



QSX



Volume XIX Issue 2

February 2012

The next Executive Board and General meetings of the Larkfield ARC will be held on Thursday February 9th, at the Huntington Senior Citizens Center at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM, respectively.

After the General Meeting we will be holding an Auction of Ham Radio equipment recently donated to the club. If you have any radio or electronic related items you can donate for the auction please bring them to the club before the start of the General Meeting.

Volunteers at Larkfield's Ham Radio University Table. Left to right: John KN2GSP, Bob AB2AZ, Steve N2PQJ, Vic WA2ARQ



Photo taken by Gary K2TVN



The President's Column

by

Gary McDowell K2TVN

Ham Radio University (HRU) on 1/8/2012 at Briarcliffe College in Bethpage, N. Y. was the first big event for the new year and it was a big success for our club and fun too. Those who came to the event were able to attend many fine lectures and forums and put a face to call sign and revisit old friends they had met from previous years at HRU and elsewhere.

There was a lot of preparation and planning that I had started months ago, by making contacts with various HRU committee members and getting the lay of the land as what we could and couldn't do.

As time got closer to the event we agreed to have a LARC media table for the public and also a meeting place for our club members to come and say hello to each other and rest in between class breaks.

At our table, we had professional media packets prepared by our VP Chuck Hartley that consisted of copies of our repeater frequencies, membership forms, the last 2 months QSX's, and my contact cards for LARC as your president. Our LARC banner was in full display and was one of the best banners there, if not the best in my opinion. See my picture I took of our table with a few of the early LARC members sitting together.

We had 8 members work our table throughout the 8:30 AM set up time through our 4 PM take down time and we had three additional members visit our table.

Special thanks to Vic WA2ARQ who was the first volunteer many months ago and stated he wouldn't even go to classes but just stay at the table while I visited other clubs presidents and ARRL //Ares//Races

leaders, worked VE session and spoke at leadership forum. The last volunteer was Bob AC2AZ who stayed the whole day and also brought hi tech electronic equipment to display on our table and a case of water for sustenance for our members. Throughout the day we had a "gold standard" of volunteers from our club who took turns welcoming people to our table and also expanding their Ham knowledge by going to a couple of lectures and forums too. I also want to give thanks to Steve N2PQJ (Dir), Fred K2LDC (Dir), Barbara WA2VQJ, Howard (Sec) KC2OJO and John KN2GSP for devoting time to our club table. We picked up several new members, who joined our club.

By having a club table, providing media packages, displaying our banner, working the VE session and meeting with ARRL section leader Mike Lisenco, Jim Mezey ARRL Ares Section leader and Bob Meyer K2TV of HRU VE I was able to spread the word about LARC and also invited them to our club to give a lecture later on in 2012. At the leadership forum I was about one out of 5 total, who gave a speech about their respective clubs. Mike Lisenco gave me a 2012 ARRL Handbook with CD (worth about \$50.00) to be donated to our club as a thank you gift which I gladly accepted on your behalf.

A lot of good came out of HRU this year and we should aim to continue our participation next year too.

By the end of the day I felt our group was very effective spreading the word about LARC and we made a lot of new contacts and friends, thanks to our volunteers.

To top it off, I won a small door prize too!

See you at the next meeting and please get your dues in, if not mailed in already, and start thinking Field Day in late June 2012 !

73

Gary 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

Q SX

Please send me Q SX 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 January 12, 2012 General Meeting

The meeting started at 7:35 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance and was chaired by Gary K2TVN, President. Nineteen members were present.

As a first order of business our newest and youngest member, James, KD2BHY was introduced to the other members.

Howard KC2OJO gave the Secretary's and website reports, informing the members that the minutes of

the December Executive Board and General meetings had been published in the January Q SX and distributed electronically on December 26. The hard copy version, of Q SX, printed by Chuck N2JIY and processed by Rich KA2LHK, was mailed shortly thereafter. In addition, copies of Q SX were emailed to a small list of non-members. The website was problem free for the last month and had been updated with the new list of Directors, directions to the Huntington Senior Center and with pictures from the Club's 2012 Holiday Party.

