

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, June 1, 2022



Meeting opened @ 1930 Hours by President Tony Starr, K3TS with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Attendance : (22) In-person plus (15) ZOOM.

GUESTS : None

NEW MEMBERS : None

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

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

- ◆ Income : \$4,339, mostly from dues
- ◆ Expenses : \$2,786
- ◆ Net Gain \$1,553

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU noted that bad weather has caused repeated postponement of Clubhouse work parties. **Chris Kelly KC2PC** began welding work on the new HF tower last weekend but had to stop because of rain. The VHF room remains to be insulated then paneled.

CLUB NETS : Jim Clark KA2OSV reported zero check-ins to the most recent 10 Meter Net on Tuesday evening. **Steve Farney W2SEF** reported an average of 12 check-ins to the Tuesday Noon 2 Meter Nets and an average of 10 on the Thursday Evening 2 Meter Nets over the last month.

DX and CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS noted that the sun spot number recently reached 165, but has since dropped off a bit. The bands are picking up noise due to Summer weather. The CQ world-wide CW contest took place last weekend. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** noted the upcoming new ARRL Digital Contest this weekend and the VHF Contest on the weekend of the 11th. **Jim Wright N2GXJ** said there will be a Museum Ship special event this weekend.

REPEATERS : Herb Dyer KT2Y said the 440 repeater still is on the workbench for testing. Herb may plan a 220 repeater ragchew net after Field Day in order to test out the 220 machine.

EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS reported on a special VE session that was held on Tuesday evening, which resulted in 1 new Technician and 3 General licenses.

HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN has no new information and will hold off further planning until after Field Day.

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FIELD DAY : Chairman **Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY** said :

- ◆ We do not have a Band Captain for the 20 Meter Phone station so we may go without it this year.
- ◆ **Ron Block NR2B** met with 4H personnel to clarify the space that we may use for Field Day.
- ◆ Vinnie will send an email to Club members asking for volunteers for e.g.: ordering and picking up food, manning the Public Information Table, etc.
- ◆ **Mark Federici WM2Y** suggested placing the Public Information Table within the air-conditioned clubhouse, and **Tony Starr K3TS** thought this would be a good idea.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** showed several photos :

- ◆ A broken tower brace and how a cable has cut into the new HF tower, requiring welding repair.
- ◆ Insulation progress in the VHF room.
- ◆ Wall reinforcement and “blocking” by **Frank Romeo N3PUU** to support a Networking Cabinet and mini-split air conditioner.
- ◆ Work on a weatherproof entrance box for Skunkworks cables.
- ◆ Jonathan’s work on an RPi-based Hamclock (suggested by **Mark Gottlieb KK2L**) - this may become a Tech Saturday project once the availability of RPis has improved.
- ◆ VARA Digital Chat is now installed for the Club HF radio (this needs more work).
- ◆ A RPi 4 that is used to monitor other Skunkworks computers has been upgraded to use a SSD and a 3D-printed mount has been created for this Pi and SSD.
- ◆ The July General Membership Meeting will be a Pizza Night, with no program following.

Regarding Grant Proposals :

- ◆ Application to the ARRL foundation (as a 501(c)4 for VHF tower and antennas) is due July 1. However, it appears that ARRL leans toward funding applications from underserved areas so this may lessen our chances.
- ◆ The GCARF Application for VHF equipment was submitted in April and is being evaluated by the ARDC.

We now have a PO Box and Club members may make donations to this 501(c)3 organization :

- ◆ **Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation**
- ◆ **PO Box 242**
- ◆ **Mullica Hill, NJ 08062**

HEALTH and WELFARE : **Tony Starr K3TS** said that **Charlie Wahl KC2STO** is still in the hospital but has been participating in club nets by ZOOM.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : None

MISCELLANEOUS :

Tony Starr K3TS said that members can bring equipment, cables, logging software etc. that will be used during Field Day to the next Tech Saturday to check it out in advance. **Steve Farney W2SEF** reminded the Club that we have a Club license for the N3FJP logging software (Tony prefers N1MM). **Michael Pecorini K2MRP** suggested that all of the Field Day stations should be networked together. **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** has Club badges for several members. Tony will bring these to Field Day.

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Following the meeting tonight, **Jim Wright N2GXJ** will review what Field Day is all about.

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting @ 2019 Hours.

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