

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, January 6, 2021



Meeting opened @ 1931 via ZOOM by President Tony Starr, K3TS.

**Attendance :** (29) Members

**Visitors :** Greg Valentine, KD2VBH

The minutes from the last meeting were published in the CrossTalk. There were no corrections. Jim KA2OSV moved to approve the minutes as published, Charlie KC2STO seconded and the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report :** Al KB2AYU reported income of \$571 from dues paid so far and a \$140 expense for rental of the Pfeiffer Community Center, leaving a net increase of \$431. The Treasury records were dropped off to Jim N2GXJ for the required annual audit. A budget meeting will be scheduled shortly. Charlie KC2STO motioned to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Charlie N2SRQ, motion carried.

**Clubhouse Report :** Al KB2AYU reports that the Clubhouse is in good shape with no damage from recent high winds. The Skunkworks team has been busy with projects. The Clubhouse will be used for the VHF Contest on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with a limited number of persons at one time, due to the Pandemic. Contact Al KB2AYU if you wish to operate from the Clubhouse. Jim N2GXJ asked about preregistering so that scores from GCARC members could be aggregated with the Club score. This can be done by sending an email in advance to Tony K3TS.

Our insurance company wants to inspect the Clubhouse next week and a few things will need to be checked first, including fire extinguishers and exit signs.

John W2HUV noted that sometimes the HF antenna rotator at the Clubhouse cannot be controlled remotely because the rotator controller has been turned off. HF operators are requested to cycle the controller off, then back on before leaving so that remote control is possible. HF operators are also requested to ensure that the Desktop Remote Antenna Switch is in the OFF position to allow automatic antenna selection. Chuck WA2TML asked if there was a list of instructions for operators. John W2HUV said that he had written something up in the past that had been posted. Tony K3TS requested instructions be posted again.

**Contests and DX :** Tony K3TS noted the upcoming NAQP this weekend for CW and in two weeks for Phone. Also, the VHF contest on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the CQ 160 Meter CW contest on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Tony plans to split the Contest and DX Committees into two groups going forward (there is no DX report this month). Also, a Technical Committee will be formed that will coordinate and report on monthly technical developments at the Clubhouse such as Skunkworks activities. Jon WB2MNF was asked to lead this group and he has accepted.

**Old Business :** John W2HUV asked about grounding systems at the Clubhouse. This will allow for installation of a KW amp. Tony K3TS agreed this needs to be done and will take it up at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

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**New Business :** **Vinnie N4NYY** will take over as Field Day Chairman this year and there will be a meeting shortly to begin planning, in particular, how to carry out social distancing.

**Jon WB2MNF** provided an update of recent **SkunkWorks** and **Technical** activities at the Club including :

- Reception of seven SSTV pictures from the ISS.
- The GOES receiver is operational which has permitted reception of hundreds of MBs of high resolution pictures. **Jon** is working with **John K2QA** to combine these pictures into a video for uploading to Youtube.
- The old 20 element, 2 meter Yagi from the satellite station has been repurposed to receive WE-FAX pictures from SATNOGS and a 16 element 70 cm antenna has been added.
- The “mess” of Raspberry Pi’s and SDRs hiding on the floor and under the operating positions will be moved out of the way to a cabinet by **Jon** and **Frank N3PUU** this weekend.
- They are creating a new work area just outside of the VHF Room that people can use for working on their personal projects. This will be handy for those who do not have work space at home. For more information on **SkunkWorks** and **Technical Committee** activities, contact **Jon** by email (wb2mnf <at> arrl <dot> net).

**Curt K2CWM** mentioned that past Club President Virginia Martin N2FJM recently became a Silent Key. Also, the Club sent condolences to the family of **Stephen Blasko W2TDS**. **Mary KD2PLH** thanked the Club on behalf of her family for the sympathy card and said that she plans to apply for her father’s call.

**Visitors :** **Greg KD2VBH** has submitted an application and is participating tonight.

**Tony K3TS** thanked **Chuck WA2TML** for hosting past ZOOM meetings. **Tony** now has his own ZOOM account that will be used for General Membership Meetings, but **Chuck** will continue to host Board of Directors Meetings.

**Mike KD2RPE** commented that some Clubs ask members for announcements at the beginning of meetings regarding upgrades, awards etc. and **Tony** agreed that we will do this during future meetings.

**Steve WB2VFJ** announced a new net that is being held every Tuesday morning @ 1100 Hours on the W2MMD 2 Meter repeater and EchoLink W2MMD-R. He had six participants last time plus one late check in.

**Tony K3TS** noted that participation had been down on the Monday 10 Meter Net, but hoped it would pick up.

**Meeting adjourned @ 2104.**

**Program :** **John Hill, W2HUV**, provided a demonstration of remote operating from a station in Croatia using Remote Ham Radio software.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Karl Frank, W2KBF**  
**Recording Secretary**