



# QSX



Volume XX Issue 3  
Editor: Howard; KC2OJO

March 2013

**The next Executive Board meeting and General meeting of the Larkfield Amateur Radio Club will be held on Thursday March 14th, at the Huntington Senior Citizens Center at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM, respectively. Coffee and donuts will be available at the March 14th meeting for \$1 each.**

**Reminder: Club members are free to bring to our scheduled meetings small amounts of Ham Radio items that they want to sell. Please place items to be sold on a table in the back of the room at least 10 minutes before the meeting starts**

**Have a spare or cast-off laptop or desktop computer? If you do please consider donating it to the club for use with one of our repeater systems. It could be used to implement a scheduler for automated voice transmissions or perhaps serve as an Internet connection for Echolink or IRLP. Please contact Bruno KC2ESI with the particulars (processor, operating system, ports, etc.)**

## **NOW OR NEVER?**

**Now is the time to pay your dues for the 2013 calendar year. Remember, your payment should have been received before December 31st. If you have not yet paid your dues please get to it as soon as possible but no later than February 28th. In March members that are not paid up will be dropped from the mailing list, the Club Roster and as users on the Club's website.**

## Minutes of the February 14th Gen'l Mtg.

The meeting, chaired by Chuck N2JIY, started with the Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions. Howard, KC2OJO gave the Secretary's report indicating that the January minutes had been released via QSX electronically on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The print edition of QSX, published by Chuck, was processed and mailed by Rich KA2LHK several days later. Howard told the members that on January 31<sup>st</sup>, Scott AC2FV noticed that our website was shut down with a message that stated that it was due to "bandwidth limit exceeded". Once alerted, the website host repaired the problem and our site was up again the next day. The members were reminded that we needed new material for both QSX and the website. Ideally, it would be Club related or involve Ham Radio.

Roger W2GLE, Club Treasurer, outlined for the group the funds available in each of the Club's accounts and the total value. He then proceeded to read the proposed 2013 Budget, describing each category of expenditures and the amount budgeted for each. He also described the anticipated revenue and commented that the anticipated revenue exceeded the anticipated expenditures. The proposed 2013 Budget, already approved by the Executive Committee, was passed by a unanimous vote.

Steve N2PQJ gave the ARES/RACES report that included information on the Huntington RACES operations during the NorEaster called Nemo that dropped 30 inches of snow on the Huntington area. Steve reported that Huntington RACES had operated 6 nets over the duration of the event. Two of the sessions were run from the Town of Huntington EOC (Emergency Operations Center). During the event 16 hams were active on the nets that were run by 4 RACES Net Control Operators.

Upon request, Steve described the Ham Radio equipment available at the EOC and also briefly described the Huntington RACES operations during Super Storm Sandy.

Bruno KC2ESI reported on our Club's repeater operations. Bruno and Jack K2JX have been active in optimizing our .210 repeater and looking into fixing any possible desensing that might be occurring. Bruno pointed out that he would be depending upon the members for assistance from time to time by their keeping the repeater active during periods when he would be troubleshooting.

Scott AC2FV, Membership Chairman, reported that the current membership was 61 of which 8 -9 were Honored Members.

Peter WB2PAA gave the VE report. He reported that the February 9<sup>th</sup> VE session at Huntington Town Hall had been canceled because the Huntington Town Hall had been closed on that day due to the storm. The next VE session will be on 13 April. Chuck N2JIY reminded the members that our original date for the October VE session was not possible and that we had to decide if we were going to set up an alternate date.

Howard KC2OJO gave the Daytimers' and Nightimers' Report. The Daytimers attendance was running about 4-5 and the Nightimers attendance was running about 5-8. The Daytimers meet at the Northport McDonalds and the Nightimers meet at Panera Bread in Commack, opposite Sears.

It was announced that Stan N2YKT will be having a showing of his photos at the Huntington Public Library on February 15 – March 17<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

## **Minutes of the February 14th Executive Board Meeting**

Members attending were Pat WS2A, Scott AC2FV, Donald AB2BN, Roger W2GLE, Chuck N2JIY, and Howard KC2OJO.

Chuck raised several topics. He reported that he was working on getting Peter WA2OQQ, an AMSAT official, to give a presentation on Satellite Radio at one of the Club meetings. He also reported on two issues with our VE operation. The most important was Ed KC2E's desire to hand of his responsibility for being our VE liaison with the ARRL. The other issue was whether we should be setting a substitute date for the October VE session since Room 114 would not be available on the scheduled date.

Fred K2LDC had notified the Board that he had a met an Accountant that might assist the

club with various financial issues. The Board agreed that Fred should follow up to learn more so the Board could proceed if it seemed advisable.

Bruno reported to the Board on the results of his investigations into tracing down the "noise" heard occasionally from the .210 repeater. It might be caused by internal noise or 2 meter DX or QRN. He advised the Board that we could set up our .210 repeater to broadcast messages on a schedule but indicated that it would take the donation of a computer to operate as a scheduler.

