

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 3, 2023



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

It was held at the Mantua Masonic Hall because the Pfeiffer Community Center in Williamstown is under repair.

The meeting started out with general announcements, welcoming of new members and a Zoom presentation on AREDN/MESH by Randy Smith WU2S.

President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF opened the business portion of the General Membership Meeting at 2052 Hours.

ATTENDANCE :

- In person : 33
- ZOOM : 12

The minutes of the April General Membership Meeting were approved.

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU thanked all who have renewed since we have now met our budgeted goal. Also thanks for the donations that arrived with renewals.

YTD Budgeted items :

- **Income : \$6,538**
- **Expenses : \$2,596**
- **Net Gain : \$3,942**

All but about \$1,000 is left from the ARRL grant and about \$4,000 is left from the GoFundMe/Rebuilding Fund. About \$800 is left in the Foundation Grant, which will be used for cabling, connectors, etc. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reported that the outside electrical service panel has been remounted behind the Clubhouse with room for expansion. Possible additions include mini-split air conditioning units and wiring for the new towers.

Jim Wright N2GXJ wants us to keep better track of contacts made using the Club call W2MMD so that these records can be uploaded to eQSL or LOTW. Jim asks that ADIF logs be sent to him for uploading.

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

- June 7 : **Pizza Night** (no program)
- July 5 : **Len Rust W2LJR** on logging
- August 2 : **Tony Starr K3TS** on Mobile Radio Installation
- September 5 : **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** on Radio Propagation
- October 4 : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** on design of the Club's 160-meter loop antenna

May 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2

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

- ◆ May 7 - 8 : Indiana, Delaware, New England, and 7 call area QSO parties
- ◆ May 13 - 14 : CQ-M International DX Contest
- ◆ May 20 - 21 : King of Spain CW Contest
- ◆ May 27 - 28 : CQ WPX CW Contest

FIELD DAY : Tony Starr K3TS showed a revised plan, now that we have obtained permission to expand into the field east of the Clubhouse. We will use wire antennas, oriented N/S in order to favor E/W propagation. Band pass filters for 80, 40, and 20 meters have been ordered to minimize problems due to harmonics. **Jim Wright N2GXJ** commented that we can still add more stations, e.g. GOTA. **John Hill W2HUV** asked about using a tri-band beam, but Tony wants to stick with mono-band antennas.

PUBLIC SERVICE : Gloucester County ARES Coordinator Bob Keogh KD2NEC noted that, in the past, ARES/RACES focused upon serving local governments, but now the emphasis is to support non-government agencies such as the American Red Cross (ARC) and hospital groups and to explore new technologies such as AREDN/MESH Networking. There will be several opportunities to practice field operations this year including the MS-150 City-To-Shore event, the ARES Annual Simulated Emergency Test and ARRL Field Day. Bob is recruiting radio operators. Ideally we want to be in a position to place two radio operators in each emergency shelter. Currently we have 14 from Gloucester County that have registered with the ARC but could use more. Bob concluded by saying that he would like to organize a GCARC tour of the Battleship NJ.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF said that while the VHF room has been dismantled for upgrading, he has been investigating use of NODE RED software for dealing with logic information from radios, e.g. automatic antenna switching based upon operating frequency. And a reminder that the TechNet Zoom meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month.

EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS reported that session 4 of the licensing classes resulted in 5 Technician, 6 General and 4 Extra Class licenses. The total for sessions 1 - 4 is 15 Technician, 17 General and 16 Extra Class licenses.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B has assembled a team to prepare an updated draft of the GCARC Constitution. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS : None.

NEW BUSINESS :

We have an open Trustee position and **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** would like to find Club members interested in this position. Trustees are responsible for hard assets, such as equipment, as well as soft assets, such as passwords.

MISCELLANEOUS :

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF asked if the membership preferred the meeting format used tonight, in which the program was conducted before the Business Meeting, or the usual way of holding the Business Meeting first. Most preferred holding the Business Meeting first.

The meeting concluded @ 2132 Hours.

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