in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. And he had many other technology-related interests... he often talked about (and dabbled in some) solar energy projects, wind-turbines and he even dreamed of designing and building an electric car someday.

Everyone who knew Sid will miss him. I sure will. After all, he was a METS and JETS fan and a ham. What more could one ask of a friend?

Art, W2NN

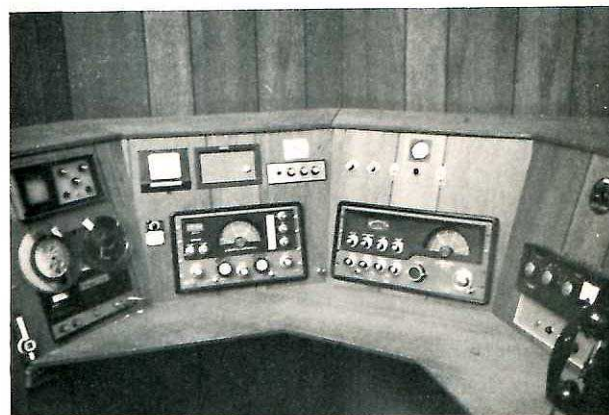


WB2GUB

SID CUTLER
20 COLUMBINE LA
KINGS PARK, N. Y.
11754



SSTV STATION



WAC WAS DXCC RCC EC 10X-1926

Photos provided by Art W2NN

As outlined in the extraction below from the Feb 17 K7RA Solar Update, things are in a temporary lull but are expected to get better soon! For the full article go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-205>

We are more than halfway through the winter season, and today -- February 17 -- is 58 days after the winter solstice. Propagation should improve as we approach the vernal equinox on March 20, which is just 32 days from now. Solar activity is still in the temporary doldrums, with sunspot numbers below 100, but the weekly average of daily sunspot numbers rose this week by more than 15 points to 55.6. Sunspot numbers for February 9-15 were 33, 51, 62, 80, 59, 64 and 40, with a mean of 55.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 99.2, 110.8, 112.3, 110.4, 108.4, 107.4 and 104.6, with a mean of 107.6. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 4, 4, 4, 8, 10 and 22, with a mean of 8. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 4, 3, 3, 7, 8 and 18, with a mean of 6.7

There was a geomagnetic storm on Wednesday, February 15 (UTC). Early in the UTC day (Tuesday night in North America), the planetary K index went to 5 and the planetary A index was 22. The College A index in Fairbanks was estimated at 46, which is quite high. The disturbance was probably from a CME a few days earlier. Aurora in North America was seen as far south as Minnesota.

Please send any photos or articles you would like to appear in QSX or on the Larkfield website to howards@ieee.org.

THE LARKFIELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OPERATES:

WR2ABA HUNTINGTON REPEATER

2 meters

147.210 MHz out/147.810 MHz in
4z/136.5 Hz PL

W2LRC HAUPPAUGE REPEATER

2 meters

145.430 MHz out/144.830 MHz in
4z/136.5 Hz PL

W2LRC HUNTINGTON APRS

2 meters

144.390 MHz In/Out

USA EASTNET FLEXNET NETWORK

2 meters

WA2PNU (0-15) Nodes 145.070 MHz
WA2PNU (-4) Node 145.070 MHz (BBS)

Members of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club are invited to use the W2RGM Dix Hills Repeater System:

2 meters

147.075 MHz out/147.675 MHz in
4z/136.5 Hz PL

70 centimeters

448.500 MHz out/ 443.500 in
2a/114.8 Hz PL

LARKFIELD INFO-CHAT

**Monday nights at 8:00 PM on the .210 Repeater (147.420 simplex if the repeater is down)
147.210 MHz, Plus 600 kHz Offset, 136.5 PL Tone**

If any member of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club is interested in setting up an Echolink or IRLP station in their home they should contact Bruno KC2ESI for details on what would be required — besides the basic wideband Internet connection.

The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club
Affiliated with American Radio Relay League

Officers (one year terms)

President Gary McDowell K2TVN (2012)
 Vice-President Chuck Hartley N2JIY(2012)
 Secretary Howard Stern KC2OJO (2012)
 Treasurer Roger Rapp W2GLE (2012)

General Directors (two year terms)

Neil Harris	KC2TAF	(2011-2012)
Pat McPartland	WS2A	(2011-2012)
Steve Hines	N2PQJ	(2011-2012)
Scott Conover	AC2FV	(2012-2013)
Fred Kruger	K2LDC	(2012-2013)
XXXX	XXXX	(2012-2013)

WA2PNU Station Trustee Roger Rapp W2GLE
 WR2ABA Station Trustee Roger Rapp W2GLE
 W2LRC Station Trustee Roger Rapp W2GLE

Larkfield ARC March Birthdays

CALL

NAME

KC2JDY	Kenneth Cooperstein
N2UQQ	Richard J. Dufner
N2JIY	Chuck Hartley
N2BTK	Walter Haubenreisser
WS2A	Patrick McPartland

Thanks to Bruno KC2ESI, Jack K2JX and Steve N2POJ

The list of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club repeaters and facilities has been updated after careful verification by Steve. The old list had been allowed to get way out of date. Jack and Bruno have completed the work of moving our W2LRC APRS system from Dix Hills to Huntington and have completed the effort of getting our equipment into an all “new” condition.

General Meetings 7:30 PM

January 12, 2012	June 14, 2012
February 9, 2012	September 13, 2012
March 8, 2012	October 11, 2012
April 12, 2012	November 8, 2012

Board Meeting 7:00 PM

January 12, 2012	June 14, 2012
February 9, 2012	September 13, 2012
March 8, 2012	October 11, 2012
April 12, 2012	November 8, 2012

GOOD AND WELFARE

Attention members: Our Good and Welfare Chairperson is Helene Lazarus (XYL of Arnie N2PLS). Please inform her (499-2837) of news about club members so she may make submissions to this publication.

ARES/RACES NET

Attention to all members: The weekly ARES/RACES net is active, meeting every Monday evening at 1930 on 147.210. Check in with our net control, John Allocca WB2LUA, at www.wb2lua.com to learn of any ARES/RACES news and to help maintain your proficiency in emergency communications procedures.

2012 DUES SCHEDULE

Regular Membership: \$35.00

Members Age 65 or older: \$25.00

Members Age 17 or less: \$25.00

Disabled Members: \$25.00

Living Outside Club's Operating Sphere: \$15.00

Add \$10.00 if you want QSX via U.S. Mail

Make your check payable to: LARC

And Mail to:

Larkfield Amateur Radio Club Inc.

PO Box 1450

Huntington, NY 11743

**VE SESSION SATURDAY April. 14th
HUNTINGTON TOWN HALL
100 MAIN ST., ROOM 114
WALK-Ins WELCOME**

Team Liaison is Ed KC2E. Contact is Stan N2YKT. Fee is \$15. All elements will be offered and exams start at 9:00AM.

Must have 2 forms of ID, one of which includes a photo. If upgrading, bring an original and a copy of your license and an original of any CSCEs.

The next Executive Board and General meetings will be on Thursday, March 8th at 7:00PM and 7:30PM, respectively.

The weekly Larkfield Info Chat is on Mondays at 8:00 PM on the 147.210 repeater (+0.6 MHz offset, 136.5 tone) or on 147.420 MHz simplex if the repeater is down.

**Larkfield Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Post Office Box 1450
Huntington, NY 11743**