

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 1, 2023



ATTENDANCE :

- ◆ In person at the Clubhouse : 10
- ◆ ZOOM : 37

This meeting was conducted mostly by ZOOM since we found out, with little advance notice, that the Pfeiffer Community Center in Williamstown was under repair and not available.

The meeting opened @ 1930 Hours by President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF.

Jon began with a review of the many Club Resources and Activities (e.g. On-air Nets, upcoming contests from the Clubhouse, programs) and a reminder that annual dues are due and payable by PayPal. The Clubhouse has a telephone number : (856) 244-6914 in which members can call to find out if the Clubhouse is open.

Presentations for upcoming meetings include :

- ◆ 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 : **Dr. Bob Heil K9EID** (topic TBD)
- ◆ May 3 : **Randy Smith WU2S** on AREDN/MESH Networking

GUESTS (on ZOOM) :

Randy Testa KC3VCC, Technician from Havertown, PA

NEW MEMBERS (on ZOOM)

Joseph Gadoury KE2AKT, Technician from Tabernacle, NJ

Vincent Antonelli KA2APD, General from Scarsdale, NY

Norman Coltri WA2UUP, General from Swedesboro, NJ

MINUTES : Minutes from the January General Meeting, as published in The CrossTalk, were approved.

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

- ◆ Income : \$2,650, mostly from membership dues that still are being collected
- ◆ Expenses : \$798, which includes refilling of the Clubhouse propane tank
- ◆ Net Gain : \$1,852

Total in all accounts does not include the \$25,000 in grant money for the new VHF tower. The GCARC Budget for 2023 will be presented later tonight for membership approval. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** reported that the Clubhouse was open for the recent VHF contest. **Frank Romeo N3PUU**, **John O'Connell KQ2A**, and Alan found all the equipment to be working well and almost tripled the score from last year. A few contacts were made via meteor scatter on 6 and 2 meters. Frank will have more information regarding the Grounding Project, VHF Tower and new furniture for the VHF room at the next meeting. Volunteer workers will be needed once this work starts up again.

February 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2

CLUB NETS : No report

DX and CONTESTS : **Tony Starr K3TS** noted that the Clubhouse will be open from 9 AM until 2 PM for the following contests :

- ◆ February 11 – 12 : CQ WPX RTTY
- ◆ February 18 – 19 : ARRL DX CW
- ◆ February 24 – 26 : CQ 160 Meter SSB

Jim Wright N2GXJ will work with **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** to make certain we can work this band from the Clubhouse. **John Hill W2HUV** noted the Bouvet Island DXpedition has just landed.

REPEATERS : No report

EDUCATION : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** noted that the next round of licensing classes will begin the week of February 13. **Jim Wright N2GXJ**, **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML**, and **Gary Reed N2QEE** will assist Chris with teaching duties. All classes will begin at 6 PM and plenty of seats are still available. The Monday TECH NET occurs on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. On the 2nd and 4th Monday we plan to implement a “HELP NET” using ZOOM, as suggested by **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** and **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** announced that, in the last month, the following new members have joined the Club :

- ◆ **Vince Antonelli KA2ADP**
- ◆ **Gary Castellini, N2IEC**
- ◆ **Norman Coltri, WA2UUP**
- ◆ **Susan Frank, W6SKT**
- ◆ **Joe Gadoury, KE2AKT**
- ◆ **Ben Johnson, WB2GUK**
- ◆ **Bill Robinson, KD2ANM**
- ◆ **Marty Wilt, W2ILT**

As per **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN**, we now have 201 members with more applicants on the way.

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

- ◆ The last Tech Saturday, which covered troubleshooting with oscilloscopes, was well attended (16 members) and lead to many good discussions
- ◆ The topic for the next Tech Saturday will be operation of the FLEX-3000 radio at the Clubhouse and the interfacing and operation of an SDR-Type Radio
- ◆ Jon is looking for volunteer presenters for Tech Saturdays, the TechNet and participants for the new HelpNet
- ◆ One of the topics for the HelpNet will be a Distributed Sensor Project, in which Club members collaborate by constructing sensors that will be networked together at the Clubhouse
- ◆ The satellite station is back in operation and will remain operational until new furniture is ready for installation in the VHF room. Persons interested in learning to make contacts via satellite can schedule operating time with Jon

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B read a motion to amend ARTICLE VI of the GCARC Constitution that simplifies the membership application process and eliminates the need for a sponsor to sign an application form. This amendment was approved by vote of the membership.

FOXHUNT : Jim Wright N2GXJ announced that the next Foxhunt will take place Sunday, February 26, 2023 beginning at 1 PM, with **Frank Romeo N3PUU** as the Fox. People not wanting to hunt on their own could team up with another Club member. Frank noted that a tape measure beam and offset attenuator have been donated to the Club and these are available for loan. **Chris Prioli AD2CS** has some handgrips available that could make using these Foxhunting antennas more comfortable.

OLD BUSINESS :

Alan Arrison KB2AYU presented the proposed GCARC Budget for 2023. In brief, this is a balanced budget with projections of approximately \$12,000 income and \$12,000 expenses. Operating the Clubhouse is the single largest expense, accounting for slightly less than half of the budget. The budget was approved by membership vote.

NEW BUSINESS :

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF presented “Who Are You?”, an analysis of member data. Among the findings :

- ◆ 48% of our membership joined before 2018, the rest afterward
- ◆ Almost ¼ of our membership joined last year, half of these were from the licensing classes
- ◆ Half of all US Radio Amateurs hold Technician licenses, but in GCARC, almost half are Extras
- ◆ Of the members joining in 2021 - 2023, about ⅓ are Technicians, ⅓ are Generals, and ⅓ are Extras
- ◆ Older members tend to have higher class licenses
- ◆ As time goes by, people upgrade their license class

MISCELLANEOUS :

- ◆ **John Hill W2HUV** asked about the possibility of a Club member reserving the Club station during contest periods, including remote operation. This topic will be discussed at the next BoD meeting.
- ◆ **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** said that AmazonSmile is being discontinued by Amazon on February 20, 2023. After that date, it will be no longer possible to make donations to the Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation using AmazonSmile.
- ◆ The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** and **Jim Wright N2GXJ** discussing Remote FLEX Radio Operation.

The meeting concluded @ 2040 Hours.

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