

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2023



President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF opened the General Membership Meeting @ 1930 Hours. The Pfeiffer Community Center in Williamstown was not available due to the need to secure voting machines, so the meeting was held via Zoom (28 Zoom participants) and with 8 BoD members present at the Clubhouse in Mullica Hill.

ANNOUNCEMENTS : The next Tech Saturday Forum will be conducted by John Zaruba Jr K2ZA concerning the assembly of Pi-Star hotspots. Raspberry Pi 3 and Raspberry Pi 4 are expected to become available again at the end of July. Two hotspots are now running at the Clubhouse.

The minutes of the May General Membership Meeting were approved.

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU thanked all who have included donations with membership renewals.

YTD Budgeted items :

- **Income : \$6,698**
- **Expenses : \$2,952**
- **Net Gain : \$3,745.**

Approximately \$4,000 of the total account is from the rebuilding fund and \$2,500 will be used for VHF/UHF room furniture. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU thanked **Frank Romeo N3PUU** and **Earl Moore KC2NCH** for work recently done in the shed and Clubhouse. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** noted that a permit application for the new radio towers has been submitted.

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 programs for the upcoming General Membership Meetings :

- **July 5 : Pizza Night (no program)**
- **August 2 : Tony Starr K3TS on Mobile Radio Installation**
- **September 6 : Chuck Colabrese WA2TML on Radio Propagation**
- **October 4 : Jim Wright N2GXJ on design of the Club's 160-meter loop antenna**
- **November 1 : Mike Thompson KG4JYA on Radio Astronomy**
- **December 6 : Len Rust W2LJR on logging.**

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

- **June 10 - 12 : ARRL VHF Contest**
- **June 17 - 18 : All Asian CW Contest**
- **June 24 - 25 : ARRL Field Day**

FIELD DAY : Tony Starr K3TS showed the Field Day antenna plans using wire antennas, oriented N/S in order to favor E/W propagation.

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Band pass filters for 80, 40 and 20 meters have been received and Tony has cut stubs to help minimize cross-band interference. We will do a stake out of the site on the Thursday just prior to the start of Field Day starting at 7 or 7:30 PM. Early setup will begin around 3 PM on Friday and proceed until dark. All are invited to join in. Final set up will be on Saturday morning and sandwiches will be provided for lunch. We will go on-air at 2 PM.

Saturday night dinner will be potluck and **Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** has sent out a request for food donations. Tony reviewed the list of volunteer operators and the need for volunteers to help score bonus points. Contact Tony if you can help out. We will use **147.540 MHz Simplex** as the talk-around frequency for assistance, notifications, and announcements, so bring your HT.

Jim Wright N2GXJ will conduct a formal Radio Direction Finding session around 4 PM on Saturday, followed by an actual hidden transmitter hunt (this is another reason to bring your HT or RDF equipment). Also, if you bring a guest or family member that is 18 years old or younger, they can help the Club score more bonus points by making contacts. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** will try to post scheduled satellite passes on the TV monitor in the Clubhouse during Field Day, since we had success making satellite contacts last year.

PUBLIC SERVICE : Gloucester County ARES Coordinator Bob Keogh KD2NEC has received the American Red Cross (ARC) Emergency Communications Operation Plan which involves training, drills, and exercises. This will be forwarded to the 14 GCARC members who have signed up to assist the ARC. A representative from ARC will visit our site during Field Day. Gloucester County ARES will set up a Winlink station during Field Day to send/receive messages in order to score bonus points. All are invited to use this station. Finally, the annual ARES Simulated Emergency Test will take place on Saturday, October 7, 2023, with participation from ARC members.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF showed photos that he took at the ARISS booth in Dayton. The ARISS has a FM repeater that uses a modified Kenwood radio, with an uplink frequency of 145.990 MHz (PL 67.0) and downlink of 437.800 MHz. Jon also showed photos of a SatNOGS kit (\$500) that is used to track satellites. It uses a Raspberry Pi and RTL SDR dongle that is housed inside a waterproof enclosure and works with a turnstile antenna.

EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS will partner with **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** to conduct a 2-part Tech Saturday "Learn to Solder" course. The first part, covering basic soldering, will take place on Saturday, July 15, 2023. The second part, to be held on Saturday, July 22, 2023, will involve building something useful such as a code oscillator, RF attenuator, dummy load, etc. Contact Chris for more information or to register.

CLUB NETS : Chris Prioli AD2CS reports an average of 8 check-ins to the 2 Meter nets, with a range of 5 to 13. **Jim Clark KA2OSV** reports 3 to 5 check-ins to 10 Meter sessions.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B said work is ongoing to revise the GCARC Constitution. The next meeting of this working group will take place on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom.

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Foundation (GCARF) : Frank Romeo N3PUU reported that a mini-split air conditioning unit has been purchased for the VHF room.

OLD BUSINESS : Ron Block NR2B learned from **Jennifer Coles (from 4H)** that Comcast will be taking measurements for the purpose of extending internet service farther into the fairgrounds. Previously, GCARC had offered to help 4H obtain internet access for their buildings.

NEW BUSINESS : The membership approved payment of \$300 for repair of the Clubhouse alarm. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** reviewed a recent suggestion that access to the Clubhouse could be improved with an ADA-compliant access ramp. However, construction of a ramp will require someone to step forward and lead this project, which will involve locating an ADA-compliant design, creating a bill of materials, providing cost estimates, assembling a work crew, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS :

Alan Arrison KB2AYU will participate in ARRL VHF contest this weekend with another group, but noted that the Club station is available for operation on 6 Meters.

The meeting concluded @ 2026 Hours.

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