

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 7, 2022



The meeting opened @ 1931 Hours by President Tony Starr K3TS with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE : In person : 25; ZOOM : 12

GUESTS : None

NEW MEMBERS : Alex Rodriguez, KE2AAK

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

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

- Income : \$4,917
- Expenses: \$3,934
- Net Gain: \$982

Insurance needs to be renewed and there will be ongoing station rebuilding expenses. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU said that grass needs to be mowed and weeds whacked around and under the tables in front of the Clubhouse. The new HF beam has been assembled and may be raised on Saturday, but will not be ready for use yet. This large antenna weighs 175 pounds. We will have a program next month on the new antenna and tower replacement.

CLUB NETS : Steve Farney W2SEF reported an average of 10 check-ins to the Tuesday Noon 2 Meter Nets and an average of 11 to the Thursday Evening 2 Meter Nets. Jim Clark KA2OSV reported low participation in the Tuesday evening 10 Meter Nets.

DX and CONTEST COMMITTEE : Tony Starr K3TS said that, while tuning up for the NA QSO CW Party a few weeks ago, he worked Bob Heil, K9EID. The NJ QSO Party is coming up on September 17, 2022. Len Rust W2LJR said Masonic Lodges On The Air would take place on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Jerry Barnish K2EAB reminded the Club of the upcoming ARRL VHF contest this weekend.

REPEATERS : No update.

EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS said the next round of licensing classes will begin on the Monday following the Hamfest. So far 6 have signed up for Technician, 3 for General and 5 for Extra. The Test and Repair bench at the Clubhouse is almost completely set up.

HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN acknowledged those who volunteered to work Setup, Gate, Security, VE Exams, Parking, Announcements, Talk-In, and Photography. Vendors will be allowed in between 6 to 8 AM and Buyers will be allowed in sometime before 8 AM. We still are looking for a volunteer to do DXCC checking and will need volunteers to stay afterward for cleanup. Tony Starr K3TS said we will use 147.540 MHz for Hamfest Talk Around with 146.520 MHz as backup frequency.

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF said :

- The last Tech Saturday, which focused on use of Nano VNAs, was a great success. Antennas were analyzed and trimmed plus **Chris Prioli AD2CS** demonstrated use of Smith Charts.
- The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be about our VHF Data Network and the next Tech Saturday will be a session to work on Data Networking.
- The program following the October General Membership Meeting will concern the new HF tower and beam. The October Tech Saturday will be a Field Trip to the RCA Museum at Rowan University, hosted by **Anthony Cerami N2OAC**.
- The program following the November General Membership Meeting will be given by **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**. The November Tech Saturday will be "HF Antennas in Action".
- The program following the December General Membership Meeting will be an Introduction to 3D Printing and the following Tech Saturday will be on 3D Printing.

- Hamfest Forum Schedule :
 - 9 AM : Winlink Gateway by **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**
 - 10 AM : Updates from our ARRL Section Leaders
 - 11 AM : Grounding and Lightning Protection by **Ron Block NR2B**
 - Noon : Tour of the W2MMD Clubhouse

- VHF Station Plans : You will recall that GCARC received a grant for \$11,000 from the ARDC Foundation, which will be used to purchase VHF equipment. The ARDC was very impressed with our proposal and requested permission to post it on their website as a good example. The VHF room is being overhauled so equipment is in a temporary location on a work table outside the VHF room. The portable tower on loan from **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** will become the temporary host for VHF antennas once the new HF tower is fully functional.
- ARRL Foundation Grant : This was submitted in July and has now been approved, so an additional \$25,000 will be available to offset the cost of a new VHF tower, mast and antennas.
- Next Steps : Tower selection, Initiate Discussions with Township and 4H, Final Planning, then begin building, most likely next Spring.
- Much of the rationale for these grants concerns educational activities. As Jon noted, more than 50% of hams hold a Technician license and focus on VHF/UHF bands, so Jon wants GCARC members who are active VHF users to help put together a curriculum for the many uses of VHF/UHF. It's more than just repeaters.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : No report.

HEALTH and WELFARE : **Anthony Cerami N2OAC** was in Inspira. **Charlie Wahl KC2STO** still is in Inspira. **Ray Martin W2RM** is in the Philadelphia VA Hospital.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : **Frank Romeo N3PUU** announced that the next Foxhunt will take place on Sunday, September 25, 2022. Spare tape measure beams and attenuators will be available for loan, but you will need to bring your own radio. It was noted that this will conflict with the MS 150 City to Shore event on September 24 and 25.

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Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF, Ron Block NR2B, and Chris Prioli AD2CS have replaced the old GCARC sign with a new, spiffy one. Come to Tech Saturday or the Hamfest to check it out.

Tony Starr K3TS is working with the Nominating Committee to generate a slate of candidates for office in 2023. This will be presented at the next General Membership Meeting.

Following the close of the meeting, **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** will present "**The Gloucester County VHF Network**".

President Tony Starr K3TS closed the meeting @ 2018 Hours.

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