

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, April 5, 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 : 29
- ZOOM : 15

#### Welcome To New Members :

- **Jacqueline Blanch KD2JPY**, from Manchester Township, NJ
- **Bert Espanol N3PKH**, from Swedesboro, NJ
- **James McCullough** from Sewell, NJ (Associate Member)

Welcome to first time visitor **Daniel Lenco WA2BPH** from Pedricktown, NJ

Jon reminded all that annual membership dues are due.

Topics for upcoming meetings include :

- April 8 : Tech Saturday with **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** on Yaesu System Fusion and WIRES-X
- April 17 : TechNet on MMSSTV by **Gary Mirkin WA3SVW**
- April 19 : Board of Directors Meeting
- April 26 : Dinner at Clubhouse, 6 PM
- May 1 : TechNet on Local DMR operations with **Len Rust W2LJR**

#### Club News :

While looking for a replacement VHF tower, **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** found a package deal for two used crank-up towers and accessories including power winches that were available at a very reasonable cost. The BoD authorized this purchase and 5000 lbs of towers have been delivered to the Clubhouse for a total cost of approximately \$22,000. Alan estimates the cost would have been approximately \$60,000 if purchased new. Permits will now be obtained so that holes can be dug for pouring concrete.

A fork lift was rented to facilitate unloading of the towers and, while available, the fork lift was used to remove the leaning supports for the outside electrical box. Pressure-treated 6 x 6 posts will be installed later. The top section of the old, damaged VHF tower has been removed and there is a plan to install a new top plate and rotor so that the old VHF tower can be used at the 50 foot level.

**Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** announced that the Clubhouse now has two hotspots, a C4FM unit assembled by **Len Rust W2LJR** and a DMR unit assembled by **Chris Prioli AD2CS**. During a recent pass of the ISS, **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** was able to digipeat thru the ISS using only a Yaesu FT1D HT and Signalstick antenna on 145.825 MHz.

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There will be a MS Walk in Cherry Hill on April 23. Radio amateurs wishing to assist with communications should contact Jon for more information on this event.

Starting in May, Jon wants to try changing the order of General Membership Meetings to :

1. Club Announcements
2. Presentations
3. Break
4. Business Meeting

#### **BUSINESS MEETING :**

The March General Membership Meeting Minutes were approved.

**TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** noted that membership renewals were going well.

YTD Budgeted items :

- Income : \$5,795
- Expenses : \$2,137
- Net Gain : \$3,658

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

**CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said some weed whacking and mowing is needed around the Clubhouse. Some Roundup will be sprayed next to the trailer to avoid damage to the skirts by the weed whacker.

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

- April 5 (tonight) : Since **Bob Heil K9EID** could not present tonight due to a family emergency, **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** will give a talk on Arduinos
- May 3 : **Randy Smith WU2S** on AREDN/MESH Networking
- June 7 : Pizza Night (no program)
- July 5 : Topic TBD
- August 2 : **Tony Starr K3TS** on Mobile Radio
- September 5 : **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** on Radio Propagation
- October 4 : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** on design of the Club's 160 meter antenna

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

- April 8 - 9 : OK/OM DX SSB
- April 15 - 16 : CQMM DX Contest (CW)
- April 22 - 23 : SP DX RTTY Contest
- April 29 - 30 : Florida QSO Party

**FIELD DAY : Tony Starr K3TS** showed an updated plan with antennas located at the periphery of our space that would permit operation as 5A or 6A. Tony will take suggestions by email and will schedule a Field Day meeting at the Club site in May.

**REPEATERS :** **Alan Arrison KB2AYU** and several other Club members visited the site of the 220 MHz repeater in Sewell and found that a connector on the antenna feedline had been damaged, apparently by foot traffic. SWR remained high following a temporary repair so a section of feedline will have to be replaced when time permits. The 2 Meter repeater is having intermittent problems with de-sensing and crackling noise. Operators are asked to tune to the input when these problems are observed so that we can learn if interference is coming from any specific area. The Club is considering placing a SDR at the repeater site in order to view the RF environment of the repeater.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE :** **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** reported that W2MMD has now worked 38 countries, including Japan, via the GREENCUBE satellite digipeater on 435.310 MHz (the 3638 mile orbital height allows coverage of a very large geographic area). W2MMD was "rare DX" for Japanese operators, since they rarely can reach New Jersey via satellite.

**EDUCATION :** Licensing classes run for one more week before final testing on April 18 for Tech/General and April 21 for Extra. **Chris Prioli AD2CS** has scheduled the next round of licensing classes to begin the week of May 1.

**GLOUCESTER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO FOUNDATION :** **John O'Connell K2QA** reports that VHF/UHF amplifiers, transverters etc. funded by the ARDF grant have been received.

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE :** **Ron Block NR2B** has assembled a team to prepare an updated draft of the GCARC Constitution.

**OLD BUSINESS :** None.

**NEW BUSINESS :**

The membership approved an expense of \$300 for repair of the Clubhouse alarm system and keypad replacement plus \$95.40 for the email addresses used by the Club.

The membership approved spending up to \$500 to purchase band pass filters for use during Field Day.

**Frank Romeo N3PUU** will be building custom cabinetry and furniture for the VHF room. The membership approved up to \$2500 for materials.

**MISCELLANEOUS :**

**Bill Price NJ2S** would like to start a "Traders Net" on the repeater and is looking for a good time slot.

**Karl Frank W2KBF** would like to revive the "Membership Spotlight" feature for the Club magazine, so will be sending out a brief list of questions to a few Club members each month;

**Stanley Slachetka WA2JRZ** is a professional planner for the State of New Jersey and is offering to assist Club members with zoning issues when they want to put up towers.

The program following the General Membership Meeting tonight will be on Arduinos by **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**.

**The meeting concluded @ 2032 Hours.**

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