

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 6, 2022



President **Tony Starr K3TS** opened the meeting @ 1930 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## ATTENDANCE :

- ◆ Members : 28 members in-person, 17 members on ZOOM
- ◆ Visitors : Bill Mollenhauer N2FZ (on ZOOM) from Pitman

The minutes from the March 2, 2022 General Membership Meeting, as published in The CrossTalk, were approved.

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

- ◆ Income : \$3,177, mostly from dues
- ◆ Expenses : \$1,478
- ◆ Net Gain : \$1,700

About 30 members have renewed following the recent email reminder, but approximately 30 have still not renewed, and the cutoff date is today. Chris Prioli AD2CS will update the GCARC roster to reflect current paid membership.

Total in all accounts does not include the rebuilding fund. There is approximately \$7,000 remaining in the rebuilding fund. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

**CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** acknowledged the small group that works on the Clubhouse each Saturday. The VHF room has been stripped to the studs, the hole for the old air conditioner has been covered and the exterior siding has been fixed. Some wiring is underway and tower work remains to be done. The May 7, 2022 Tech Saturday will be replaced with a Clubhouse Work Saturday.

**DX and CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS** noted that 10 Meters has been doing well lately with European Stations coming thru and the solar flux has been as high as 150. The Polish DX Contest was cancelled due to the current refugee problem but the OK/OM (Czech) SSB contest is on for this weekend. Also, the Florida QSO Party takes place later this month.

**CLUB NETS : Jim Clark KA2OSV** said only 3 checked in to the 10 Meter Net on Tuesday evening. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** and **Chris Prioli AD2CS** said the Thursday Evening and Tuesday Noon Nets were going well. **Gary Mirkin WA3SVW** said there would be one more DIGI Net in May, then we will take a sabbatical.

**REPEATERS : Frank Romeo N3PUU** reported that the Repeater Committee visited the site on March 30. The 440 repeater is offline and is being bench tested by **John Zaruba K2ZA**. The feedline to the 2 Meter antenna was faulty and this was resolved by switching to the feedline for the 440 repeater. Jumper cables were upgraded and firmware was updated. The 2 Meter repeater is now working much better than before on FM and we can work the repeater with a HT from within the Clubhouse. However C4FM is not working following the firmware update so John will contact Yaesu for a solution.

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**EDUCATION :** The second round of licensing classes started Monday, April 4, 2022. These classes are being conducted via ZOOM due to ongoing work at the Clubhouse for the Grounding Project. **Chris Prioli AD2CS** reports 7 for the Technician Classes, 7 for General and 13 signed up for Extra.

**FIELD DAY :** **Chairman Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY** has begun sending out emails asking for volunteers and operators. In particular, he wants to hear from 40 Meter CW operators and wants to have a 10 Meter station this year. **Karl Frank W2KBF** commented that the GOTA station is not a worthwhile effort if limited to bands that are dead and that maybe we should try to attract interest from the Wine Festival attendees. Vinnie pointed out that 10 Meters may be good this year for GOTA, particularly during daylight hours, and that 4H has not heard about any plans for the Wine Festival this year.

**HAMFEST :** **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** noted the date is set for Sunday, September 11, 2022 and he will apply to ARRL for approval. More planning will take place after Field Day.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE :** **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** showed photos of progress with the VHF Room Remodel and plans for the VHF and HF room configurations. The plan is to enhance functionality, so there will be more room for more people to work on their projects.

The Winlink RMS stations (HF and VHF) are working well, all running on 12 volts, including the control computer, and an auto tuner has been added to permit the HF RMS to operate on multiple bands from a single wire antenna. The Local and Remote HF stations remain available.

The plans for the next few General Meetings and Tech Saturdays are :

- ◆ **April :** Following the General Membership Meeting (tonight), **Ron Block NR2B** will review the Grounding Project, followed by a review of the Grounding Project during Tech Saturday at the Clubhouse.
- ◆ **May :** **Chris Prioli AD2CS** will discuss Troubleshooting Electrical Equipment following the General Membership Meeting and Tech Saturday will be a Session for Working on the Clubhouse.
- ◆ **June :** **Jim Wright N2GXJ** will provide an overview of Field Day following the General Membership Meeting and the following Tech Saturday will be a Field Day Organization Session.

## **OLD BUSINESS :**

**Gary Reed N2QEE** said the VE sessions are “going like gangbusters” with licenses being issued as soon as the day after tests are submitted to the FCC. On April 19, 2022, the FCC will begin charging \$35 for new licenses and renewals but NOT for upgrades and administrative changes, such as changes of name or address. Under the new system, the FCC will notify successful applicants by email and they will have 10 days to pay the bill.

## **NEW BUSINESS :**

**Tony Starr K3TS** noted that **Ray Martin W2RM** was hospitalized over the weekend. **Chris Prioli AD2CS** spoke with **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** early today and learned that Jeff is scheduled to return home on Sunday.

**Bob Keogh KD2NEC** and **John Zaruba K2ZA** will be bringing a POD of radio equipment to the next Tech Saturday. This POD was purchased on behalf of our County OEM by Cooper Hospital and has not been used for some time, so we want to dust off this equipment and become more familiar with its use.

Following the meeting tonight, **Ron Block NR2B** will review the W2MMD Clubhouse Grounding Project.

**President Tony Starr K3TS** closed the meeting @ 2040 Hours.

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