

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership ZOOM Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 5, 2021



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

Attendance :

- Members : 34
- Visitors : 0

Minutes from the April General Membership Meeting were published previously in the CrossTalk and approved without changes.

Treasurer's Report : Al KB2AYU reported YTD (budgeted) income of \$3646, mostly from dues. Approximately 25 persons have not renewed. Expenses were \$1868, for a net gain of \$1778.

Committees :

Clubhouse : Al KB2AYU stopped by the Clubhouse on Saturday and found that the rotator for the HF beams had snapped, making the beams not usable. It is possible that all of the coaxial cables are damaged too. The 80 meter dipole is OK. **Jon WB2MNF** said he used a drone to examine the feedlines to the HF tower. The feed lines for 40, 30 and 18 meters seem to be OK, but 20, 15 and 10 had high SWR, so it is possible that only one cable has been damaged.

Parts for the old rotator may not be available since it is an unusual model from C.A.T.S. (the Rotor Doc) and Al may have a replacement rotator to loan the Club until a new one is purchased. Replacing the rotator will require a lift or bucket truck. These are expensive to rent, so Al will contact Harold who works with 4H to discuss repair of the bucket truck that belongs to 4H. It would save money if we could borrow this equipment on occasion even if we shared the cost of repair. Al will pick up a new air conditioner soon for the Clubhouse, but the hole in the wall may need to be enlarged.

Field Day : **Vinnie N4NYY** will be looking for volunteers for the bonus point activities, e.g. the Public Information Table, GOTA Station, Police, OEM or EMT visit, etc. **Herb KT2Y** will make 2 Meter solar contacts, the Skunkworks Team will contact satellites, Vinnie will arrange for an elected official to visit, Herb will serve as Safety Officer and Jim N2GXJ will handle Web Submission of scores.

Last year there was hash noise on 80 meters, which was tracked down to a fan controller for the Networking Cabinet. **Jon WB2MNF** said this could be turned off during the event and Frank N3PUU plans to do a RF noise level survey prior to Field Day.

There was some discussion of generator noise and it was decided that we are OK because Club members can provide enough quiet generators to avoid use of the large noisy one. There will be a meeting of band captains at the Clubhouse sometime after the June General Membership Meeting.

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Technical Committee : **Jon WB2MNF** shared his screen to show progress of the Lightning Protection (formerly Grounding) Project. The breaker panel, electrical and RF outlets and rotator protectors have been bonded to the newly-installed copper strips that are mounted to the walls of the HF room and the Ethernet cable has been replaced with Fiber-Optic. **Chris KC2IEB** lent a demolition hammer that was used to drive several grounding rods outside of the Clubhouse. In brief, the HF room is finished. **Frank N3PUU** said he would send a note of thanks to those involved with this work.

We will have an Open House Tech Saturday this weekend, beginning at 9 AM. Instructional activities will begin at 10 AM, including Fox Hunting by **Jim N2GXJ** and HF Remote Station Operation by **John W2HUV**. A simple HT will suffice for Foxhunt training although experienced Foxhunters may bring their directional equipment for show and tell. The Foxhunt Tutorial will not replace the Spring Foxhunt, which will take place on the following Saturday with **Frank N3PUU** as the Fox. The Open House may continue into the afternoon, depending upon the weather.

The lawn has been mowed by **Bob KD2GFL** and the website <http://skunkworks.w2mmd.org> has been upgraded. Suggestions for future Tech Saturday topics and your projects that you would like to have discussed can be sent to WB2MNF@arrl.net. In order to get more done at the Clubhouse, Work Saturdays will be scheduled 2 weeks after each Tech Saturday.

Tony K3TS thanked the Lightning Protection Team and noted that **John W2HUV** has placed an order for the linear amplifier.

Hamfest : **Sheldon K2MEN** received approval/sanctioning of the hamfest from ARRL.

DX : **Tony K3TS** had no report, but noted that 6 meter E-skip is starting.

Contests : **Tony K3TS** noted these will be mostly European DX Contests this month and that the CQ WPX CW Contest will take place on the 29th and 30th.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS :

Ron NR2B submitted an amendment to the By-Laws that calls for better tracking of progress and expenses of approved Club projects. In particular, each project should have a Name, Work Effort Description, Designated Leader and End Date. The Designated Leader should make a brief report on the progress of each project at each general membership meeting. **Treasurer Al KB2AYU** commented that tracking had been haphazard in the past and the amendment would not be an "onerous" burden. Following some discussion, the amendment was adopted by unanimous vote.

Tony K3TS is shooting for an in-person June Meeting at the **Pfeiffer Community Center**. This will be a Pizza Night. There was some discussion as to whether the indoor limit is 50 or 75 people. This needs to be clarified.

Bob KD2NEC reminded everyone of the Digital Training Net that runs every Monday night at 7 PM with **Gary WA3SVW** as instructor. The focus has been on FLDIGI, but next week they will move on to FT8 and, after that, to WinLink.

Bob KD2NEC mentioned that he and **Karl W2KBF** are attempting to establish a relationship between ARES and OEM, possibly thru CERT, and we are looking for hams that may have had CERT training in the past.

Frank N3PUU had a chance to talk with **Jennifer Coles** and her husband **John** from the 4H. They seemed like nice people who will be easy to work with and **Frank N3PUU** clarified the boundaries that the Club uses during Field Day. Also, the 4H is having some trouble getting Internet Access up in the fairgrounds area so it is possible that the Club can help them out with Internet issues and electrical advice.

Mike K2MRP thinks the Club may need to get a dumpster for the shed cleanout. This could be expensive. **Herb KT2Y** pointed out that the 4H has a dumpster and another possibility is to load up a pickup truck and take the load to the county solid waste facility. **Tony K3TS** will bring this up with the BoD.

Meeting adjourned at 2049 Hours.

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