

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 3, 2021



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

Attendance :

- Members : 35
- Visitors : Douglas Dersch, KD2VQA

Minutes : The minutes from last General Membership Meeting were published in the Crosstalk and approved by vote without further modification.

Treasurer's Report : Al KB2AYU reported YTD income of \$2030, mostly from dues and from donations made to the Club in memory of Steve W2TDS. Expenses of \$703 included electricity, 4H Hamfest deposit, and Pfeiffer Community Center rental for a net gain of \$1327. The Treasurer's report was accepted by vote.

Clubhouse Committee : Al KB2AYU reported on the January VHF Contest that was run from the Clubhouse. We did well, beating last year's score by about 10,000 points. Operation on 1296 MHz was added this year. The Clubhouse is in good shape and the inspection report from our insurer was received. There were no citations, but there was a recommendation to increase the limit for cost of replacing the structure if damaged.

Contest Committee : Tony K3TS commented on the CQ 160 meter CW DX contest last weekend, saying there was not a lot of DX. The ARRL CW DX contest is coming up in a few weeks and the 10-10 International SSB Contest is this weekend. Tony is still working on getting someone to take over the DX Committee.

Technical Committee : Jon WB2MNF notes that lightning protection at the Clubhouse can be upgraded at a lower cost than had been envisioned previously. A budget request for Lightning Protection and other upgrades will be presented under New Business.

Hamfest Committee : Al KB2AYU sent in the deposit to reserve the 4H Fairgrounds for September 12, 2021.

Field Day Committee : Chairman Vinnie N4NYY was not present, but he will schedule a ZOOM meeting soon to begin planning.

Fox Hunt XIX : Jim N2GXJ announced that the next Foxhunt will take place from 1 to 2 PM on Sunday, February 21, 2021. Al KB2AYU will hide the transmitter and we will not have to leave our cars in order to find it.

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OLD BUSINESS :

Ron NR2B used PowerPoint slides to review the Clubhouse Lightning Protection Plan. At the moment, we have SIX independent (non-interconnected) grounds. This is not ideal, because power can pass from one grounded system to another via our equipment, possibly causing damage. Each station should have a Single Point Ground Panel (SPGP) for AC and coax, plus surge protectors. The Single Point Ground Panels then must be tied to a ground rod then the whole system should be tied to a Perimeter Ground that surrounds the Clubhouse. This will require 1000 ft of copper straps, 60 ground rods etc. Ron envisions this being accomplished in a stepwise manner at an estimated cost of \$400 for the HF room (since Ron already donated some materials), provided that Club members with appropriate skills volunteer to carry out the work. The steps for each station (Satellite/VHF and HF) are :

- Temporarily remove equipment
- Reroute AC Power
- Install SPGP at each station on 3 of the 4 walls
- Mount coax, rotator and AC power protectors on SPGP
- Connect SPGP to an external, 8 foot ground rod located just below the station
- Re-install equipment (removing excess cabling)

Finishing the job will require installation of the perimeter ground, tower radials and interconnections.

Chris KC2IEB has an “SDS-max” power hammer that we can use for driving ground rods.

Tony K3TS said we definitely will move ahead with this. The cost will be discussed again at a later date when a more accurate estimate is available.

Jon WB2MNF commented that the SkunkWorks team can start on the inside work at the VHF/Satellite station during the cold weather months.

NEW BUSINESS :

Budget Committee : Al KB2AYU reviewed the 2021 Operating Budget, which was reviewed and approved by the GCARC Board of Directors. In brief, the budget is similar to that from past years and is balanced, i.e. projected income = projected expenses. The 2021 budget was approved by vote of the membership.

Special Projects : The Lightning Protection Upgrade and additional work proposed by the Technical/SkunkWorks Committee are not part of this day-to-day budget, so they require separate approval. Jon WB2MNF presented a plan to make repairs to satellite and HF antennas, replace a rotator on SATNOGS antennas, upgrade the project work area, upgrade lighting to the HF room etc. at an estimated cost of \$1800. This was approved by vote of the membership. Jon noted that the Club will be looking for donations of good test bench equipment for the new work area.

Closing Announcements :

Mike (formerly KD2RPE) now holds the vanity call K2MRP.

Steve (formerly WB2VFJ) now holds the vanity call W2SEF.

Bob KD2NEC announced that he and Gary WA3SVW would like to use the W2MMD 2 meter repeater for a Digital Training Net, probably on Monday nights. Tony K3TS and Herb KT2Y said “go for it”.

Tony K3TS said that our first night back at the Pfeiffer Community Center will be a Pizza night!

Program : The meeting concluded with a presentation by Jon WB2MNF that was designed to familiarize members and visitors with the equipment, capabilities, and projects ongoing at the W2MMD Clubhouse.

Meeting adjourned @ 2133 Hours.

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