Scott AC2FV inquired whether there was internet service in the Huntington Sr. Center. Donald AB2BN said that there was internet service in some of the rooms near the Cafeteria where we hold our monthly meetings.

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

## **Echolink – Operate on 2 meters Even Without a Radio**

Several Larkfield Amateur Radio Club members have started to use Echolink to communicate in a conference mode or to QSO on 2 meters with other hams worldwide. Two meters can be used to allow you to communicate even if your mobile radio, base station or HT is not available or operational. If you have a PC or laptop computer, smart phone or tablet, Ipod or Nexus 7, etc. you can be active on the two meter band and communicate via any repeater that has been set up for Echolink. Each type of device listed above will often run under different software but all of the applications are available for free or at very low cost.

Although our .210 repeater is not set up for Echolink there are other repeaters on Long Island that feature Echolink connections to the Internet. Active Echolink stations are listed on your device's screen when you run the Echolink program.

Setting up Echolink may involve changing the settings in your PC's firewall and/or the settings in your home Router. Version 2.0 of Echolink will operate in some cases without any change to your Router settings.

The following FAQs and diagram from <http://echolink.org> show how Echolink operates.

Continued on Page 5

# **Long Island Hamfair & Electronics Show**

**Sunday, March 3, 2013 at  
Levittown Hall  
201 Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, NY 11801**

**Over 600 outdoor tailgate spaces available!**

**Large Indoor Location!**

**Gates open at 9:00 AM for Buyers  
Gates open at 7:00 AM for Sellers**

**(ends @ noon to 1 pm "ish")  
Vendor Pre-Registration is highly suggested!**



**General Admission: \$6.00\***

**\*children 11 and under (when accompanied by a paying adult) and non-ham  
sweethearts FREE!**

**Free parking for all! Door Prizes!  
Food & Refreshments Available**

**VE Test Examinations at 10:00 AM**

**Talk-in on W2VL, 146.85 repeater (136.5 PL, negative ' - ' shift)**



**Vendor info: All spaces \$20.00. Admission for each person including the main  
vendor is \$6.00 each.**

**Gates open 7:00 AM for vendors.**

***No pornographic materials or firearms are permitted to be sold. Any vendor  
violating these rules will be asked to leave with no refund.***

**For more information and directions:**

**<http://www.limarc.org/fest.htm>**

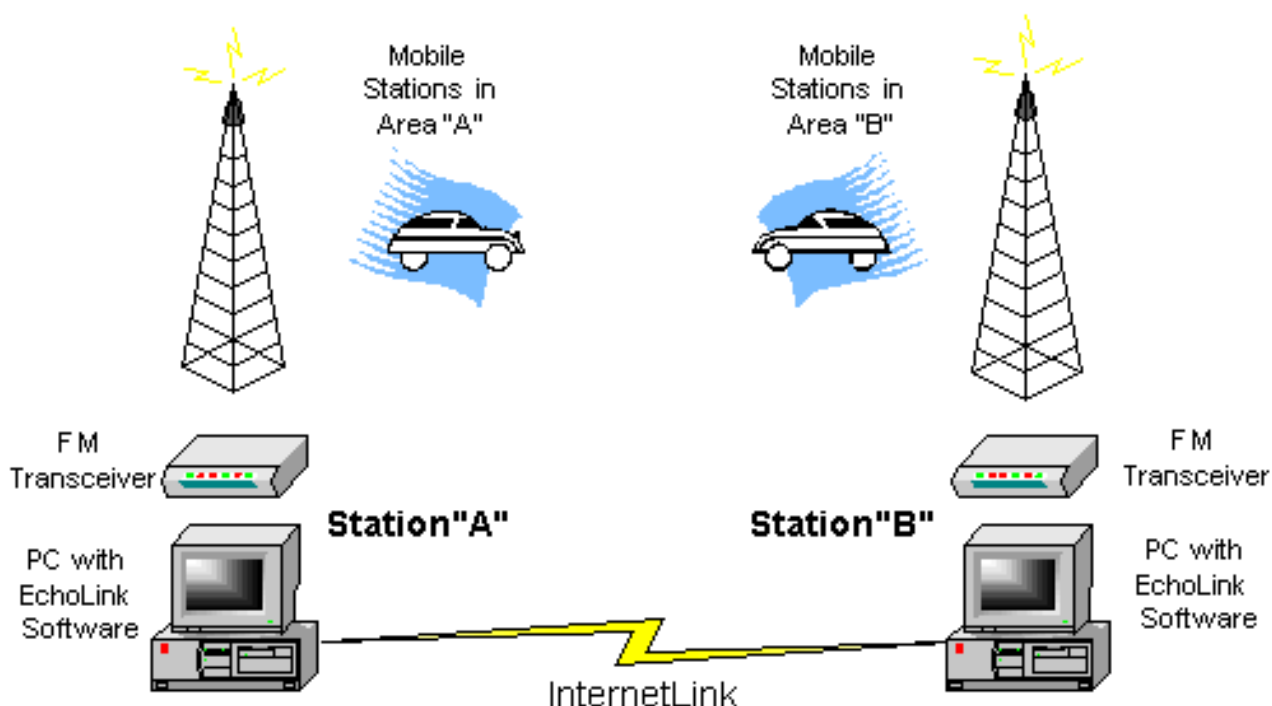
## What can I do with EchoLink?

