

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 5, 2022



The meeting opened @ 1932 Hours by Vice President Jonathan Pearce, WB2MNF with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE : In person : 31; ZOOM : 15

Jon noted the recent passing of **Ray Martin W2RM**, a long-time member and pillar of the Club.

GUESTS : None

NEW MEMBERS : **Gus Swartout KC3TGB** and **Frank Reyes KD2ZHA**.

Jon noted that four additional new members had joined recently.

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

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

- Income : \$9,933
- Expenses : \$6,005
- Net Gain : \$3,927

Hamfest income of \$2,555 was less than in the past two years, perhaps due to the weather forecast. Half of the insurance bill (about \$900) and the annual mowing cost of about \$1,000 remain to be paid. The cost of replacing the HF tower and new beam antenna was \$9,650, leaving about \$4,500 from money raised via Go Fund Me that can be applied to the VHF project. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Now that the Hamfest is behind us, **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said we can get back to working on the VHF station and helpers will be needed. **Frank Romeo N3PUU** has added insulation between wall studs and will pick up paneling tomorrow. An 80 meter inverted Vee antenna will be installed on the new HF tower. In summary, the Clubhouse is in good shape.

CLUB NETS : **Steve Farney W2SEF** reported an average of 12 check-ins to the Tuesday Noon 2 Meter Nets and an average of 13 to the Thursday Evening 2 Meter Nets. **Jim Clark KA2OSV** reported 2 check-ins to the Tuesday Evening 10 Meter Net last night and 4 the week before.

DX and CONTEST COMMITTEE : **Jerry Barnish K2EAB** reminded the Club of the upcoming CQ WW SSB DX Contest on October 29 and 30. Jon said the Club station may be open for this event and, if so, will be announced by email. Also, the ARRL EME contest takes place October 15 and 16.

REPEATERS : Last week **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** and **Chris Prioli AD2CS** checked antennas and feedlines at the Pitman water tower. While not perfect, they were good enough to place the 442.100 MHz repeater back into service.

EDUCATION : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** said we are now at the halfway point for the licensing classes. There are 5 students for Technician, 4 for General and 6 or 7 for Extra. The issue with PayPal appears to be resolved such that students can now pay for the classes.

October 2022 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2

HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN noted that the gloomy weather forecast may have affected attendance, but the Hamfest was a great success nevertheless. The flyer for next year will emphasize that it is a “Rain or Shine” event, and covered space will be offered in the pavilions. **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** noted that we had great volunteer support from Club members, particularly from our newest members.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF said :

- The GCARC BoD has approved purchase of VHF equipment with \$11,164 grant money received by the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation (a501(c)3 entity)
- A check for \$25,000 has been received from the ARRL foundation and Jon has begun discussions with local zoning officials regarding the proposed new VHF tower
- Club members can donate 0.5¢ to the GCARF for each dollar spent on Amazon by signing up for Amazon Smile
- The Club has a YouTube channel where we will try to post all future presentations. Help is sought from Club members that have video editing skills
- The Clubhouse has a spiffy new sign that replaces the old shabby one. Also, the Clubhouse has a phone number : **856-244-6914**
- **Mark Federici WM2Y** asked about the SLACK channel. This has been inactive, so Jon is setting up a DISCORD account for GCARC Project Collaborations
- Jon showed a photo of the test bench that has been set up by **Chris Prioli AD2CS**. A future Tech Saturday will cover use of this equipment
- The next Tech Saturday will be a Field Trip to the RCA Museum at Rowan University, hosted by **Anthony Cerami N2OAC**, so don't go to the Clubhouse. Talk-in will be provided on the 147.180 MHz repeater by **Chris Prioli AD2CS**
- The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be an overview of the new HF tower and beam by **Alan Arrison KB2AYU**
- The program following the November 2nd General Membership Meeting will be given by **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH** and the November Tech Saturday will focus on using the new HF station
- The program following the December 7th General Membership Meeting will be an introduction to 3D Printing and the following Tech Saturday will be on 3D Printing.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : No report.

HEALTH and WELFARE : **Charlie Wahl KC2STO** still is in Inspira and **Greg Ciraula W5DO** is receiving treatment for a medical issue..

FOXHUNT : **Mark Federici WM2Y** was first to find the “Fox” that had been hidden below ground level by **Frank Romeo N3PUU**.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS :

Karl Frank W2KBF and **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** reviewed the October 1st ARRL Simulated Emergency Test in which 44 formal and informal messages were passed in an orderly manner. New this year was use of the W2MMD-3 Winlink RMS and transmission of pictures to a simulated EOC via amateur radio.

Herb Dyer KT2Y said that a record 167 hams provided communications support to the MS 150 City to Shore event on September 24th and 25th.

The Nominating Committee has identified a slate of candidates for office in 2023 :

- **President : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**
- **Vice President : Ron Block NR2B**
- **Treasurer : Alan Arrison KB2AYU**
- **Recording Secretary : Karl Frank W2KBF**
- **Corresponding Secretary : Frank Romeo N3PUU**
- **Director : Chris Prioli AD2CS**
- **Director : Jim Wright N2GXJ**
- **Trustee : John O'Connell K2QA**

Additional nominations from the floor will be taken at the November 2nd General Membership Meeting and elections will occur at the December 7th General Membership Meeting.

Following the close of the meeting tonight **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** will present an overview of the new HF tower and beam.

Vice President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF closed the meeting @ 2030 Hours.

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