

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2023



The meeting was opened @ 1930 Hours by **President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. This meeting was held at the Mantua Masonic Hall because the Pfeiffer Community Center in Williamstown is under repair.

ATTENDANCE :

- In-person : 31
- ZOOM : 13

Welcome To New Members :

- **Norman Coltri WA2UUP** from Swedesboro (present)
- **Michael Covaleski N2MMC** from Sewell
- **Susan Frank W6SKT** from Swedesboro
- **Joseph Gadoury KE2AKT** from Tabernacle
- **Todd Woodward KD2ESH** from Turnersville

Jon reminded all that annual membership dues are due.

Topics for upcoming meetings include :

- March 4 : Tech Saturday Forum - DMR radios and programming by **Len Rust W2LJR**
- March 6 : TechNet ZOOM on WSJT-X / FT-8 and related programs by **Steve Farney W2SEF**
- March 15 : Board of Directors Meeting
- March 20 : TechNet ZOOM on Audacity® Audio Editor by **Carl Witting N2CRW**
- March 22 : Dinner at Clubhouse 1800 Hours

The minutes from the February General Membership Meeting were approved.

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU was not present but provided the following information by email :

- Income : \$4,010
- Expenses : \$1,652
- Net Gain : \$2,358

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Jim Wright N2GXJ described the new 160 meter full-wave delta loop that was installed in place of the old 80 meter dipole. This antenna was constructed with more than 550 feet of #12 stranded insulated wire and a high power 4:1 balun. During the recent CQ WW 160 Meter SSB contest, this antenna was used to make 132 contacts in 33 states, countries in the Caribbean, South America, and central Europe. Jim reports this antenna loads on several bands, supplements the HF beam and provides excellent signal reception.

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Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF reported relocation and several upgrades to the Winlink RMS including a new computer, addition of a radio, tri-plexer and a new antenna system to permit operation on both 145.030 MHz and 223.580 MHz. The 40 meter antenna was reworked to minimize interference with Wi-Fi and the old Pentium IV Echolink computer was replaced with the Atom-powered computer previously used for the Winlink station. The guidelines for HF station reservation have been updated.

Users will continue to sign up using the online Clubhouse calendar with some restrictions. The HF station will not be available for remote operation during Tech Saturdays and Clubhouse Dinners. Users who have reserved a time slot will forfeit their reservation if they have not started to use the equipment within the first 20 minutes of their time slot. Users must provide a phone number when making reservations and are asked to change their reservation if they finish early or decide not to use their time slot.

CLUB NETS : No report

FUTURE PROGRAMS : **Ron Block NR2B** reviewed the speakers for the upcoming General Membership Meetings :

- March 1 (tonight) : **Nicholas Kreuz KC3RFB**, **Thomas Stanek**, and **Daniel Millar** on the Rowan University AIAA Rocketry competition
- April 5 : **Bob Heil K9EID**
- May 3 : **Randy Smith WU2S** on AREDN/MESH Networking
- June 7 : **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** on Radio Propagation

DX and CONTESTS : **Tony Starr K3TS** noted the following contests :

- March 4-5: ARRL DX SSB
- March 11-12 : Stew Perry Top-Band Challenge (CW)
- March 18-19 : Russian DX Contest
- March 25-26 : CQ WPX SSB

FIELD DAY : **Tony Starr K3TS** will be the 2023 Field Day Coordinator. Last year we operated 8A but we need to shrink our footprint this year since the Wine Festival is scheduled for the same weekend as Field Day. Tony showed a preliminary plan with antennas located at the periphery of our space that would permit operation as 5A or 6A.

REPEATERS : No report

EDUCATION : Licensing classes are ongoing. Contact **Chris Prioli AD2CS** for registration.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** has become interested in the GREENCUBE satellite, so named because it includes an onboard experiment to examine the germination of Brassicaceae seeds in a microgravity environment. In addition to his fascination with salads, Jon is interested in the digipeater onboard this satellite because the 2200 mile orbital height allows coverage of a very large area. Using a variant of sound modem that is specific to GREENCUBE digipeater (USB GMSK), Jon was able to make 49 QSOs (that included 15 countries) from the Clubhouse on 435.310 MHz.

John O'Connell K2QA described the application NodeRed, which runs on a Raspberry Pi and provides a way to collect data from devices. In this case, the Club's FLEX radio.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : No report

FOXHUNT : According to **Frank Romeo N3PUU**, who hid the transmitter for the last hunt, turnout was the biggest that he has ever seen. The winner was **Alan Arrison KB2AYU**, who will hide the transmitter next time, probably in May.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : None

MISCELLANEOUS :

The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be on the **Rowan University AIAA Rocket Program** by **Nicholas Kreuz KC3RFB**, **Thomas Stanek**, and **Daniel Millar**.

The meeting concluded @ 2032 Hours.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karl Frank W2KBF,
GCARC Recording Secretary