

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors ZOOM Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Meeting opened @ 1901 Hours via ZOOM by President Tony Starr, K3TS.

## Attendance :

- President Tony Starr, K3TS
- Vice President Jeff Welsh, KD2AZI
- Treasurer Al Arrison, KB2AYU
- Recording Secretary Karl Frank, W2KBF
- Corresponding Secretary Ron Block, NR2B
- Director Chuck Colabrese, WA2TML
- Director Jeff Garth, WB2ZBN
- Director Herb Dyer, KT2Y
- Director Jim Clark, KA2OSV
- Director Bob Durham, W2RAD
- Trustee Jim Wright, N2GXJ
- Member John O'Connell, K2QA
- Member Jon Pearce, WB2MNF
- Member Steve Farney, W2SEF
- Member Sheldon Parker, K2MEN

Minutes from the January 20, 2021 BoD Meeting were read and approved.

**Treasurer :** Al KB2AYU reported YTD income : \$2647 including \$225 donated in memory of Stephen Blasko W2TDS, and \$733 in expenses. Life Membership dues of \$400 was received from Herb KT2Y, but this is not reported as part of the income. Net increase (rounded) is \$1913. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

## Committees :

**DX :** Tony K3TS notes that Bill Grim W0MHK has not yet responded to his invitation to chair the DX Committee, but continues to provide a DX Column for the CrossTalk.

**Contests :** Tony K3TS notes the upcoming ARRL CW DX contest this weekend and the ARRL Phone DX contest on March 7. These are particularly good for USA hams because DX stations can work only North American hams, not each other.

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**Clubhouse :** Al KB2AYU reports that our insurance company (Cumberland Mutual in Bridgeton) recommends that we increase the coverage for replacement of the Clubhouse structure from \$70,000 to either \$94,000 for 80% replacement cost or to \$118,000 for 100% cost of replacement. The premium increase would be \$206 and \$324/year, respectively, for these policies. Also, the insurance company noted evidence of water leaks in the ceiling, requested that repairs be made and photos submitted once the repairs had been completed. Al was present for the inspection and informed the inspector that the roof was not leaking and that the water marks had been there for some time. Perhaps all that will be needed is to paint the ceiling and submit photos afterward.

Jeff KD2AZI said he could recommend an insurance broker that he has worked with if the Club wants to shop for insurance. Al KB2AYU said he would follow up with Jeff KD2AZI and investigate other possibilities.

Chuck WA2TML asked if the insurance increase was required or merely requested. Al KB2AYU said it was only a recommendation, and that the policy had already been paid for this year. Otherwise, everything is OK and someone stops by the Clubhouse at least once/week to make certain everything is OK.

**Grounding :** Jon WB2MNF reported that he, Frank N3PUU and Ron NR2B had been moving things along and that Frank N3PUU had made an inventory of all wires entering the Clubhouse, i.e. about a dozen entering the HF room, 17 into the VHF station and about a dozen for the satellite station. With help from Al KB2AYU and Jon WB2MNF, Frank N3PUU and Ron NR2B have made a spreadsheet of required materials to complete the INTERIOR work : this is estimated to cost \$1000 to \$1500. This is in addition to significant materials already donated by Ron NR2B. Tony K3TS asked for this estimate to be presented at the next General Membership Meeting for a vote of approval. Ron and Jon noted that completing the outside work will cost a few thousand dollars more, so they will need to request a larger budget later on. Tony has a list of a dozen people who volunteered to help with this work.

Tony K3TS asked how many ground rods would be needed. Ron NR2B said to estimate this, divide the Clubhouse perimeter footage by 16, keeping in mind that the grounding perimeter is 6 to 8 feet away from the structure.

**Foxhunt :** Jim N2GXJ mentioned that Al KB2AYU will be hiding a transmitter for the upcoming Foxhunt on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 1300 Hours.

**Field Day :** No report (Vinnie N4NYY was not present).

### **OLD BUSINESS :**

**Hamfest :** Sheldon K2MEN needs to confirm the date and hamfest fees so that he can apply to the ARRL for sanctioning. Al KB2AYU already paid to reserve the Gloucester County 4H facilities for September 12, 2021. Following some discussion, it was decided to charge \$10 for admission to the hamfest (same as last year), \$10 for tailgating in the parking lot (was \$8 last year) and \$12 for space by the pavilions (same as last year).

Sheldon K2MEN noted that 450 ticket stubs were deposited last year and that 150 were first-time attendees. Jeff KD2AZI asked when to begin vendor outreach. Sheldon K2MEN said this could wait until April or May.

Ron NR2B asked if we should plan to have a forum this year. Sheldon K2MEN said we should assume YES (unless we hear otherwise from the State), so Ron NR2B will need to figure out how to do this safely.

### **NEW BUSINESS :**

**Donations :** Tony K3TS was notified by Curt K2CWM that a friend of his, Frank WB2KMR, is donating a TenTec Triton 544 radio to the Club. Tony K3TS suggested that we could pass it along for a low price to a member who does not have HF equipment. Curt K2CWM will drop this radio off at the Clubhouse on Saturday, February 20, 2021.

Mark KK2L is donating a CPU to the Club to support the SDR project that Bill NJ2S is putting together. Tony K3TS has been checking the cost of RTL SDR dongles suitable for HF reception and finds this to be about \$25 each. This low cost SDR project will allow Club members to log on and listen to the SDRs. A separate, dedicated vertical antenna will be used since the SDRs cannot share antennas with the main stations. Al KB2AYU cautioned that a Dongle SDR could be “smoked” once the HF linear amplifier is in operation.

Karl W2KBF requested that when the business portion of a General Membership Meeting is over, this part of the meeting be formally closed before the presentation begins. This will make it clear when to stop recording the minutes. Tony K3TS agreed.

Karl W2KBF also raised a point for discussion : according to the GCARC Constitution, the quorum for a general Membership Meeting requires at least 15 members but does not require the presence of officers or BoD members. Chuck WA2TML said this never has been an issue, because BoD members are more likely than general members to attend Club meetings. Tony K3TS said we would think about this.

**New Members :** Jeff WB2ZBN received an application from Joseph Novak N2LWE from Malaga and Al KB2AYU received a check for his dues. The BoD approved this application for membership.

Al KB2AYU asked if there has been any progress on a new member packet, similar to the one that Jeff WB2ZBN circulated. Tony K3TS said “no”.

**Meeting adjourned @ 2004 Hours.**

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