

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 6, 2021



President Tony Starr K3TS opened the meeting @ 1932 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance :

- Members : 23 members in-person, 13 members on ZOOM
- Visitors : 2 (Carl Wittig of Mantua and Bill Paulus, KD2EOY of Hammonton)

Minutes from the September General Membership Meeting were approved without changes.

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported the following YTD Budgeted Items :

- **Income : \$11,825**
- **Expenses : \$6,893**
- **Net gain : \$4,931**

Total in all Club accounts included general donations to the Club. A separate fund was established for rebuilding following the tornado damage. The Go Fund Me site has collected as of October 14th \$8,938 and \$4,978 was received as cash and checks for a total of \$13,518. Alan noted generous donations from the Bank of Elmer and the family of **Jim Wright N2GXJ**.

The **2021 Hamfest** was "record breaking" thanks to the great efforts from Club members. We had 59 tail-gaters, 26 vendors, and 486 purchasing general admission tickets. Net gain this year was \$4,345. For perspective, the highest previous Net gain was \$3,730. We received comments from members of other clubs as to the excellence of the GCARC Hamfest.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU said things have been extremely busy. Alan worked with **John O'Connell K2QA**, **Frank Romeo N3PUU**, **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** and others to get the HF station back on the air by setting up a temporary 60 foot tower, triband beam and 40/80 multiband dipole, all on loan from Alan. **John Hill W2HUV** will get the remote station operational. **Tony Starr K3TS** thanked Alan and his helpers for the quick recovery effort.

Jim Wright N2GXJ asked if the VHF/UHF antennas might be back in place in time for the VHF/UHF contests in January. Alan said probably not, so Jim noted that we might combine the scores from home stations into a Club Score.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF said that, while the while the focus has been upon getting the HF station back on the air, **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** has relocated the 2M/440 antenna higher on the bent tower in order to avoid shielding. This has permitted stations KB2AYU and W2KBF to connect once again to the W2MMD-3 WinLink station on 441.050 MHz. There will be no program at the next Tech Saturday Forum but we may do a WinLink session in the future.

CLUB NETS : Jim Clark KA2OSV reports 4 to 5 check-ins on the recent 10 meter nets. **Gary Mirkin WA3SVW** restarted the Digital Training Net now known as "The DigiNet" on the first Monday of the month and had 9 check-ins. It was decided that MMSSTV will be the topic for the next few weeks.

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DX COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS finds that 15 Meters is open to Europe almost every day from mid-morning to afternoon, so DX is coming back! About a half dozen small DXpeditions are scheduled for later this month. Tony is still looking for someone to take over the DX Committee so that he can focus on the Contest Committee.

CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS noted that many state QSO Parties are coming up. PA, NV, and AZ are this weekend, NY and 10-10 CW Contests are on the 16th and 17th, the Stew Perry 160 contest is the 23rd and 24th and the CQ WW DX SSB Contest is Halloween weekend.

HAMFEST COMMITTEE : Sheldon Parker K2MEN reiterated what **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said about the success of the recent Hamfest and thanked all who contributed by helping out. All efforts, no matter how small, are appreciated and build value for those who attend. **Tony Starr K3TS** has received emails from presidents of other clubs saying how much their members enjoyed it.

OLD BUSINESS : Gary Reed N2QEE provided an update on the VE sessions. At the Hamfest, 8 of the 10 passed their exams. Since the usual testing site in Franklinville has been closed, future VE sessions will take place at the W2MMD Clubhouse on the 2nd Thursday of every month. The next will be on November 11, 2021 @ 1900 Hours. **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** has offered to open the Clubhouse for this monthly event. There will be no walk-ins, all will need to pre-register because all applicants must now provide an email address and an FRN, as per FCC requirements. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** noted that the W2MMD Clubhouse is not ADA compliant, so special arrangements may be made for persons with disabilities.

NEW BUSINESS : All Club Officers, one Trustee and two Directors are up for election in December. The Nominating Committee has put forward the following slate of candidates :

- **President : Tony Starr K3TS**
- **Vice President : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**
- **Recording Secretary : Karl Frank W2KBF**
- **Treasurer : Alan Arrison KB2AYU**
- **Corresponding Secretary : Ron Block NR2B**
- **Trustee : Chuck Lanard KD2EIB**
- **Director : Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**
- **Director : Jim Clark KA2OSV**

The floor was then opened for additional nominations but none were made. The nominations are closed for now but will be reopened during the November General Membership Meeting.

ARES UPDATE : Karl Frank W2KBF reviewed the recent ARRL Simulated Emergency Test on Saturday, October 2, 2021, in which 12 GC-ARES members participated. A traffic net was established on the W2MMD 147.180 MHz repeater by **Chris Prioli AD2CS** and a Command and Control Net was established by **Mike Mollet N2SRO** on the W2MMD 442.100 MHz repeater which was used to deploy resources. Several drill messages were passed by phone and digital means. **Bruce Canino KD2LBU** was dispatched to a simulated shelter located on the Rowan campus in Sewell and **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** was dispatched to the Gloucester County OEM facility (parking lot) in Clayton to confirm that we could provide communications between these sites. A new feature this year was the exchange of signals on 75 Meters with both Cumberland and Ocean County ARES.

HF TOWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT : **Tony Starr K3TS** and **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** presented a proposal to purchase a used 70 foot LM-470 TriEx Tower as a permanent replacement for the 54 foot HF tower damaged by the tornado. This tower would cost \$11,000 new, but is being offered for \$3,000. This is a motorized crank-up tower that has potential for lowering by remote (if another wind storm should arise suddenly) and includes a tilt over base. Also, it will fit the existing tower base once the damaged tower is removed. This proposal has been approved by the BoD, but now must be approved by the membership. After a brief discussion, the membership approved spending \$3,000 to purchase the tower.

Sheldon Parker K2MEN asked if the old HF beam was repairable. The brief answer was NO, it was damaged beyond repair. Tony and Alan believe that newer designs would offer better performance with less wind loading. The replacement beam under consideration is a JK MidTri 40. Alan obtained a quote of \$3,652, including shipping. **Jim Wright N2GXJ** asked if it would cover WARC bands. Tony said that it would not, but that a special WARC band antenna could be added later.

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF asked if a new rotor and cabling would be required. The answer was YES.

Following further discussion, it was noted that the Club had enough money from donations to cover purchase of the tower, antenna, rotator and cables. A proposal was made and passed to spend up to \$3,700 for the beam and \$2,000 for a rotor, coax and cabling. Alan noted that if the weather holds up, it may be possible to have all of this installed by the end of the year.

Chris Prioli AD2CS asked if permits would be required to replace the tower. Tony thinks not, but will check. **Jim Clark KA2OSV** asked about plans to replace the VHF tower but Tony said we need to focus upon the HF tower for now.

MS City to Shore Bike Ride : **Herb Dyer KT2Y** is collecting comments and feedback from Club members who participated in this event. Ridership was down about 50% and the organization is in the process of post pandemic rebuilding. It is recognized that some coverage problems resulted from the relocation of the antenna for the Deptford repeater. Also, Bill Paulus KD2EOY commented that, because of delays between linked repeaters, operators should pause a few seconds after keying up before talking or else the beginning of their transmission may be cut off. Herb wants to work on recruiting more GCARC members to support the MS City to Shore Bike Ride and thinks the Club needs to reconstitute a Public Service Committee to keep track of such events.

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting @ 2040 Hours.

There was no program scheduled, but members stayed to socialize and rag chew.

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