

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 4, 2023



The meeting opened @ 1930 Hours by President Jonathan Pearce, WB2MNF with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## ATTENDANCE :

- In person : 33
- ZOOM : 15

Jon began by thanking **Tony Starr K3TS** for his leadership as GCARC President during the past two years, highlighting the challenges that Tony faced including the need to organize ZOOM meetings during the pandemic, deal with the aftermath of the tornado, and Tony's role in locating and transporting a replacement HF tower. Jon then provided an introduction to the Club leaders for 2023, a review of the many Club Resources and Activities and a reminder that dues are due.

Presentations for upcoming meetings include :

- January 4 (tonight) : **Tony Starr K3TS** describing how he achieved 5 band DXCC in 5 years
- February 1 : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** and **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** on Remote FLEX operation
- March 1 : **Nicholas Kreuz KC3RFB** on the Rowan University AIAA rocket project
- April 5 : **Bob Heil K9EID** (topic TBD)
- May 3 : **Randy Smith WU2S** on AREDN/MESH Networking

## GUESTS :

- **Benjamin Johnson WB2GUK**, Amateur Extra from Egg Harbor Township.

## NEW MEMBERS :

- **David Kappler N3DRK**, General from Magnolia
- **Harry Maloney KE2ALG** (via ZOOM), Technician from Vineland
- **William Laute KD2YNN** (via ZOOM), Amateur Extra from Waterford Works

**MINUTES** : Minutes from the December General Meeting, as published in The Crosstalk, were approved.

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

- Income : \$824 from membership dues
- Expenses : \$340
- Net Gain : \$488

Total in all accounts includes the \$25,000 in grant money for the new VHF tower and approximately \$4,000 in the rebuilding fund that will go toward the VHF station. The Budget Committee has met and will present their work at the next BoD meeting for approval. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

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**CLUBHOUSE :** Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported that a lot of “tough work” has been accomplished recently (mostly by Frank Romeo N3PUU) including electrical wiring, paneling, installation of grounding strips etc. Exterior work, including perimeter grounding, will have to wait until warmer weather arrives. A 4-position antenna switch has been installed at the HF station, allowing operators to select between the IC-7300, FLEX 3000, remote operation or their own radio that they can bring in. The Elecraft linear amplifier that was on loan from John Hill W2HUV has now been formally donated to the Club.

The Clubhouse will be open for the upcoming VHF contest. We expect to operate on 6 meters, 2 meters, 222 MHz and 432 MHz. Alan installed a 6 meter beam on the old (damaged) VHF tower. VHF antennas that were damaged are being repaired and Alan will make his tower trailer available for use this Winter.

**CLUB NETS :** For the year 2022, Steve Farney W2SEF reported an average of 10.9 check-ins each week to the Tuesday Noon Nets and 10.8 check-ins to the Thursday Evening Nets.

**DX and CONTESTS :** Tony Starr K3TS noted the upcoming North American CW QSO Party beginning January 14 and the North American SSB QSO Party the following weekend. The CQ 160 Meter CW contest will take place in late January.

**REPEATERS :** No report.

**EDUCATION :** Chris Prioli AD2CS reminded us that the next round of licensing classes will begin the week of February 13. Chris would like to find Club members to help with teaching duties. The Monday TechNet (formerly the DigiNet), which occurs on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, is now covering FT8 and related modes, lead by Steve Farney W2SEF.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE :** Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reported :

- The last Tech Saturday, which covered 3D printing and CAD, was attended by 18 persons
- The topic for the next Tech Saturday will be Troubleshooting with Oscilloscopes, lead by Chris Prioli AD2CS. Also, we plan to get on the air for the RTTY contest
- Jon presented a list of possible Tech Saturday topics and is looking for volunteer presenters
- A FLEX 6400 radio and transverters for the new VHF room, funded by the GCARF grant, have been received. Amplifiers are not expected to arrive for several months
- A generous donation from a Club member was received and matched by Benevity
- A new miniPC, donated by Karl Frank W2KBF, has been installed at the Club’s Winlink station
- Frank Romeo N3PUU and Jon were at the Clubhouse during a recent meteor shower and were able to hear signals on 6 and 2 meters that were propagated via meteor scatter but were unable to make any contacts

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE :** Ron Block NR2B read a REVISED motion to amend ARTICLE VI of the GCARC Constitution. This will modify the membership application process and eliminate the need for a sponsor to sign an application form. The revised motion will be published in The Crosstalk, read again at the February General Membership Meeting, then voted upon at the March meeting. This amendment will require an approval of 75% to pass.

**FOXHUNT : Marc Federici WM2Y** hid the transmitter at the Tranquility Trails park on the outskirts of Swedesboro. **Frank Romeo N3PUU** was first to find the fox, followed shortly by **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** and a bit later by the rest of the hunters.

**OLD BUSINESS :** None

**NEW BUSINESS :** None

**MISCELLANEOUS :**

**John Hill W2HUV** noted a scheduling conflict that occurs between SJRA meetings and dinners at the Clubhouse on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month.

**Mark Gottlieb KK2L** brought a tripod that he is giving away.

**William Sheppard WA2KMS** reported that **Phyllis Martin W2PDB** has spare antenna towers for sale. Interested persons should contact Phyllis for information.

The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be **Tony Starr K3TS** discussing how to achieve 5 Band DXCC.

**The meeting was adjourned @ 2036 Hours.**

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