



Volume XXV, Issue 9

November 2018

Editor: Thomas Price; KC2PSC

October 11, 2018 Board Meeting

Due to the bad weather there was no board meeting as there were insufficient board members present.

October 11, 2018 General Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM

Peter AA2VG noted that we had two candidate for board Directors (Art KD2NJM and Matt N2RBP) but so far no candidate for President and Secretary. Voting will occur at the Next meeting in November. The club needs leadership and hopefully we will have candidates in November.

Steve N2PQJ discussed AERES/RACES. There was a discussion regarding the ARRL proposed changes to the Technician license to include increased HF privileges.

The ARRL Hudson Division Director election is now ongoing with all members present having received a ballot. The two candidates were discussed.

Cow Harbor T shirts were handed out to the members who took part in the Cow Harbor event.

Rich W2TMA discussed the VE session planned for October 13, 2018

Howard KC2OJO: discussed night timers.

Thomas KC2PSC noted that the QSX went out. Any articles from members would be appreciated for the next edition.

Peter AA2VG discussed an email he received from Robert Maier Maire W2RGM: Robert is looking for a site for one of his UHF repeaters. He has proposed to install a repeater in LARC's current space and an antenna on the tower. This was discussed by all members present and it was decided by a unanimous vote that it is not in the club's best

interest . Peter will convey this to Robert.
Peter AA2VG discussed the Parks on the Air program.
Due to the inclement weather Mike

N2YBB was not able to make the trip from Brooklyn to Huntington to speak at the meeting. He has a rain check.

Operating National Parks on the Air from HP42

by: Thomas Price, KC2PSC

When the ARRL announced their collaboration with the National Park Service to have a year long National Parks on the Air I immediately thought it would be a great idea. I quickly came up with the two locations that I wanted to activate Fire Island National Seashore and Saratoga National Historic Park. I will discuss my activation of Saratoga National Historic Park.



The AD5X homebrew vertical. Photo credit: KC2RFU

I made initial contact with park office and after discussing with their NPOTA designated contact, a ham, decided to plan the activation for the fall. I initially planned on going upstate in late September, but delayed it for a couple of weeks due to equipment not being ready.

On a mild Saturday in October we went up to Saratoga National Historic Park to operate for several hours. We setup our operation next to the Neilson house adjacent to the American fortifications. This provided us with beautiful vistas of the surrounding area ensconced in fall colors.

The setup we used was my Yaesu FT-857D, sealed gel cell batteries, and the AD5X portable home brew antenna.

After setting up the antenna and connecting up the radio I turned on the radio to see how band conditions were going. I decided to setup on 40 meters as that has been a very reliable band in past New York QSO parties. Although this was my first battery powered operating experience I was confident in my abilities to handle a pileup. I just didn't know how having a significantly lower transmit power would work out.

After finding an open frequency and setting my output power to 15 Watts, I began to call CQ. After several minutes I heard no one answering. I tried to call CQ again and then I noticed that I was getting a small flashing SWR icon on the front panel of my radio. I quickly looked up what this meant in the manual and realized my output power was being automatically reduced due to high VSWR. This might explain why no one was responding to my CQ.

The AD5X antenna is a collapsible portable HF vertical antenna based on a telescoping MFJ mast antenna. I had

recently finished building the antenna and had limited time to test and calibrate it. I made the decision out there to shorten the antenna to see if I could resolve the issue.

Unfortunately the VSWR problem on 40 meters could not be resolved. This



We had an equine visitor to our activation.

Photo credit: KC2RFU

combined with the lack of stations on the band prompted me to move to 20 meters to try my luck. There was more activity on the band and I began my search for some open bandwidth to start calling CQ. In my search I came upon a station from Argentina calling CQ. I gave him a response and it seemed that I had made my first contact, but due to the amount of noise I couldn't be sure.

I was beginning to get worried that I would only work one station all day since nobody was responding to my efforts.

