

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 1, 2021



Note : Due to severe weather conditions, the in-person meeting at the Pfeiffer Community Center was replaced with a ZOOM session.

President Tony Starr K3TS opened the ZOOM Meeting @ 1933 Hours.

Attendance :

- Members : 30 members
- Visitors : 2 (Rob Sincavage N3XUB and Steve Bromhead KB2RTZ)

Minutes from the August General Membership Meeting had been published in The CrossTalk and were approved without modification.

Treasurer : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported the following budgeted items (YTD) :

- Income : \$4,308
- Expenses : \$3,688
- Net Gain : \$620

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Clubhouse : Alan Arrison KB2AYU said that not much has been happening in August and that he has done some mowing and trimming. Power is out at the moment due to the storm. Alan will be at the Clubhouse for Tech Saturday and **John Hill W2HUV** will be there for 2 or 3 hours, starting at 9 AM, to help people learn about the remote HF station.

Contests : Tony Starr K3TS noted the Kansas and Ohio QSO Parties took place last weekend. September 4th is the CW Open, Worked All Europe (Phone) is September 11th and the ARRL VHF Contest takes place the weekend of September 12th. The NJ and NH QSO Parties take place the weekend of September 18th and 19th and the CQ WW RTTY Contest takes place on September 25th and 26th.

Club Nets : Jim Clark KA2OSV reports 8 to 10 check-ins to the 10 meter net. Half are Club members and half are not. **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** said both 2 meter nets each receive 8 to 10 check-ins.

Technical Committee : John O'Connell K2QA provided a report on behalf of **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** who could not attend the meeting tonight. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** replaced the 2 Meter Antenna used for APRS with a multiband antenna and diplexer so that one antenna and feedline can support both 2 Meter APRS and the W2MMD-3 WinLink RMS on 441.050 MHz. The Weather Station Raspberry Pi has not been updating the APRS Pi, so weather data is not being reported. **Karl Frank W2KBF** noted that several stations have not been able to connect to W2MMD-3, so the W2KBF-10 WinLink RMS remains tuned to the W2MMD 2 Meter Repeater. Also, Jonathan had mentioned to Karl that the recently overhauled Clubhouse generator remains to be connected to the Clubhouse and that the Club needs to identify someone familiar with electrical wiring who can advise the Club as to the next steps. **Tony Starr K3TS** said that he would pursue this with appropriate Club members.

September 2021 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2

BREAKING NEWS : While the meeting was in progress, **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** received a phone call from **Jennifer Coles** from the **Gloucester County 4H** advising us that the road to the Clubhouse is blocked with fallen trees and emergency vehicles. The structure may be OK, but there has been significant damage to the antenna towers. **Jim Clark KA2OSV** asked about insurance. Alan said that the structure and its contents were insured, but did not think the antennas and towers were covered. **Ron Block NR2B** said he would visit the site tomorrow, take pictures and report back.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** volunteered to start licensing preparation classes. **Tony Starr K3TS** would like to reschedule the next BoD Meeting to Wednesday, September 22, 2021 since he is not available on the 15th. BoD members are asked to check their calendars and let Tony know if this would be OK.

HAMFEST : **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** provided an updated status report : ARRL sanctioning was completed in May and the Forums have been approved by the Division Director and Section Manager. The Hamfest Announcement appeared (without error this year) in the September 2021 QST and over 1000 email invitations will be sent out between Thursday and Friday to people who have attended in the past and provided email addresses. The VE shortage has been resolved with the help of **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML**, **Tony Starr K3TS**, and **Mike Harla N2MHO** from Vineland. **Jeff Welsh KD2AZI** has obtained door prizes and **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** delivered the printed tickets. The food vendor Hog Day Afternoon, on late notice, cancelled, so **Bill Price NJ2S** will contact Scout Troop 9 of West Deptford that has handled this before to see if they can do it again this year. **Harry Elwell K2ATX** and **Eric Morris N2BRJ** will handle Overnight Security; **Chris Prioli AD2CS** will help Sheldon with talk-in; Tony and Sheldon have tested the PA system. Vendors will arrive around 6 AM and the Hamfest will open for Patrons at 8 AM.

We are OK for setup on Saturday evening but could use a few more volunteers. However, currently there are NO VOLUNTEERS to help direct parking. For parking, five or six people are needed to arrive between 5:30 and 6 AM on Sunday with flashlights. Volunteers are asked to contact Sheldon at k2men@comcast.net.

Ron Block NR2B said the three Forum Presentations will be :

- 9 AM : **Karl Frank W2KBF** - Introduction to WinLink
- 10 AM : **Tom Abernethy W3TOM**, **Bob Famiglio K3RF** and **Tom Preiser N2XW** - What's New at the ARRL
- 11 AM : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** - Gloucester County ARC Skunkworks

Jeff Garth WB2ZBN asked about a Talk Around frequency. This will be 147.540 MHz. **Robert Sincavage N3XUB** asked if non-members could volunteer to help. Sheldon said YES. **Herb Dyer KT2Y** noted there will be a Saturday Evening setup party at 6 PM. Herb will field questions regarding the September 25th and 26th MS Bike Ride after this meeting closes.

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the General Membership Meeting @ 2038 Hours, but left the ZOOM session running for Herb.

Respectfully Submitted, Karl Frank W2KBF, Recording Secretary