

Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club General Membership Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 6, 2023



President Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF opened the General Membership Meeting @ 1930 Hours with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ATTENDANCE :

- 36 In-person
- 17 via ZOOM

VISITORS :

- Jim Ricketts KC3TYH, Media, PA
- Lance Appel KE2UC, Vineland, NJ
- Glen Guenther KE2BUO, Sewell, NJ
- Carol Richards N2MM, Shamong, NJ
- Chris Van Winkle AB3WG, Reisterstown, MD (ZOOM) ARRL MD/DC Section Manager

NEW MEMBER :

- Sergei Nenasheff KE2BLO, Vineland, NJ (ZOOM)

ANNOUNCEMENTS : Alan Arrison KB2AYU is resigning as Treasurer in order to fill the Director position vacated by **Silent Key Chuck Colabrese WA2TML**. **John O'Connell K2QA** is resigning as Trustee in order to serve as Treasurer. This leaves one Trustee position vacant until the December elections. **Recording Secretary Karl Frank W2KBF** will not be running again so the Club is looking for a replacement candidate.

Tech Saturday Forums begin 9 AM at the W2MMD Clubhouse on the Saturdays following the monthly General Membership Meetings. The August Tech Saturday was conducted by **Tony Starr K3TS** on Mobile Radio Installation. This overlapped with the Perseid Meteor Shower and several contacts were made on 6 Meters from the Clubhouse via Meteor Scatter using the FLEX-3000 and Elecraft amplifier. The Leonid Shower will take place November 17, the Geminid Shower on December 13, and the Quadrantid Shower on January 3.

Tech Saturday Forum, September 9, 2023 : **Len Rust W2LJR** will conduct a DMR session, including DMR techniques that you might not know. Jon would like a list of DMR IDs from potential participants.

Tech Saturday Forum, October 7, 2023 : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** on Antenna Modeling and Simulation

Tech Saturday Forum, November 4, 2023 : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** on "Raspberry Pi, From Zero to Hamclock"

We have a number of events in September :

- September 10 : GCARC Hamfest
- September 16 - 17 : NJ QSO Party
- September 17 : GCARC Fox Hunt
- September 18 : TechNet (8 PM Zoom Meeting)
- September 20 : GCARC Board of Directors Meeting
- September 23 : Surface Mount Soldering Course

September 2023 General Membership Meeting Minutes - Continued on page 2

- **September 27 : Dinner at the Clubhouse**
- **September 30/October 1 : Bike MS City To Shore Ride**

Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF asked Club members about their current activities :

- **Lance Appel KE2UC** has been exploring the use of Web SDR.
- **Karl Frank W2KBF** donated a dozen small power resistors (5-watt, 2700 Ohm, non-inductive) to the Clubhouse inventory. These are suitable for testing the 49:1 impedance transformers used for end-fed half-wave wire antennas.
- **Carol Richards N2MM** is clearing out a collection of resistors, capacitors and other parts, all for free!
- **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA** is working on a QMX SDR QRP transceiver KIT that covers 5 bands and transmits CW and data.
- **Marc Federici WM2Y** is working on an Arduino-based DTMF controller that will allow him to use the keypad of his HT for remote control.
- **Jerry Barnish K2EAB** is repairing a WW2 vintage RVC Series RCA receiver on the Battleship New Jersey and is looking for a way to test 410 voltage regulator tubes.

The minutes of the August General Membership Meeting were approved.

