

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021



Meeting opened @ 1932 Hours via ZOOM by President Tony Starr, K3TS.

Attendance :

- Members : 35
- Visitors :
 - ◆ Douglas Dersch, KD2VQA, who has applied for membership
 - ◆ John Whitman

Minutes from the February General Membership Meeting were previously published in the CrossTalk. Chuck WA2TML moved to accept, Jim KA2OSV seconded, and the minutes were approved without modification.

Treasurer : Al KB2AYU could not attend but provided a report to Tony K3TS by email. Income was \$3393, Outflow was \$1034 for a net gain of \$2359. 85 to 90 members have paid dues so far, leaving 1/3 who have not paid. Al KB2AYU will make a list of those who have not paid and need a reminder. Alfred Mayes, N2AIZ contacted Al KB2AYU about joining the Club. Tony K3TS has his phone number and will send this to Jeff WB2ZBN for follow up.

Clubhouse : Work on grounding and addressing water stains is in progress.

Committees :

Fox Hunt : Jim N2GXJ announced that Frank N3PUU was the winner, with Vinnie N4NYY right behind. Frank N3PUU said that he left his house in a hurry that day, temporarily placing the beam antenna on the bed cover of his truck while moving his wife's car out of the way. Then he forgot to stow the beam before driving from Sicklerville to West Deptford, losing the beam somewhere along the way. Nevertheless, Frank N3PUU was first to locate the Fox, using just a handy talkie that he held up thru his sunroof. The beam was never found. Vinny N4NYY brought his brother and his brother's son along and said he hit every traffic light along the way. He could not hear the Fox at all from the eastern end of the hunt zone, but picked up the signal as he headed northwest, managing to finish right behind Frank N3PUU.

Technical : Jon WB2MNF showed graphics of the following progress :

- A new rack for the Raspberry Pi/SDR cabinet that was designed and 3D- printed by Frank N3PUU and Mike K2MPR. This rack holds a router and has 14 sliders for Raspberry Pi/SDR combinations. Frank N3PUU also checked out a few 12V to 5V power converters;
- GOES and "Othernets" (AREDN/MESH) antennas : Hundreds of MBs are downloaded daily from space. Jon showed a video compiled from 48 frames taken over the course of a day. This video and several others can be viewed at skunkworks.w2mmd.org;
- Diagrams showing the grounding plans that have been put together by Frank N3PUU, Ron NR2B, Al KB2AYU, and Jon WB2MNF. Ron NR2B and Frank N3PUU made estimates of the cost for the inside work at the VHF and HF rooms, respectively, for a total of \$2280, so they will be requesting a budget rounded up to \$2500 during New Business. To be clear, this does not include funding for the outside work, i.e. grounding rods and perimeter ring, which is to be installed during warmer weather.

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In closing, Jon invited people who have interesting projects that they may want to present as part of the Technical Committee Report to contact him by email.

Contests : Tony K3TS noted that we are in between the ARRL CW DX contest and the Phone DX contest that is coming up next weekend. John W2HUV said he would be operating a Croatian station by remote using his call 9A5AET during the contest. (There is no DX report for this month).

Field Day : Vinnie N4NYY said all bands that we intend to use are in good shape for Band Chairs and Co-chairs, but he needs to ask Al KB2AYU about 6 meters. Jim N2GXJ asked about 10 meters. Vinnie N4NYY said the use of 10 meters will be a last minute call, depending upon propagation. He will send the Board of Directors a letter with fallback plans and concerns over sharing the fairgrounds with the Wine Festival.

Howard WA2IBZ asked if FT4/FT8 would be used and if members can participate from their home stations. Jim N2GXJ said these modes were permitted and that that scores from home stations can be aggregated with the W2MMD Club score. However, you may not operate both from home and from the Field Day site. (Vinnie N4NYY said it would be more fun to operate from the Field Day site).

Old Business : None

New Business :

Karl W2KBF announced that Gloucester County ARES/RACES will be conducting a simplex test as part of the weekly GC-ARES/RACES Training Net on Sunday, March 21, 2021. All radio amateurs are invited to participate. During the net, stations will be asked to QSY to 146.535 MHz (no PL) then provide a brief transmission. Receiving stations will note the signal quality and forward this information to Karl W2KBF. Karl W2KBF will tabulate reception reports and email this summary to all participants so that we will have a better idea of how we could cover Gloucester County in the event of a communications emergency and/or repeater failure.

Jon WB2MNF moved that we approve \$2500 for the next phase of the grounding project. This was seconded by Ron NR2B and approved by vote of the membership.

There was no formal program tonight, so Tony K3TS showed a video of the W3AO Field Day station from 2008. This triggered some discussion :

Frank N3PUU said he found some bandpass filters at the Clubhouse that could be used for Field Day. Tony K3TS said we should focus on 40 and 20 as the money bands and that 80 would be good too. Vinnie N4NYY said we could pick up a few hundred more points if we had a few more overnight operators (the gap is between 1 AM and 7 AM). Finally, Tony K3TS noted that setup and breakdown is where help really is needed most.

Jeff WB2ZBN welcomed new member, Joseph Novak N2LWE and congratulated Marc KC2VAR on upgrading to Amateur Extra.

Marc asked if we could have a presentation on how to contest. Tony K3TS said "Yes".

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President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting @ 2047 Hours.

An unofficial ZOOM rag chew net was held after the close of business.

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