

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 3, 2022



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

ATTENDACE :

- In person : 32
- ZOOM : 11

GUESTS : None

NEW MEMBERS : Courtney Smith, KD2SPJ

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

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

- Income : \$4,510
- Expenses : \$3,316
- Net Gain : \$1,193

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU said not much work has been done inside lately and weather conditions have made it difficult to work outdoors. However, the new HF tower was raised to a vertical position last weekend and extended to full height in order to test cables, pulleys and motor. A new rotator and control box have been ordered and a remote antenna switch will be ordered shortly.

CLUB NETS : Steve Farney W2SEF reported an average of 13 check-ins to the Tuesday Noon 2 Meter Nets (range of 7 to 17) and an average of 10 to the Thursday Evening 2 Meter Nets (range of 8 to 12). Jim Clark KA2OSV reported dwindling participation in the 10 Meter Net with only 3 check-ins to the most recent net.

DX & CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS noted that solar flux has fallen to less than 100 so DX contacts may be less easy than a few weeks ago. The NA QSO CW Party takes place this Saturday and the Phone contest follows in 2 weeks. Power limit is 100 watts and Tony considers this to be a relatively easy contest for stations that do not have great antennas.

REPEATERS : Alan Arrison KB2AYU is awaiting cooler weather before assembling a team to install new jumper cables and restore the 440 MHz repeater at the Pitman site.

EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS said that ARRL has now posted the upcoming GCARC Licensing Classes on its website. Also, the Monday Night DIGI Net is looking for a volunteer to teach FLDIGI, beginning in October.

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HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN reviewed the many background arrangements that go into running a Hamfest, e.g. Site Permission, ARRL Sanctioning, Inviting Forum Speakers, Food, Obtaining Door Prizes, Flyer Preparation, e-mailing past attendees and finding volunteers. The Hamfest is our biggest fundraiser and volunteers receive free admission (but must purchase a ticket if they want to be included in the drawing for prizes). **Ron Block NR2B** spoke briefly with **Jennifer Coles (4H Property Manager)** and obtained permission for us to begin Hamfest setup anytime on the Saturday before the event. We want to begin at 6 PM.

FIELD DAY : Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY and **Jim Wright N2GXJ** will provide an overview of our recent Field Day, including the claimed score, at the close of the meeting tonight.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF said :

- A recent Tech Saturday was used as a workday. The shed was painted, stair railings were repaired and **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** prepared cables for the new HF tower, which allowed it to be raised last weekend.
- The W2MMD-3 Winlink Radio Message Server (RMS) on 145.030 MHz now supports 1200 baud Packet Radio in addition to VARA FM. While packet is slower than VARA FM, it allows W2MMD-3 to be accessed via the GBORO Packet Digipeater installed by **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** at the Rowan University campus. This extends the range of W2MMD-3.
- The W2MMD Winlink RMS is now a Hybrid Station with HF forwarding. In the event that W2MMD-3 loses its internet connection, Winlink traffic received via 2 Meters can be forwarded to distant stations on 40 Meters.
- Jonathan will be one of the Hamfest speakers, describing the setup of this Hybrid Winlink RMS.
- The August Tech Saturday will explore use of a NanoVNA, starting at 9 AM. We are still experimenting with these and hope that we can learn from each other.
- The presentation following the September 7, 2022 General Membership Meeting will concern the Gloucester County 2 Meter Data Network and include topics such as setting up a Signalink and answering the question : What is VARA?

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B provided the second reading of a proposed amendment to the GCARC Constitution, which would elevate the Education Committee from ad hoc status to become a permanent standing committee and eliminate the Repeater Business Committee as no longer needed (since we no longer have a repeater phone patch fee). This amendment was approved by vote of the attending membership.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : John Hill W2HUV reminded those operating the Club station by remote to set the white noise generator to 12% when using FT-8, in order to improve signal quality.

Herb Dyer KT2Y called for operators to volunteer for the MS-150 City to Shore bike ride on September 24 and 25.

Jim Wright N2GXJ announced the next Foxhunt for some time in September, with **Frank Romeo N3PUU** as the Fox.

Tony Starr K3TS has a small pile of badges that Club members have not picked up. **Chris Prioli AD2CS** volunteered to mail these out at his own personal expense.

Jerry Barnish K2EAB donated a working Heathkit SB-200 HF linear amplifier to the Club.

Following the close of the meeting, **Vinnie Sallustio N4NYY** and **Jim Wright N2GXJ** provided an overview of our recent Field Day, including the claimed score.

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting @ 2029 Hours.

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