

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 19, 2022



Meeting opened @ 1900 Hours by President Tony Starr K3TS.

ATTENDANCE :

- President Tony Starr K3TS
- Vice President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF
- Treasurer Alan Arrison KB2AYU
- Recording Secretary Karl Frank W2KBF
- Corresponding Secretary Ron Block NR2B
- Director Jim Clark KA2OSV
- Director Chuck Colabrese WA2TML
- Director Jeff Garth WB2ZBN
- Director Herb Dyer, KT2Y
- Director Bill Price, NJ2S (via ZOOM)
- Member Frank Romeo N3PUU
- Member John O'Connell K2QA
- Member Chris Prioli AD2CS

MINUTES : The minutes of the September BoD Meeting were approved.

NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS :

The following applications were received and approved :

- **David Sheppard, W2PAX, General Class, of Naples, FL**
- **Miroslaw Radon, KE2AEW, Technician Class, of Berlin, NJ**
- **Andy Asch, N2MVD, Technician Class, of Browns Mills, NJ (Attending AD2CS' General class)**
- **Leonard Rust IV, of Sewell, NJ, (Attending AD2CS' Technician class)**
- **Donald Martel, of Blackwood, NJ, (Attending AD2CS' Technician class)**
- **Ralph Daggan, of Sewell, NJ, (Attending AD2CS' Technician class)**

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported YTD Budgeted Items :

- Income : \$10,104
- Expenses : \$6,979
- Net Gain : \$3,124

A mowing expense of approximately \$1,000 remains to be paid and refilling the propane tank will cost about \$400. Of the \$14,000 in donations received for the Rebuilding Fund, approximately \$4,000 remains that can be put toward the VHF station. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported that, thanks mostly to **Frank Romeo N3PUU**, the VHF room has been insulated, wired and paneled. AC power has been run to the base of the new HF tower and the HF station is back in operation. The SWR of the new beam is essentially flat on 15 and 20 meters and a bit higher on 40 meters but not so high as to preclude use of the linear amplifier.

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Alan anticipates that the HF station will be used for the upcoming CQ WW SSB Contest. Contacts on 2 Meters were attempted during the recent EME contest but there was local electrical noise. Cutting power to various devices revealed interference from a wall wart power supply, LED ceiling lights plus some fluorescent lights. The Clubhouse needs a new roof, which will be discussed under New Business.

CLUB NETS : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** reported 10 check-ins for the most recent Tuesday Noon Net. A few people were on the 10 Meter Net last night and **Jim Clark KA2OSV** had 4 check-ins the week before that.

DX and CONTESTS : **Tony Starr K3TS** noted that the solar flux has been as high as 165 lately, causing the MUF to be above 33 MHz with great conditions on 10 and 15 meters. The CQ WW SSB contest is a major event that will take place on October 29 and 30 (the CQ WW CW Contest is over Thanksgiving weekend). **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** is available as mentor for new operators during the CQ WW SSB contest and Tony is looking for additional helpers. **John O'Connell K2QA** has updated N1MM logging software and **John Hill W2HUV** has switched the linear amplifier over to local use for the contest. Tony wants the Club station to be open for the major SSB contests, there are about four per year. The Stew Perry 160 Meter Contest takes place this weekend.

REPEATERS : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** reports noise on the 440 repeater and **Frank Romeo N3PUU** said he cannot key it up from his QTH using his mobile station.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** reports 5 studying for Technician, 3 for General and 7 for Extra. There will be two more weeks of classes before VE testing. The Monday night DIGI net, covering FLDIGI, is being conducted both on ZOOM and on the repeater to avoid the difficulties of switching between voice and digital modes. 14 checked in to the first session and 7 or 8 last Monday. These sessions are being recorded and will be posted to the Club's YouTube channel. After FLDIGI, the topic will be VARA (HF) and VARA FM.

HAMFEST : No Report.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE :

- **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** said the GCARF has established a ZOOM account that may be used for any Club activity, which eliminates the need to use the personal accounts of Club members
- The GCARC YouTube site is up and running and receiving moderate use
- A DISCORD site has been set up as a communications space for Club members to collaborate on projects
- Jon had a preliminary discussion with a Harrison Township zoning official concerning installation of the new VHF tower
- Jon and **John O'Connell K2QA** met with Cooper University Medical Center personnel who are interested in setting up a HF Winlink station at their facility. CUMC also provided Jon with a 220 MHz radio to explore the possibility of establishing a 220 MHz Winlink network.

CONSTITUTION : No Report.

HEALTH and WELFARE : **Charlie Wahl KC2STO** was released from the hospital but has since been readmitted and then released again.

OLD BUSINESS : **Tony Starr K3TS** commented on how much he enjoyed the recent GCARC field trip to the RCA Museum at Rowan University and thanked **Anthony Cerami N2OAC** and the other tour guides.

NEW BUSINESS :

The Clubhouse needs a new roof so **Frank Romeo N3PUU** met with two roofing contractors. The first provided a high bid but Frank thinks the second contractor will come in much lower. Frank hopes to have a quote in time for the next General Membership Meeting. **John O'Connell K2QA** demonstrated the "HamClubOnline" software that is used to record Club membership, activities, and other statistics for Club members. This would be used in parallel to the databases maintained by **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** said he would find this useful to document use of the VHF room that is being funded by the ARDC. After much discussion, it was decided to implement this database for evaluation by several administrators, particularly Jeff.

MISCELLANEOUS : **Frank Romeo N3PUU** said the next Foxhunt will take place in November with **Marc Federici WM2Y** as the Fox. **Bill Price NJ2S** asked about the condition of some solar panels and **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said they were not in use currently because the power connectors had been ripped from the back.

The meeting was adjourned @ 2055 Hours.

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