

# Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

## General Membership Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, August 2, 2023



President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF opened the General Membership Meeting @ 1932 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### ATTENDANCE :

- 34 In person
- 13 ZOOM

#### VISITORS :

- Donna Reed, N2QED
- Roslyn Marder, N2AKL
- Mike Colabrese (WA2TML's son)
- Kati Colabrese (WA2TML's daughter-in-law)
- Joe DiBartolo, KC2SFB (ZOOM)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS :** The meeting began with a remembrance of the late **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML** by **Tony Starr K3TS**, **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF**, and Chuck's widow **Irma Colabrese N2FNF**. The next Tech Saturday will begin at 9 AM at the W2MMD Clubhouse with a follow up to tonight's topic of mobile radio installation. Members are encouraged to show their mobile installations.

The Clubhouse will be open during the Perseids Meteor Shower on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> in order to attempt contacts using this propagation condition. The Board of Directors will meet on the 16<sup>th</sup> and Dinner at the Clubhouse will take place starting at 6 PM on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jonathan is looking for members to become more active by volunteering to lead or at least support Club activities. Members are encouraged to say "Let me know when you need help". Also, he is looking for ways to make Club meetings more interesting. For example, is there news regarding new contacts, new station gear, new technologies, etc?

**Marc Federici WM2Y** has been working on an ultra low power 2 Meter FM transmitter for Fox Hunting. **Jerry Barnish K2EAB** is looking to recruit new members for the **Battleship New Jersey Radio Club**. The main interest of this group is restoration of equipment. **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** has repurposed a Raspberry Pi3 to make an ALLSTAR node, allowing him to access repeaters using a micro HT. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** noted that RPi's are again available from several online sources and that the RTL-SDR dongle is back in stock at Amazon.

**NEW MEMBERS :** Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF introduced nine new members :

- **Dionisios (Dan) Goulianos KE2BPK, Technician from Wenonah, NJ**
- **Beth Kraus KE2BPE, Technician from Vineland, NJ**
- **David Mitchell WB2PJH, Amateur Extra from Bridgewater, NJ**
- **Sergei Nenasheff KE2BLO, Technician from Vineland, NJ**
- **Richard Nicholas IV KC3WIR, Technician from Swarthmore, PA**
- **Aimee Ortiz KE2BPJ, Technician from Clementon, NJ (present at the meeting)**
- **Gregory Sleet, Associate Member from Somerdale, NJ (present via Zoom)**
- **Charles White IV KE2BPD, Technician from Sewell, NJ**
- **Michael Zerby W2EFR, General from Thorofare, NJ**

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The minutes of the June General Membership Meeting were approved.

**TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** reported YTD Budgeted items :

- Income : \$7,300
- Expenses : \$4,898
- Net Gain : \$2,403

Total in all accounts includes two donations in memory of **Chuck Colabrese WA2TML**. Approximately \$4,000 is in the Rebuilding Fund. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

**CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU** said installation of the mini split air conditioner in the VHF room had been completed by **Frank Romeo N3PUU**, **Earl Moore KC2NCH**, and **John O'Connell K2QA**. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** noted that a building permit application for the VHF Towers has been submitted and that Certified Drawings have been ordered. The work area outside the VHF room has been restored. The project to build an access ramp for the Clubhouse has been cancelled since no one has stepped forward to lead this project. Now that Raspberry Pi's are available once again from several vendors, we may plan a session on using a Pi to run Ham-Clock if there is sufficient interest.

**REPEATERS : Jeff Garth WB2ZBN** investigated the recent failure of Echolink on the W2MMD 2 Meter repeater. Echolink began to work again after an error message was cleared from the computer screen.

**FUTURE PROGRAMS : Ron Block NR2B** provided a slide summarizing topics for the upcoming General Membership Meetings :

- **September 6 : Bob Heil K9EID on New Hams**
- **October 4 : Jim Wright N2GXJ on design of the Club's 160-meter wire loop**
- **November 1 : Mike Thompson KG4JYA on Radio Astronomy**
- **December 6 : Len Rust W2LJR on logging**
- **January 3 : Robert Welsh N3RW on Astronomy and Amateur Radio**

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

- **August 5 - 6 : NA QSO Party, CW**
- **August 12 - 13 : Worked All Europe DX, CW**
- **August 19 - 20 : NA QSO Party, SSB**
- **August 26 - 27 : World Wide DIGI DX Contest (FT-4 and FT-8 only)**

**PUBLIC SERVICE : Joe DiBartolo KC2SFB** (via Zoom) provided an overview of the annual **Bike MS City to Shore Ride** and solicited volunteers to support this event on September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>. A link for signup information is available at [www.N3MSS.org](http://www.N3MSS.org) or on our Club's website.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** was pleased to see so many participants for the soldering classes and wants to hold more "maker events" like this. The SatNOGS station is back up and he is looking for volunteers to help run this station (SatNOGS is an International Network of Stations, mostly amateur, that report telemetry from satellites).

**EDUCATION : Chris Prioli AD2CS** announced that Licensing Classes will resume the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> and will run for 9 weeks, followed by a exams the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>. In view of the interest in the recent "Learning to Solder" courses, Chris will follow up with a Surface Mount Soldering session on September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Clubhouse.

Also, Chris has been invited to speak on this topic at the GCARC Hamfest Forum on September 10<sup>th</sup>. More information is available at the Club's website.

**HAMFEST : Sheldon Parker K2MEN** is working on obtaining door prizes for the GCARC Hamfest on September 10<sup>th</sup> and is having tickets printed. Volunteers are asked to sign up to support this event on the Club's website.

**CLUB NETS : Chris Prioli AD2CS** reports that check-ins to the 2 Meter nets are down and attributes this to the "Summertime Blues".

**CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : Ron Block NR2B** said the Committee has made many changes and the current draft has been sent to the Board of Directors for review at the next BoD meeting. A final draft will be presented to the General Membership for adoption.

**OLD BUSINESS : None**

**NEW BUSINESS : Chris Prioli AD2CS** has assumed responsibility for providing membership badges.

The business meeting concluded @ 2036 Hours and was followed by a presentation by **Tony Starr K3TS** on mobile radio operation, installations, and equipment.

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