

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 21, 2021



Meeting opened @ 1904 Hours by President Tony Starr, K3TS.

Attendance :

- President Tony Starr K3TS
- Treasurer Al Arrison KB2AYU
- Recording Secretary Karl Frank W2KBF
- Corresponding Secretary Ron Block NR2B
- Director Jeff Garth WB2ZBN
- Director Jim Clark KA2OSV
- Director Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
- Director Herb Dyer, KT2Y
- Member Frank Romeo, N3PUU
- Member Jon Pearce WB2MNF
- Member John Hill, W2HUV

Treasurer's Report : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported the following budgeted YTD Totals :

- Income : \$4073
- Expenses : \$2760 for a net gain of approximately \$1312

Receipts for repair of the generator have not yet been submitted.

Clubhouse : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported that the HF station is fully operational with a rotator that Alan loaned and installed. There is no urgent need to purchase a new rotator. Also, the new toilet was installed by Frank Romeo N3PUU. The last electric bill was more than \$200. This included extra use during Field Day but we need to find ways to reduce electrical use. Alan will look into the possibility of solar panels.

Technical Committee :

Solar Power : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reported that the solar panel sitting outside on a table outside has been running for a month and providing enough power to charge a battery and run a test load. Enough power is being generated to run the equipment cabinet without drawing from commercial power.

WinLink : In order to extend the range of the W2KBF-10 WinLink RMS in Swedesboro, Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF proposed to establish a 440 MHz VARA RM repeater at the Clubhouse. As a first step, the VARA FM digipeater W2MMD-10 was set on 441.050 MHz up using the existing discone antenna at a height of 20 ft. Later, when time permits, the plan is to replace the tower-mounted VHF antenna that is used for APRS with a dual band antenna, and install a diplexer, which will permit simultaneous use of both 2 meters and 440 MHz from the same antenna. Jon purchased a license copy of VARA FM (\$70) for W2MMD in order to facilitate this work. He may wish to establish a WinLink RMS on 40 meters at the Club site at a later date. Other notes : the weather station is reporting internal Clubhouse temperature on APRS.FI, however the outside temperature monitor is not working. Jonathan will replace the outside temperature probe.

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Karl Frank W2KBF noted that several stations that are not in simplex range of W2KBF-10 have been able to access this WinLink RMS station when it was tuned to operate over the W2MMD 2-meter repeater. Use of the repeater is temporary and will facilitate training of ARES/RACES operators and general Club members in the use of WinLink until a better solution is implemented, i.e. a better antenna for the W2MMD-10 VARA FM digipeater.

DX and Contests : **Tony Starr K3TS** said NAQP is coming up on August 7 and 21. **Bill Grim W0MHK** has not submitted a DX Committee report for some time and nobody else has volunteered to do this. The Club has not heard from **Vice President Jeffrey Welsh KD2AZI** for some time so Tony will give him a call to find out if he has been making plans for the Hamfest.

Club Nets :

Jim Clark KA2OSV is getting 8 to 10 check-ins on the 10 meter net.

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN said the 8 pm rag chew net on Thursday is going well and that the 11 AM Tuesday Morning Net will change to Noon as of August 3, 2021.

Old Business :

John Hill W2HUV discussed the need to instruct Club members who are interested in learning to use the Club's HF station, either in person or by remote. John is updating written instructions to include use of the KPA-1500 linear amplifier with the IC-7300. He has instructed two members in 1:1 sessions but thinks the most efficient way to do this would be to train small groups. It was decided that John will demonstrate remote operation of the HF station during the August 4, 2021 General Membership Meeting. Those who are interested in learning more can sign up for in-person training. This can be done in small groups at Tech Saturdays or at other times by appointment.

Picnic : There will be no Club picnic on August 8. This will be revisited at a later meeting.

Ron Block NR2B said his recently submitted article has been accepted for publication in QST and is scheduled to appear in early 2022.

New Business :

Tony Starr K3TS is concerned that the wine festival, which has been running lately at the same time as Field Day, may take up even more space next year. This puts pressure on us, because we need extra space for Field Day antennas. We may approach the 4H about this and point out GCARC does not have the option of running Field Day on dates other than the last full weekend of June (as set by ARRL) and ask if perhaps the wine festival could be scheduled on a different weekend. If so, we could allow them to expand into our space. But any action on this item was tabled for future consideration.

Membership Applications : We received an application from **Peter Bircsak WB2EDJ** from Monroeville, NJ. This application was approved. **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** noted that Robert Bagienski (no call) from Pitman (who was previously approved as a member) has withdrawn his application and his dues were re-funded.

Several people who have not renewed their membership will be dropped from the roster and **John Hill W2HUV** said they will lose access to the remote station.

Tony Starr K3TS broached the topic of what to do about our lease, which runs out in 17 years. But discussion was tabled until next month.

Certificate of Appreciation : Jim Clark KA2OSV nominated **Bob Demola KD2GFL** for mowing the grass prior to Field Day. This motion passed and **Tony Starr K3TS** will arrange for the certificate.

The meeting was adjourned @ 2029 Hours.

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