

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2022



Meeting opened @ 1932 Hours by President Tony Starr, K3TS with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE :

- ◆ Members : 25 members in-person, 28 members on ZOOM
- ◆ Visitors : None

The minutes from the April General Membership Meeting, as published in The Crosstalk, were approved.

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

- ◆ Income : \$4,151, mostly from dues
- ◆ Expenses : \$1,824
- ◆ Net Gain : \$2,327

Total in all accounts includes approximately \$7,000 in the rebuilding fund. Several members renewed after being contacted by **Chris Prioli AD2CS** leaving about 12 who have not renewed.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU noted that a small group works on the Clubhouse each Saturday. The weather forecast for this coming Saturday does not look good, so the "Work Saturday" will be rescheduled.

CLUB NETS : Jim Clark KA2OSV reported 9 check-ins to the most recent 10 Meter Net on Tuesday evening. Greg Ciraula W5DO and Steve Farney W2SEF reported 12 - 15 check-ins to the Tuesday Noon 2 Meter Nets and about 11 on the Thursday Evening 2 Meter Nets. Also, the Monday evening DIGI Net is going well. The May 2, 2022 DigiNet was the last one. It will resume in October 2022.

DX and CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS is hearing lots of European DX on 15 Meters and 10 Meters has been open to Europe at times.

REPEATERS : Herb Dyer KT2Y said the 2 Meter repeater continues to work well and the 440 repeater is on the workbench for testing. There may be a problem with the 220 repeater and Herb asks Club members with 220 MHz equipment to try accessing this machine and to report results to the Club.

EDUCATION : We are half way thru the second round of licensing classes which started Monday, April 4. Chris Prioli AD2CS reports that students are doing well on their practice tests.

HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN noted that ARRL has now approved the Hamfest, scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2022, as the ARRL Southern New Jersey Section Convention and this will be advertised in QST.

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FIELD DAY : Chairman Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY said :

- ◆ Phone Operators are needed for the 20 Meter station (Vinnie is working on this)
- ◆ In early June, he will ask for Bonus Point Workers (e.g. to make Satellite Contacts, Invite Elected Officials, etc.)
- ◆ The June 1, 2022 General Membership Meeting will be a "Pizza Night". Following the Business Meeting, **Jim Wright N2GXJ** will provide an overview of Field Day and administer a quiz concerning the new Rule Changes for 2022
- ◆ Club members are asked NOT to contact the Wine Festival or 4H personnel with GCARC business - this is the responsibility of our liaison **Ron Block NR2B**

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reported :

- ◆ The 40 Meter Winlink RMS station has been getting about 100hits/month
- ◆ A group of Rowan University Engineering students contacted GCARC and visited the Clubhouse on two occasions to discuss the feasibility of using Radio Direction Finding and APRS to recover a rocket that they plan to launch in early June
- ◆ The VHF room has been stripped down to the studs, lots of CAT cabling has been installed and a breaker panel has been wired. Holes remain to be filled/patched and insulation will be installed. **Frank Romeo N3PUU** is building custom furniture for this station
- ◆ Jon has been experimenting with LoRa APRS, a long range, low power mode on 440 MHz and plans to establish a gateway station once the VHF room is done
- ◆ Jon has been experimenting with Light APRS, which runs a watt from a key fob-sized transmitter. This is available for people to try
- ◆ With the arrival of sunspots, members are encouraged to try out the great band conditions at the Clubhouse station. All members have access to the Clubhouse but first must attend Tech Saturday to learn the Door Access Codes and how to turn off the alarm
- ◆ In view of the weather forecast for Saturday, the "Work Saturday "will be postponed for one week. Members willing to work on the Clubhouse are asked to contact Jon at wb2mnf@arrl.net if you plan to help out.

OLD BUSINESS :

Alan Arrison KB2AYU has been in contact with people regarding welding repairs to the replacement HF tower. **Charlie Wahl KC2STO** knows a welder in Mantua and will send contact information to Alan.

Alan pointed out that in April 2021 the Club approved \$2500 for the Grounding Project. Approximately \$1000 is left over and these funds must be re-authorized according to our By-Laws. The motion to re-authorize these funds was approved.

Both **Ray Martin W2RM** and **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** are back home and doing well.

NEW BUSINESS :

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reviewed the formation of two new entities, the purpose of which is to facilitate funding of GCARC Projects :

1. The GCARC "Social" Club, a 501(c)(4) organization
2. The Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation (GCARF), a 501(c)(3)Public Charity

In brief :

- ◆ The 501(c)(4) was established to permit GCARC to generate Tax-Free Income and to apply for an ARRL grant that would be used to purchase equipment for OUTSIDE of the Clubhouse, e.g. a new VHF Tower and antennas. However, donations from Club members would NOT be Tax-Deductible
- ◆ The GCARF, a 501(c)(3) Public Charity, was established to apply for grants and may only be used to fund Public Service, Research and Educational Activities of GCARC. Funds may be used to purchase equipment that is used INSIDE the Clubhouse, e.g. radio equipment and could cover the expenses of running the Clubhouse. Also, the GCARF can accept Tax-Deductible donations from members.

Jim Wright N2GXJ reminded us of the Fox Hunt that will take place on Sunday, May 15, 2022 from 1 to 2 PM. **Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY** will be hiding a transmitter somewhere within Gloucester County and will send information regarding the boundaries prior to the event. Participants are encouraged to check in via the 2 Meter Repeater prior to the start of the Fox Hunt.

Interested members can go to : <https://gloucestercountyarc.weebly.com/fox-hunt-xxiv.html> for up-to date information.

Following the meeting tonight, **Chris Prioli AD2CS** will review Troubleshooting with Test Equipment.

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting at 2035 Hours

Respectfully submitted,
Karl Frank, W2KBF
Recording Secretary