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Selecting and Using an Electric Generator by Fred Kruger, K2LDC

There are times when a weather event or local “man-made” event can cause a loss of electric power..... sometimes lasting much more than a few hours. At these times, a small electric generator can help to reduce stress and provide somewhat more normal home living. **First, if you don't have AC powered Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors with 9-volt battery back-up, purchase and connect them now.**

When you begin to shop for your generator, first prioritize your needs and make a list of the items you believe must operate in an emergency. Also write down answers to the following questions (to take with you as you shop).

- How much power is actually required: 1. to start each appliance, and 2. to run each appliance. Read motor and appliance nameplate information to determine power demands (Power in watts = Current (amps) x Voltage (volts). Most generator manufacturers can provide brochures with typical power requirements for appliances, lights, and equipment to help plan your total power requirements.
- How much gasoline is consumed per hour?
- What size tank is on the generator?
- How much additional gasoline are you able to safely store? (Before an emergency, be sure to fill your car gas tank. You may need some of it for your generator. But, always leave enough gas for emergency evacuation or other transportation needs.
- How will the generator be connected to electrical devices in your house – via separate extension cords or via a special wall connection and a transfer switch,? Never use an electric cable with male connectors (plugs) at both ends.

Then consider reality: **A smaller generator may actually be better for you.** Run time is a major concern. If most of your neighborhood is without power, there's a good chance that your local gas station(s) won't have power either! With no power, there's no way for them to pump gas. The gas supply you have in the generator and your storage containers must last as long as possible. Your priority consideration is to determine what things you actually need to power in an emergency. Remember, you can save gas by using appliances only as needed. If no appliances are running, shut off the generator. If you're just running a few lights, consider using a few battery powered lights to save gas (and money). Refrigerators may only need to run a few hours a day to preserve food. Using a refrigerator thermometer, aim to maintain 40 degrees in the refrigerator compartment and 0 degrees in the freezer. Use lower power requirement CFL lights.

Generator manufacturers rate generator fuel consumption based on running with a 1/2 the rated capacity load. It can be misleading, but they all do it! Make a list of what will need power; a few lights, a radio, your refrigerator, maybe your gas or oil heating system, etc. For example, my generator is rated for 1500 watts continuous load. It has a 1 gallon gas tank. It slows down with reduced load---further reducing gas consumption and noise, while maintaining **120 volts AC at 60 Hz**. If needed, a second of these small generators might be used to support the power needs of a gas furnace, while using very little additional gasoline per hour (Most 4-5 kilowatt generators consume almost 1 gallon per hour at half-load and are much noisier).

During Hurricane Irene, our 2000 watt/1500 watt generator ran our refrigerator, some lights, Amateur Radio equipment, weather and FM radios, and small device battery chargers; consuming about 1 gallon of gas every 13 hours, while supporting about a 700 watt load. I had approximately 9 gallons of gas available and that was sufficient for the 52+ hours we had no power. We had heavy duty extension cords running all over. While running, our generator was about 8 feet from the house. Extension cords were run through a window opening, which was carefully sealed (top and bottom) with

foam and multiple layers of duct tape. Blue painters' tape was used to prevent tripping and to keep wires in place. **WARNING:** Always keep generators away from all open doors and windows – your's and your neighbors' - to prevent deadly exhaust fumes from entering. **Gasoline-powered generators produce deadly carbon-monoxide fumes.** You can not trust your senses for protection from carbon monoxide; this deadly gas is invisible and odorless. **You must have an AC/battery-operated carbon-monoxide alarm. It works like a smoke alarm, sounding an alert if carbon-monoxide levels become dangerous.**

To be continued in the March Issue

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Roger W2GLE, gave the Treasurer's report that outlined the Club's various bank accounts and the amount of money that was available to the club in each. After a copy of the proposed 2012 budget was distributed, Roger answered member's questions regarding various line items. Roger and Chuck also explained in detail the work that has been done so far and the range of anticipated costs for the installation of the new antenna for our .210 repeater. The 2012 budget was then approved by a unanimous vote.

