

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 4, 2021



Meeting opened @ 1933 Hours by President Tony Starr, K3TS with the Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance :

- Members : 24 in-person plus 11 ZOOM attendees
- Visitors : 1 (George Trujillo of Deptford)

Minutes from the July General Membership Meeting were published previously in the CrossTalk and were approved without modification.

Treasurer : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported YTD Income of \$4168 and Budget Expenses of \$3381 for a net gain of approximately \$786. The bill for alarm monitoring was \$330 and Field Day food expenses were \$157. Approximately \$2367 has been spent of the \$4000 approved for projects. This included \$71 for generator repair, \$713 to replace the air conditioner and \$190 to replace the Clubhouse toilet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS :

Clubhouse : Alan Arrison KB2AYU said the HF station is completely operational with rotator (on loan from Alan) and linear amplifier. Work on the Grounding Project is on hold until after September, when work will resume on the VHF station. **John Hill W2HUV** will demonstrate remote operation of the Club's HF station following the business part of this meeting.

Hamfest : Sheldon Parker K2MEN has lined up several volunteers but could use more. He will send out over 1000 emails advertising the hamfest in late August/early September. We are OK with volunteers at the gate and have about six for the 6 PM setup on Saturday night but could use 3 or 4 more. **Lee Marino N2LAM** has handled security in the past but has other plans this year, so a replacement is needed for Lee. **Herb Dyer KT2Y** will help **Ron Block NR2B** to set up the Forum Space, but a few more helpers are needed. Only 3 or 4 have signed up to help with parking and we need volunteers to help with cleanup after the event. The Club is short of popup canopies and would like to borrow a few from Club members. Also, we could use the loan of a golf cart to run between the Clubhouse and hamfest. Volunteer Examiners are in short supply and more are needed if we are to have a VE session at the hamfest.

President Tony Starr K3TS pointed out that volunteering to help at the hamfest can be for a few hours and does not have to take up the whole weekend.

Field Day : Tony Starr K3TS did not have much to say except that it was very successful.

DX and Contests : Tony Starr K3TS said the North American CW QSO Party would take place this weekend. A single operator may operate for a maximum of 10 hours.

Club Nets : Jim Clark KA2OSV said we average 8 to 10 check-ins for the 10 meter net.

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Technical Committee : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF asked **Karl Frank W2KBF** to say a few words about WinLink. Karl established the W2KBF-10 WinLink Radio Message Server (RMS) at his QTH prior to Field Day but this station has limited range. As a temporary workaround, the range of W2KBF-10 can be extended via the W2MMD 2 meter repeater during the Monday evening **Digital Training Net** run by **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** and **Gary Mirkin WA3SVW**. Karl will be one of the forum speakers at the September 12 GCARC Hamfest on the topic of "Introduction to WinLink".

Jonathan pointed out that use of a FM voice repeater for digital communications is not an ideal situation so the Technical Committee plans to establish a VARA FM repeater and possibly a WinLink RMS at the Clubhouse. To avoid interference with APRS and VHF activities, this will be done by upgrading the existing APRS 2 Meter antenna with a multiband antenna and diplexer so that 440 MHz can be used. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said the multiband antenna could be put up this weekend. When time permits, Jonathan would like to establish a HF RMS on 40 or 80 meters but needs to study possible complications arising from strong, local RF when the new linear amplifier is used at the main HF station.

The two solar panels have been keeping a 100 Ah battery charged (with commercial power backup), such that the 2 A required to power the "Skunkworks" cabinet could be supplied for an indefinite period of time. An effort is underway to reactivate the AREDN MESH project, in collaboration with the people from Cooper Health System. The weather station is now beaconing the temperature inside the Clubhouse over APRS but the outside temperature probe has gone bad and needs to be replaced.

The Club generator is fully functional and conduit was laid in the ground for cables to connect it to the Clubhouse. However, nobody currently involved in the project has the requisite skillset, tools, or materials necessary to make that connection. Any help from volunteers who have such skills would be appreciated.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS :

Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY has been keeping track of the Club's DXCC list and providing updates to **Tony Starr K3TS** and **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**, but Vinnie now needs a volunteer to take over this role. **Mark Federici KC2VAR** asked if this information could be entered into Club Log. Tony said he would look into this.

Tony Starr K3TS reiterated that we have a sudden shortage of Volunteer Examiners (VEs) due to health problems. We may need to enlist help from other clubs in order to hold a VE session at the hamfest and Tony will contact **SNJ Section Manager Tom Preiser N2XW** about this. **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** will contact the Vineland club too.

Mary Delemarre W2TDS asked about the Forum Presentations at the Hamfest.

Ron Block NR2B has a preliminary list :

1. A WinLink presentation by **Karl Frank W2KBF**
2. A Skunkworks presentation by **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**
3. A presentation by **ARRL Atlantic Division Director Tom Abernethy W3TOM**
4. Possible FLEX radio presentation.

Tony Starr K3TS closed the Business Meeting @ 2003 Hours.

Following a break, **John Hill W2HUV** demonstrated remote operation of the W2MMD HF station using Remotehams.com software.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karl Frank W2KBF
Recording Secretary