Then suddenly a voice cracks up above all the noise. It was a fellow ham enjoying his Saturday. This was followed by a contact with a Slovenian ham. I couldn't believe that my maybe 15 Watts of power was beaming into Europe with a strong enough signal to receive a 5-5 signal report. I was making good progress working stations on a fairly steady rate and then suddenly no stations were answering my CQ's. As the afternoon progressed band conditions changed I started to hear plenty of stations from California. I had chosen to schedule my activation the weekend of the California QSO Party. Unfortunately they were not hearing me so I had no choice but to move to a new frequency. Unfortunately the band was clogged with stations and I was unable to work any additional stations. We decided to pack up for the day as it was starting to get cold and dark.

I enjoyed the opportunity to participate in this national event. I found that my station setup for this portable activation was sound. I had brought with me two 12 Volt batteries, but in future operations I might bring one if I know I won't be operating for more than a couple of hours. Since this activation I have been making progress on fixing my vertical antenna and hope to begin testing it soon. I found out that I could enjoy operating without full power or advanced antenna arrays. In the future once I have worked out all the remaining kinks in my setup I am considering doing some potential SOTA and POTA activations.



Parks On the Air
by: Peter Deluca, AA2VG
November 8, 2018
Huntington Senior Citizen Center
7:30PM

Peter will talk about Parks on the Air and several of the parks that he has activated recently.

October 11, 2018
7:30 PM
Huntington Senior Center

Groups IO

Please join the Clubs Yahoo group. Not a member already send an e-mail to the following address:

larkfieldarc+subscribe@groups.io

Join our facebook group

<http://www.facebook.com/Larkfieldarc>

ARES/RACES NET

Sunday 0900 New York State RACES 3993.5 LSB
Monday 1900 Huntington - 147.210
Monday 1930 Smithtown - 145.430
Monday 1930 Southampton - 147.195
Monday 2000 Nassau County ARES RACES - 443.525
Monday 2000 Easthampton - 145.270
Monday 2015 Babylon - 146.685
Monday 2030 Brookhaven - 145.210
Monday 2100 Suffolk County RACES - 145.330

Huntington ARES/RACES

<http://www.huntingtonnyaresraces.org>

The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club

Affiliated with American Radio Relay League

Officers (one year terms)

President Peter Deluca AA2VG (2018)

Vice President Neil Harris KC2TAF (2018)

Treasurer Jonathan Schwartz KC2PBE (2018)

General Directors (two year terms)

Bob Benward AC2AZ (2017-2018)

Rich Florio W2TMA (2018-2019)

Scott Conover AC2FV (2017-2018)

Roger Rapp W2GLE (2018)

WA2PNU Station Trustee Jonathan Schwartz KC2PBE

WR2ABA Station Trustee Jonathan Schwartz KC2PBE

W2LRC Station Trustee Jonathan Schwartz KC2PBE

448.500 MHz out/ 443.500 in

2a/114.8 Hz PL

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

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

The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club wishes to thank Bruno KC2ESI, Jack K2JX, Joe N2QPD, Bob AC2AZ, Thomas KC2PSC, and Pat WB2CMF for their dedication and efforts in maintaining the Club's repeaters and our packet and APRS stations. Their collective efforts and donations of equipment along with the overview of Bob AC2AZ and Peter AA2VG have kept us "on the air". Still to go, another 440 MHz repeater and adding IRLP or Echolink to one of our repeaters. We need volunteers for this new work.

General Meetings 7:30 PM

November 8,2018 December 13, 2018

Board Meetings 7:00 PM

November 8,2018 December 13, 2018

GOOD AND WELFARE

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

<p align="center"><u>2018 DUES SCHEDULE</u> 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</p> <p><u>Add \$10.00 if you want QSX via U.S. Mail</u></p>	<p align="center">Pay by PayPal at larkfield.org</p> <p align="center">Make your check payable to: LARC</p> <p align="center">And Mail to: Larkfield Amateur Radio Club Inc. PO Box 1450 Huntington, NY 11743</p>
<p align="center">VE SESSION SATURDAY December 9th HUNTINGTON TOWN HALL 100 MAIN ST., ROOM 114 WALK-Ins WELCOME</p> <p>Team Liaison is Rich W2TMA. Fee is \$15. All elements will be offered and exams start at 9:00AM. You 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.</p>	<p>The next Executive Board and General meetings will be on Thursday, November 8th at 7PM and 7:30PM, respectively.</p> <p>You can submit articles or photos for publication by e-mail at: larkfieldqsx@gmail.com</p>

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