Steve N2PQJ gave the ARES/RACES report. He described the operation of the practice net held every Monday at 7:30 PM. The net starts on 2 meters on our 147.210 MHz repeater and then moves to 147.420 MHz simplex. It then QSYs to 10 meters at 28.420 MHz SSB. Jennifer KC2TMA was also mentioned. She is the 13 year old who was net control for Babylon during the Hurricane Irene emergency.

Larry N2BKJ, membership chairman, announced two new members, James KD2BHY and David W2NYS both of whom were formally voted into the club.

Arnie N2PLS and his wife Helene reported that there were no Good & Welfare items to report.

Peter WB2PAA, Arnold N2PLS, and Fred K2LDC gave the VE, Daytimers and Nightimers reports, respectively. The next VE session will be on February 11th at Huntington Town Hall. The Daytimers are continuing to meet on Mondays at the MacDonaldis in Northport at 10 AM and the Nightimers are meeting on Tuesdays between 6 and 8 PM (plus up to 2 additional hours) at Panera Bread in East Northport..

The meeting ended at 8:20 PM although, as usual, many members remained until the 9 PM closing of the building.

Good News From NASA for Sunspots in the Month of February! Below is an extract from the ARRL

“The average daily sunspot numbers rose this week, from 90.6 to 116.9, while the solar flux stayed about the same, changing from 134.9 to 133.4. Sunspot numbers for January 12-18 were 57, 81, 145, 141, 120, 152 and 122, with a mean of 116.9. The 10.7 cm flux was 116.8, 124.1, 132.3, 133.5, 139.7, 139 and 148.1, with a mean of 133.4. The estimated planetary A indices were 5, 6, 3, 3, 8, 5 and 4, with a mean of 4.9. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 5, 8, 3, 4, 8, 4, and 4, with a mean of 5.1.

The latest prediction from USAF/NOAA has a solar flux of 150 on January 19-20, 155 on January 21-22, 160 on January 23-25, 155 on January 26, 140 on January 27-29, and 135 on January 30-February 6; we are still looking for a solar flux peak of 165 on February 17-21. The predicted flux values of 160 on January 23-25 are markedly higher than the 145 predicted last week for the same dates. The predicted planetary A index is 6, 8, 5, 8 and 12 on January 19-23, and 5 on January 24-February 1, and then 5 on February 5-8.”

To see the full report from K7RA's Solar Update for 1/20/2012 browse to:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/the-k7ra-solar-update-201>

January 12, 2012 Executive Board Minutes

The meeting started at 7:00 PM with all members present. The Officers and Directors including first time Director Scott AC2FV were sworn in. The Budget and the following issues were discussed.

The false rumor that the club had “food issues” at field day.

Changing our application form to ask for age rather than birth date.

Combining our Application and Renewal forms.

Getting a Facebook page for the Club.

Restoring the category “Additional Family Member” to our Dues Schedule.

Field Day and the doubling of our insurance. Neil KC2TAF volunteered to obtain our park permit.

Thanks to the HRU volunteers and to Bob AC2AZ for bringing his Communications Analyzer.

Adding members to the Larkfield Reflector

The number of jobs Howard KC2OJO is doing.

The meeting ended at 7:35 PM.

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 February Birthdays

<u>CALL</u>	<u>Name</u>
KB2JOE	Joseph Albertus
K2OLO	Paul Angerame
KC2KVT	Deborah Cooperstein
KA2LHK	Richard T. Gong
KD2AAM	John A. Ippolito
KC2NRB	Evan McPartland
KC2JFU	Arthur T. Zapke III

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 Feb. 11th
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, February 9th 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**