

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 7, 2021



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

Attendance :

- Members : 33
- Visitors : 0

Minutes from the March General Membership Meeting were published previously in the CrossTalk. Charlie KC2STO moved to accept, Jim KA2OSV seconded, and the minutes were approved without modification.

Treasurer : Al KB2AYU reported YTD income of \$3872, mostly from dues. Expenses were \$1563 for a net gain of \$2309. About 30 members have not yet paid and Al KB2AYU has sent individual reminders by email. The Treasurer's Report was accepted by majority vote.

Committees :

Clubhouse : Al KB2AYU noted that water stains previously painted over by Jeff WB2ZBN have re-appeared on the ceiling. He checked the roof above the ceiling, but cannot find the source of the leak. A new air conditioner will be needed for the large room since the old one is not worth repairing. Tony K3TS suggested purchasing one soon before supplies run low during the Summer.

Contests : Tony K3TS participated in the Polish DX contest last weekend and noted propagation was "so-so". A few smaller DX contests are coming up this month including the Florida QSO Party. Vinnie N4NYY said he had 2 new confirmed countries on FT8 : Ghana and Kenya. Vinnie N4NYY is collecting the number of confirmed countries from Club members and will forward this information to Jeff WB2ZBN for publication in the CrossTalk.

Field Day : Vinnie N4NYY acknowledged the letter sent to the 4H by Corresponding Secretary Ron NR2B regarding our need to use all of our space during Field Day Weekend. Vinnie N4NYY said he and Herb KT2Y will mark our area with caution tape on the Wednesday before Field Day and arrange to have the grass cut. Bill NJ2S is repairing the Club's large generator, but Vinnie N4NYY would prefer not to use it because it is very noisy. Instead, he would like to use a few smaller generators and suggested that perhaps the large, noisy 3-phase generator could be sold and the proceeds used to fund the purchase of a quiet inverter generator. This will be discussed at the next BOD meeting. Vinnie N4NYY will take care of inviting dignitaries to visit and in May he will be asking for volunteers to cover activities that earn Bonus Points.

Technical Committee : Jon WB2MNF shared his screen to show progress at the W2MMD Clubhouse including work done by the HF Station Grounding Team (Ron NR2B, Frank N3PUU, Len W2LJR, Sheldon K2MEN, John K2QA, Mike K2MRP, and Jon WB2MNF), reorganization and rack-mounting of SDRs, establishment of an AIS station that reports the position of ships on the Delaware River to aprs.fi, a new dashboard interface for the weather station, GOES station and system monitor, and work done for the new Project Work Area. The SkunkWorks web page has been upgraded by John K2QA, Mike K2MRP, and Jon WB2MNF.

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The May 8, 2021 Tech Saturday will be a general open house so that Club members can reconnect with each other, view the work accomplished at the station, learn about remote station operation from John W2HUV and participate in a hidden transmitter foxhunt organized by Jim N2GXJ. Jon WB2MNF anticipates that the HF station will be back together by that date.

Old Business : None

New Business : Jeff WB2ZBN reported that a VE session will be held at the Vineland OEM on April 24, 2021 at 9 AM. Interested hams can contact Club member Darrin Mallone KD2ALQ to register for the test session. The Club received one application for membership from Russell Guise KD2WDM following the March 27th VE session. Tony K3TS proposed that the first night back at the Pfeiffer Community Center, hopefully in June, can be a Pizza night and would like to know what Club members would think about this. Jim KA2OSV moved that we should order the large air conditioner for the Clubhouse now, and suggested a limit of \$1000. This was seconded by Lee N2LAM and approved by vote. Steve W2SEF said he paid \$700 for a 24,000 BTU unit last year from Home Depot. Dennis K2SE said he had a surplus unit that he is willing to donate. Mike K2MRP noted that whatever unit the Club acquires should fit the existing opening in the wall.

There was no program tonight. Tony K3TS asked Jon WB2MNF what will be happening at the Clubhouse this Saturday. Frank N3PUU will be hanging copper strap and, if time permits, installing protection devices and fiber optic cable. More helpers will be needed in a few weeks when the outdoor work begins.

Club members were reminded of the Tuesday Morning Net on the 2 meter repeater at 11 AM and the Thursday Rag Chew Net at 8 PM. Jim KA2OSV noted the 10 Meter Net has been moved to Tuesday evenings at 8 PM on 28.465 MHz. John W2HUV thanked the Skunkworks Team for their progress with the grounding system and will be placing an order soon with Elecraft for the linear amplifier. This equipment cannot be delivered to John's home so Tony K3TS will work with the BOD to identify a delivery point.

Meeting adjourned at 2029 Hours.

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