TREASURER : Alan Arrison KB2AYU (who is transitioning responsibilities to **John O'Connell K2QA**) reported YTD Budgeted items :

- **Income : \$8,718**
- **Expenses : \$6,512**
- **Net Gain : \$2,206**

Approximately \$4,000 is in the Rebuilding Fund and \$2,500 is budgeted for furniture. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

CLUBHOUSE : Alan Arrison KB2AYU reminded us that we need to get going on several projects including the VHF room, grounding and the new towers. A call will go out for work parties. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** announced that the building permit for the VHF Towers has just been approved. Recent problems with Echolink have been resolved following an observation by **Mike Thompson KG4JYA** that RF and computer cables for the Echolink and Winlink stations were too close together. The Echolink and Winlink equipment was relocated and ferrite beads were installed. Echolink is now "rock solid" according to **Chris Prioli AD2CS**. Chris used a receiver to determine that RF noise was coming from bulbs in one of our overhead light fixtures. This was resolved by replacing the offending bulbs with LEDs. Lots of old stuff that the Club will never use has been identified and a list of this surplus equipment will be sent to Club members. A Club auction date will be set. The Club received notice that a collection of old amateur radio gear is available. Contact Jonathan after the meeting if interested.

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

- **Tonight, September 6 : Carol Richards N2MM on HF 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**
- **January 3 : Robert Welsh N3RW on Astronomy and Amateur Radio**

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

- **September 9 - 11 : Worked All Europe DX SSB Contest**
- **September 16 - 17 : NJ QSO Party**
- **September 23 - 24 : CQ WW DX RTTY**
- **October 1 - 2 : California QSO Party**

PUBLIC SERVICE : **Bob Keogh KD2NEC** announced that the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on October 15 will be a joint exercise between ARES and the New Jersey American Red Cross (NJ-ARC), with an emphasis upon the use of Winlink. This follows the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between ARRL and ARC on August 25. **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** noted that the Bike MS City to Shore event on September 30 and October 1 is still short approximately 40 volunteers. A link for information is available on the Club's website and signup can be done on the www.n3mss.org website.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE : **Jonathan Pearce WB2MNF** wants to expand the Technical Committee to more than the current handful. In particular, he needs interested members to :

- **Plan Technical Sessions**
- **Coordinate Interesting Projects**
- **Plan for New Resources**
- **Design Projects suitable for Grant Applications**

The TechNets will resume on September 18 as Zoom sessions at 2000 Hours on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month. Zeroretries.org is a good online newsletter recommended by **John Zaruba Jr K2ZA**. Hackaday.com has a good article on dipole antennas. QST had a recent article on Digital Voice for HF and we may want to try this at the Clubhouse. A new, improved RTL-SDR has been released and is available for about \$30. Also, the software SDR Connect is available as replacement for SDR Console.

EDUCATION : **Chris Prioli AD2CS** announced that Licensing Classes will resume the week of September 11 and will run for 9 weeks, followed by a exams the week of November 14. Technician classes will be held on Mondays, General classes on Tuesdays, and Extra classes on Fridays.

HAMFEST : **Sheldon Parker K2MEN** said we are well staffed for the Hamfest on September 10 and thanked members for volunteering to help. Forum speakers will be :

- **8 AM : Jim Wright N2GXJ on design of the 160 Meter wire loop antenna at the Clubhouse**
- **9 AM : Carol Richards N2MM on HF Propagation**
- **10 AM : Robert Famiglio K3RF with an ARRL update**
- **11 AM : Chris Prioli AD2CS on Soldering Done Right**

CLUB NETS : **Greg Ciraula W5DO** reports that participation in Club nets has been good lately with 14 check-ins to the recent Tuesday Noon Net and 12 to 13 for the Skywarn Nets. The Thursday evening Ragchew Net has been popular too.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE : **Ron Block NR2B** said the Committee has made several changes and the current draft of the Constitution is under review by the Board of Directors. A final draft will be presented to the General Membership for adoption.

OLD BUSINESS : None

NEW BUSINESS : The Nominating Committee is looking for a candidate to replace **Karl Frank W2KBF** as Recording Secretary for 2024.

MISCELLANEOUS : **Jim Wright N2GXJ** said that **Marc Federici WM2Y** may have a few surprises including a second hidden transmitter for the September 17 Foxhunt.

The Business Meeting concluded @ 2034 Hours and was followed by a presentation by **Carol Richards N2MM** on HF Propagation.

Karl Frank W2KBF,
GCARC Recording Secretary