EchoLink allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to connect to one another over the Internet. You can use EchoLink to connect your station (or your computer) over the Internet to other amateurs using the same software, and carry on a voice QSO. This greatly enhances the range and utility of mobile and portable VHF/UHF-FM stations, and also allows computer-equipped hams to access distant repeaters directly. You can access EchoLink either with a radio or a computer. If you are in range of an FM repeater or simplex station equipped with EchoLink, you can use DTMF commands from your radio to access the EchoLink network. If you are a licensed amateur with an Internet-connected PC, you can access EchoLink stations directly from your PC.

## How do I get started using it?

First, [download](#) the software from this Web site. You will be asked to provide your callsign and e-mail address. Then, install the software on your PC, be sure you have a good Internet connection (56k modem or better), and start it up to register your copy of the software. The final step is to provide proof of license so your callsign can be added to the system; see [Validation](#) for details. Then, you're ready to go.

## Linking Example



## Headed to an Abnormally Low Sunspot Cycle?

The evidence this week is pointing to the possibility of intermediate (this year) and long term (next 11 year solar cycle) sub-par sunspot cycles. That of course could mean poor DX for those members that spend a lot of time on HF or even on VHF. Professor Fred Walter of SUNY is scheduled to lecture at the Stony Brook Astronomy Open Night on March 1st. Although the lecture will primarily cover the Sun's influence on our weather it is of tremendous importance for our DX. The following extract is from the announcement for the lecture.

“On timescales of centuries, the solar activity cycle waxes and wanes. Stars like the Sun seem to spend about a quarter of their time in a low activity state. The Sun's last low activity episode, the Maunder Minimum during the 17th-18th centuries, was a time of few sunspots. The Maunder Minimum coincided with the "Little Ice Age", a time of particularly cold weather in the US and Europe. Over the past 20 years the strength of the Solar magnetic fields seems to have been declining, and the subsurface flow patterns have been changing, suggesting that the Sun may enter another minimum activity state within a decade. I shall present the evidence that the Solar cycle is turning off, and will discuss the implications for the Earth's climate.”

Comments by Tad Cook K7RA in his February 17th Solar Update on the ARRL website seem to be pointing in the same direction for the short and intermediate term.

“The [latest sunspot cycle prediction](#) from NASA is in, and it doesn't look good. Two weeks ago, NASA released a revised prediction stating the cycle should peak in late 2013 at a smoothed sunspot number of 96. The latest outlook estimates a peak in early 2013 at 63, about 35 percent lower than the prediction from two weeks ago. We hope it isn't true.

Global warming will be delayed for a while??

## 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)

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### 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

## 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**

**Any topic of interest to club members**

**The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club  
Affiliated with American Radio Relay League**

**Officers (one year terms)**

President

Vice-President Chuck Hartley N2JIY(2013)

Secretary Howard Stern KC2OJO (2013)

Treasurer Roger Rapp W2GLE (2013)

**General Directors (two year terms)**

Neil Harris KC2TAF (2013-2014)

Pat McPartland WS2A (2013-2014)

Donald Clarke AB2BN (2013-2014)

Scott Conover AC2FV (2012-2013)

Fred Kruger K2LDC (2012-2013)

Open 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**

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>
NN2KC	Kenneth Cooperstein
N2UQQ	Richard J. Dufner
N2JIY	Chuck Hartley
N2BTK	Walter Haubenreisser

**The Larkfield Amateur Radio Club wishes to thank Bruno KC2ESI, Jack K2JX and Artie KC2JFU for their dedication and efforts in maintaining the Club's repeaters and our packet and APRS stations. Their collective efforts and donations of equipment have kept us "on the air" and made possible the recent successful installation of our new .210 antenna within the allocated budget. Still to go, another 440 MHz repeater and adding IRLP to one of our repeaters.**

**General Meetings 7:30 PM**

January 10, 2013	June 13, 2013
February 14, 2013	September 12, 2013
March 14, 2013	October 10, 2013
April 11, 2013	November 14, 2013
May 9, 2013	December 12, 2013

**Board Meeting 7:00 PM**

January 10, 2013	June 13, 2013
February 14, 2013	September 12, 2013
March 14, 2013	October 10, 2013
April 11, 2013	November 14, 2013
May 9, 2013	December 12, 2013

**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**

The weekly ARES/RACES net is active, meeting every Monday evening at 1900 on 147.210. Check in! For more information contact Steve N2PQJ@arrl.net and visit www.wb2lua.com to learn of any ARES/RACES news and to help maintain your proficiency in emergency communications procedures.

**2013 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 QSOX 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 13th**

**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 Executive Board meeting and General meeting will be on Thursday, March 14th at 7:00 PM and 7:30 PM, 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).**

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